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## Where soldiers wait for their reintegration Ex

South Sudan will decide in January on his independence. The long civil war against the north has left countless combatants. Six portraits

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Soldiers of the People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in southern Sudan, July, 2008

On 9 January to decide the people of Southern Sudan in a referendum on independence.

If all goes as planned and quiet, and the forecasts of the experts, the overwhelming majority for a separate state will decide - as with capital Juba. A historic event not only for Sudan but for all Africa: For the first time would benefit from the colonial masters - in this case it was the British - drawn borders shifted.

The predominantly Christian south has in the struggle for autonomy and independence from the Islamic north two civil wars with more than 1.5 million dead behind. The second war took 21 years and ended 2005 with a *Comprehensive Peace Agreement*, which include a ceasefire, and the now firmly advised referendum wrote under.

Conditions at the start of the new state would not be difficult. The South was - like Darfur in the west of the country - the central government in Khartoum of systematically neglected and is now one of the poorest regions in Africa. Outside the few major cities, there are almost no physical infrastructure, no rule of power. What the South has an abundance of, are combatants - men and many women - who for the liberation movement of the *Sudanese People's Liberation Army*) or militias have fought SPLA

(.DDR - *Disarmament, demobilization, reintegration* - is the magic formula for stabilizing post-conflict societies. In practice, it is infinitely more difficult to implement - especially what concerns the great R: former combatants of war, poverty and reintegrate into society shaped one, is a task for decades. And such stamina has hardly any of the international donors. In southern Sudan, the DDR process will include the Foreign Office, the GTZ and the *Bonn International Center for Conversion* BICC) is supported (which in post-war countries with technical advice on such programs has done more already).

Read the following six interviews with former combatants of the SPLA in Juba, about their wartime experiences, their lives today and their future prospects.

### **Regina Richard Ngalaka (around \$ 34)**



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**Regina Ngalaka** not know her birth year. She believes that about sixteen years "has given her first child with. The son is now eighteen, so they would have to be 34.

They "had been married under duress" by a soldier, "she says. Upon request, she explains:

"It was war. I had a brief affair with him. Then I married him, so that other soldiers do not just take me."

The marriage to a soldier of SPLA meant unpaid toil of the whole battalion. She had a day for 30 men sorghum mill and cook, fetch water and firewood, wash uniforms. She survived several bombings by the Sudanese air force. During an attack she got a ricochet in the leg and has been unable to walk.

She bore four children during the war, one died as a baby from malaria. "There were no medicines."

Other "service women" fled from the ranks of the SPLA. Regina Ngalaka do not know "whether alone have survived out there."

After the war they wanted to "close properly." Their marriage The man should pay the bride price to her parents, but had no money. So she moved back with her parents. The father of her children is now emigrated to Uganda in search of work.

End of 2009 it was hundreds of other men and women from the SPLA to dismiss. For "service women" as Ngalaka there is now an official category: *Women Associated with Armed Forces* (WAF). for the cleaned, boiled military, and dragged them have slept with women. Usually against their will - even if they never said "no" loud or could say.

"Are you mad at your husband, to the army?"

"No, what is the use? That was yesterday. I have my children are my consolation."

Ngalaka won the last four months at a reintegration training which should help her find a job. She dreams of a small market stall. " *Small business* , "she says in English. You can still illiterate. Your brother gives you sometimes a little money so their children can remain in school.

## Julius Loud (47)

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**Julius Loud** , joined in 1993 at the age of 30 years in the SPLA. He was trained as artillery shooter and has the physical wounds of war survived without it.

"Have you received during military service charges?"

"No piastres. We were given weapons, uniforms, meals. Everything else we had to organize themselves."

"How is your family survived?"

"My wife lives with their children in a refugee camp in Uganda." Loud was retired in late 2009 from the SPLA.

"Did you leave the army?"

"No, I wanted to stay. But my commander said, now reign of peace, the army should be small and should I report to the police. So they kicked me because I'm too old."

Loud says, for the disarmament and demobilization were his weapon and his uniform was burned. He had received a brief counseling and had been educated about the dangers of HIV / AIDS.

"If one has ever spoken in the SPLA on AIDS?"

"No, I did not know what that is."

Loud has completed a project for a Japanese aid agency a course as a bricklayer. He is hoping for a job in the construction of a new headquarters of the UN mission in Juba, but fears that it will not take him because of his age.

"I'm afraid. I do not feel good at all. I see no future."

### **Joseph Kosma Kuju (35)**



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**Joseph Kosma Kuju** looks younger than his age specification is loud, and seems very confident. He was at home have been abused as a child, he says, and at the age of ten years for the SPLA "fled": "The Army was my home."

At another point he was the year of its entry into the Army in 1988 at - thus he would have been 13th He first worked in a shop and repaired weapons, Kalashnikovs in particular. At 15 he received a short combat training and was sent with thirty men to the front in boron. He did not know that it is not the enemy, the Sudanese army, but was rather a different from the Nuer ethnic group of the dominant faction of the SPLA.

Which had split off from the main branch of the army in the meantime, which was controlled by members of the Dinka. Kuju found himself caught in a now infamous massacre of Nuer fighters to 2,000 people, mostly civilians. His unit was almost completely wiped out, shot the older members in combat or after capture.

"What did they do with you?"

"The me and three other four days are long over again whipped. Then they run to us because we were so young."

"What happened?"

"We ran back to our base."

"How far was the distance of boron?"

"Do not know. A few hundred miles."

"Do you hate the Nuer soldiers for what was done to you?"

"No, why? It was war. But have also traded only on command."

Kuju has come up at the first opportunity to demobilize.

"War is completely pointless. You just wasting your time. Without war, I had long been a good job and a house with a corrugated tin roof."

Kuju on his release from the army in a course in part as a welder. Of the 860 Sudanese pounds (about 250 €), which were given to him after his discharge as seed money, he bought a small welding machine.

He runs a small workshop with a partner who may use the generator for him and he participated in the revenue. It usually takes a 20 pound per order, not more weapons, he repaired. Meanwhile, running the business, he had, he says, hired two helpers.

"Do you have family?"

"I have now seven children and four women. But the women are ..." - He uses a word in Juba Arabic, which translated the interpreter with "on loan".

"I have not enough money to pay the bride price. One of the women is therefore also returned to their parents."

"What is the bride price?"

"So the £ 2,000 and six cows.

Kuju belongs to the people of the Kakwa. According to the traditional rulers of the Kakwa Kuju the bride price in recent years have greatly reduced so that the community is not impoverished by the war, the marriage ceases. Therefore, says Kuju tolerated parents now more often a "marriage on credit".

"How do you spend so many women and children per the dowry?"

"I make this I earn enough to three of my children to a *boarding school* in Uganda to send. I am creative. I buy a generator next. Then I have to share more revenue not mine. And then I build a house of brick and corrugated iron roof. "

"How do you live now?"

"We live in four small straw huts in Juba"

Kuju says he will work in his life all that of which he had always dreamed of."Even if I have lost the war."

## George Kulung (36)

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**George Kulung** in 1996 to SPLA fought in an infantry battalion. He had, after the peace agreement is fed up by the military, he has behind him and saw many dead ", according to its own numerous combat missions.

Kulung also want to be welders, but has completed a course. Unlike Kuju he seems helpless and apathetic. With five years of education debt he can hardly read and write.

Kulung officers had told him in their release, the Office for demobilization and reintegration would "take care of everything, build me a house, debt money to pay for the child and obtain a job."

In truth, the DDR Commission has almost no money, their representatives, the frustration and anger pay for the ex-combatants who have nothing receive as a certificate of release, bridging benefit, four bags of sorghum, a few canisters of cooking oil, salt and lentils.

Kulung diet has long been used up. Since then, he waits.

"What do you live and your family?"

"I have a wife and four children. My brother helps us."

### Kabang Mela media source (39)

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**Kabang Mela media source** is a slender, lively woman. When she laughs, she does often, flashing a gold tooth. It belongs to the people of Bari, that the Sudan Liberation Army was always skeptical, but it sounds like a very convincing party soldier. They came with 18 years in the army. Her son was a teenager soldier and rose to the bodyguard of John Garang, SPLA leader years on.

"What did you do in the SPLA?"

"I was in the infantry."

"Have you been fighting?"

"No, I've worked in administration. But many other women have fought for."

On demand, it turns out that it was apparently used as a servant.

"Why did you go to the army?"

"To defend our country against the Arabs. 's Have taken our land, raped our children and our cattle. You guys have dragged in the north and used there as women."

Khartoum militias have equipped horsemen in southern Sudan - and later on in Darfur - committed numerous atrocities. They massacred civilians, raped women, stole thousands of cattle and abducted minors in the north. Girls were often abused and raped as Dienstkavinnen. Boys were forced to work as cattle herders. The accusation that Arabs had raped boys ("like women used"), the already enormous hatred fanned the southern Sudanese in addition to the north. "Would you have liked to stay in the army?"

Media source delay.

"I want to civilian life. In the military you have to constantly move from one place to another. I want to stay in a city."

"Do you have family?"

"My husband has gone with his three other women to Rumbek. I'm alone here. My daughter is a police officer. But she herself has family and can not help me much."

"What about your son?"

"He's dead, he crashed with Garang." (John Garang arrived on 30 July 2005, just weeks after the peace agreement with the regime in Khartoum, in in a helicopter crash killed)

"What do you live?"

"I sell tea on the road."

"Can you live like this?"

"You have to."

"Have you been offered a course to re-integrate?"

"No, I'm waiting since December."

"What would you like to do?"

"I like to MPs in South Sudan parliament would be. In Parliament are now extra seats reserved

for women."

"Can you read and write?"

"No. I would first look into the school."

### Joyce Kaji (age unknown)

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#### KEYWORDS

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**Joyce Kaji** not know her age. Physically, she looks like just came in puberty. A stocky girl with abrupt gestures and head movements. The behavioral problems are obvious.

Her right hand is bent, the middle finger is missing, traces of an air attack by the Sudanese army, in which her parents and her brother were killed. Since then, she says she's been with the SPLA, often in the front line.

She takes great difficulties seem to remember events. Again and again she makes a

frustrated gesture, as if it is an animal escaped.

"My head can no longer think sometimes," she says.

"Do you have nightmares?"

"No. It is simply dark in my head, everything goes black. Sometimes I fall down then."

"Are you in pain?"

"My head hurts a lot."

It was in December 2009 dismissed from the army - against their will. Since then she has lived with an uncle in Juba. It would need urgent psychological help. But in Juba, there are no specialists. Five years after the peace agreement exists in one of the world's regions most severely traumatized no psycho-social support.

Joyce Kaji always comes back to the office of the DDR commission, where you can help no one. A few weeks ago, it has shattered into a desperate attack of the furniture and records broken. Only four police officers managed to overpower them. The head of the Commission clearly has compassion for the girls, but also fear of his violence. "Too much anger for a man," she says.