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INTRODUCTION

Fighting between the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and the SPLA-in Opposition (SPLA-iO) forces has been ongoing in the Greater Upper Nile region of South Sudan since December 2013. The town of Malakal in Upper Nile state repeatedly changed hands during the first three months of the crisis. On 19 March 2014, the SPLA secured Malakal and surrounding areas and maintained full control until mid-May 2015, when the SPLA-iO launched a new wave of offensives in Upper Nile State.

Each party to the conflict captured military equipment during the fighting. This *Dispatch from the Field* documents a sample recovered by the SPLA from SPLA-iO forces in Pigi County, Jonglei State, in November 2014.

The sample, which a Conflict Armament Research (CAR) investigation team examined in SPLA Sector II Headquarters in Malakal on 11 December 2014, provides important insights into the supply of weapons to SPLA-iO forces. Notably, the weapons and ammunition documented display clear evidence of damage sustained during airdrops to SPLA-iO units, which reportedly took place in September–October 2014. Furthermore, the materiel is identical to previously documented arms and ammunition airdropped by Sudan to rebels in South Sudan in 2012, which provides strong indication of new, direct supplies from Sudan to SPLA-iO operations.



KEY FINDINGS

- Most of the ammunition documented had suffered heavy impact damage, which is consistent with eyewitness reports that aircraft dropped materiel to SPLA-iO forces in Upper Nile State in September–October 2014.
- The composition of the documented materiel, and a precedent for airdropping identical materiel to rebel forces in South Sudan in 2012, prior to the current conflict, suggests direct supply from Sudan to SPLA-iO forces.
- Observers on the ground also report that, throughout the month of December 2014, aircraft dropped additional military equipment to SPLAiO units in Upper Nile and Jonglei States.
- 70 per cent of the 7.62 x 39 mm ammunition documented is Sudanese-manufactured, with the majority produced in 2014. The recent date of manufacture is further evidence of direct supply from Khartoum to SPLA-iO forces.
- The SPLA-iO used 2014-manufactured Sudanese ammunition prior to the September-December 2014 airdrops in Jonglei—including in its April 2014 attack on a mosque in Bentiu. This suggests more than one case of supply from Khartoum to the SPLA-iO.

- All of the 7.62 x 54R mm ammunition documented is Sudanese-manufactured and dates from 2011-14. The 2011 rounds are identical to ammunition supplied by Sudan to rebel forces in South Sudan in 2012, prior to the current conflict—including in airdrops of materiel.
- Chinese 12.7 x 108 mm ammunition documented is identical to ammunition supplied by Khartoum to South Sudanese rebel forces in 2012, prior to the current conflict.
- The serial number of a Chinese-manufactured Type 56-1 falls within the same sequence as rifles supplied by Sudan to South Sudanese rebel forces in 2011, prior to the current conflict.
- The types of materiel airdropped to support SPLA-iO operations in Jonglei State mirror weapon types that Sudan has supplied to support armed or insurgent forces elsewhere in sub-Saharan Africa, including in Darfur and the Central African Republic.



CIRCUMSTANCES OF **DOCUMENTATION**

On 11 December 2014, CAR investigators visited the SPLA Sector II Headquarters in Malakal (GPS: 9.525274, 31.664343) to inspect materiel captured by the SPLA from SPLA-iO forces in the Canal area of Pigi County, Jonglei state. The SPLA-iO had previously operated a major military base in Pigi County, which was located in the village of Khorflus.

The materiel included more than 300 rounds of small-calibre ammunition contained in a hessian bag, two 57 mm M307 A1 HEAT rounds, and six 82 mm rounds for B-10 recoilless rifles in their original

tubes. This materiel is distinct from weapons and ammunition deployed by the SPLA. SPLA officers in Malakal confirmed that, prior to its capture of Malakal, the SPLA had no weapons of these types in its possession.1

SPLA Sector II Command reports that unidentified aircraft dropped military materiel around Khorflus.² These airdrops reportedly took place from mid-August until the first week of October 2014, just prior to SPLA-iO offensives on 21 August, 18 September, and 10 October 2014.3 CAR could not independently verify the sequencing and number



Small-calibre ammunition in hessian bag

of reported airdrops, but observed that much of the ammunition inspected in Malakal, captured from the Khorflus area, was heavily damaged.

Analysis of the damage indicates that many items have been crushed by a heavy impact. There is no indication (such as burning or scorching) to

suggest the damage is the result of explosive blast effects. Rather, the small arms cartridges and tubes containing rockets concerned appear to have suffered lateral impact damage, which is consistent with either free-fall dropping from an aircraft or very low altitude parachute dropping.



 $7.62 \times 39 \text{ mm}$ ammunition, visibly damaged, consistent with sudden impact as a result of airdropping

Malakal, 11 December 2014



Tubes containing 82 mm ammunition for B-10 recoilless rifles, visibly damaged, consistent with lateral impact as a result of airdropping

Malakal, 11 December 2014

THE SMALL ARMS
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CAPTURED MATERIEL

SMALL-CALIBRE AMMUNITION

7.62 x 39 mm ammunition

On 11 December 2014, CAR investigators documented a total of 374 cartridges, comprising 243 rounds of 7.62 x 39 mm, 100 rounds of 7.62 x 54R mm, and 31 rounds of 12.7 x 108 mm.



Sudanese 7.62 x 39 mm cartridge, manufactured in 2014, with headstamp 1_14_39

Malakal, 11 December 2014



Sudanese 7.62 x 39 mm cartridges, manufactured in 2014, with headstamps 1_39_14

Malakal, 11 December 2014



Sudanese 7.62 x 39 mm cartridge, manufactured in 2013, with headstamp 1_13_39

Malakal, 11 December 2014



Chinese factory 811 7.62 x 39 mm cartridge, manufactured in 2011, with headstamp 811_11



Chinese factory 811 7.62 x 39 mm cartridge, manufactured in 2012, with headstamp 811_12

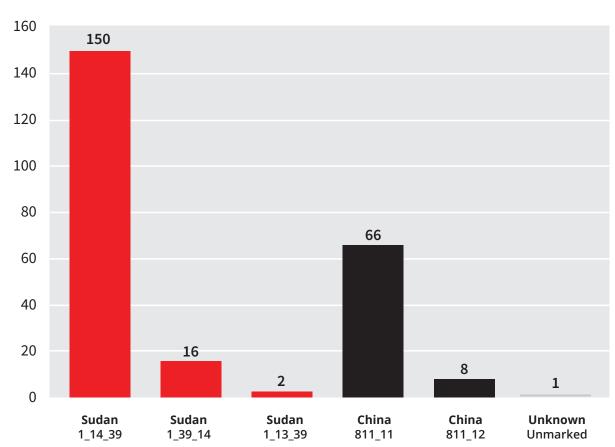
Malakal, 11 December 2014



Unmarked 7.62 x 39 mm cartridge

Malakal, 11 December 2014

Composition of the sample of 7.62 x 39 mm ammunition (n=243)



Sudanese-manufactured cartridges comprise almost 70 per cent of the 7.62 x 39 mm sample (168 of 243). These cartridges are typical of post-2008 Sudanese manufacture and feature copper-clad steel cases, red primer seals, and triple-entry headstamps.⁴ Nearly all (98 per cent) of them date from 2014, which indicates a very short chain of custody (11 months maximum and plausibly shorter) from production in Khartoum to delivery to SPLA-iO forces in South Sudan.

CAR documented identical Sudanesemanufactured ammunition (headstamps 1_14_39 and 1_39_14) during its investigations into ammunition used by the SPLA-iO during its attack on the Bentiu mosque in April 2014.⁵





Sudanese 7.62 x 39 mm cartridges, manufactured in 2014, with headstamps 1_14_39 documented in Malakal, 11 December 2014, (left) and Bentiu, 24 May 2014 (right)

CAR also documented identical Sudanese ammunition in Bangui, Central African Republic, in April 2014. The African Union's peacekeeping mission in the Central African Republic seized the cartridges from Séléka forces in 2014. Séléka leaders reported that Khartoum had supplied

them with weapons and ammunition by air during 2013, following Séléka's seizure of power. CAR also documented Sudanese cartridges bearing a similar headstamp (1_13_39) following the SPLA-iO's looting of the Ivory Bank in Bentiu town in April 2014.⁷





Sudanese 7.62 x 39 mm cartridges, manufactured in 2013, with headstamps 1_13_39 documented in Malakal, 11 December 2014, (left) and Bangui, 15 April 2014 (right)

China's Factory 811 manufactured the remainder of the 7.62 x 39 mm sample (excluding the unmarked round) in 2011 and 2012. Without access to the original packaging or import documentation, determining the ammunition's chain of custody is impossible. However, CAR has observed identical Factory 811 ammunition held by Khartoumsupplied rebel forces elsewhere in South Sudan between 2011 and 2014.

Furthermore, these cartridges are also identical to cartridges that the SPLA captured from SPLA-iO forces in Bentiu when the army retook control of the town in early May 2014, and to those used by the SPLA-iO in its attack on Bentiu mosque in April 2014.⁸ Taken together, this suggests that the SPLA-iO not only received airdropped Sudanese and Chinese ammunition in Khorflus, Jonglei State in 2014, but also previously deployed identical types in its operations in Bentiu, Unity State.





Chinese Factory 811 cartridges, manufactured in 2011, documented in Malakal, 11 December 2014, (left) and Bentiu, 24 May 2014 (right)



7.62 x 54R mm ammunition

This sample is entirely of Sudanese manufacture. Similar to the 7.62 x 39 mm cartridges, the documented ammunition is of typical Sudanese construction and features copper-clad steel cases, red primer seals, and triple-entry headstamps. The samples below all show evidence of damage consistent with sudden impact as a result of airdropping.



Sudanese 7.62 x 54R mm cartridges, manufactured in 2012, with headstamps 2_54_012

Malakal, 11 December 2014



Sudanese 7.62 x 54R mm cartridges, manufactured in 2012, with headstamps 1_54_12

Malakal, 11 December 2014



Sudanese 7.6 x 54R mm cartridges, manufactured in 2011, with headstamps 2_54_011

Malakal, 11 December 2014



Sudanese 7.62 x 54R mm cartridges, manufactured in 2011, with headstamps 3_54_011

Malakal, 11 December 2014



Sudanese 7.62 x 54R mm cartridge, manufactured in 2012, with headstamp 1_54_012

Malakal, 11 December 2014

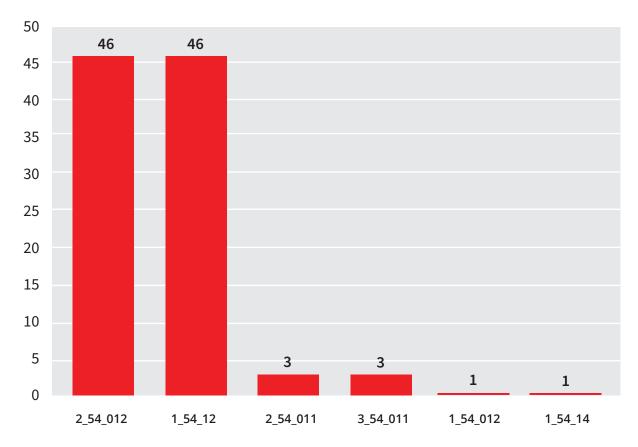


Sudanese 7.62 x 54R mm cartridge, manufactured in 2014, with headstamp 1_54_14

CAR holds physical samples of identical 7.62 x 54R mm ammunition (headstamps 2_54_011 and 3_54_011), which it recovered from forces loyal to James Kubrin, a Khartoum-supplied rebel force, in February 2013. In this case, the Sudanese National

Intelligence and Security Services reportedly delivered the weapons to Kubrin's forces in airdrops conducted over Jonglei State between August and December 2012.⁹

Composition of the sample of 7.62 x 54R mm ammunition (n=100)





12.7 x 108 mm ammunition

The entire 12.7 x 108 mm ammunition sample consists of Chinese Factory 41-manufactured cartridges, manufactured in 2008.



Sample of 12.7 x 108 mm ammunition

Malakal, 11 December 2014



Chinese factory 41 12.7 x 108 mm cartridge, manufactured in 2008, with headstamp 41_08

Malakal, 11 December 2014

These cartridges are identical to numerous examples documented during a range of sub-Saharan African field investigations conducted in recent years, including by CAR. Investigators have documented these green-lacquered Factory 41 12.7 x 108 mm cartridges manufactured in 1991, 2000, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2013 in the Central African Republic (Bangui), Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (North Kivu),

Côte d'Ivoire, South Sudan (Unity and Jonglei States), Sudan (Darfur, Southern Kordofan, and Blue Nile States), and in the stockpiles of Islamic State forces in Northern Syria.¹⁰ Furthermore, UN experts documented cartridges identical to those observed in Malakal during clashes between Sudanese armed forces and rebel groups in North Darfur in May 2011.¹¹



57 MM RECOILLESS RIFLE AMMUNITION

CAR investigators inspected two United Statesmanufactured M307 A1 HEAT 57 mm recoilless rifle rounds in Malakal. The rounds were stored in their

original wooden packaging and their markings matched those stencilled on the box. One of the two rounds was stored in its original packing tube.



Wooden crate containing two M307 A1 rounds

Malakal, 11 December 2014



US-manufactured M307 A1 rounds, with original packing tube

The following table details the markings visible on the box:

Markings on the box

Top of box	Ammo for cannon w/explosive pro			
	RIJRB			
	LOT LOP-2 79			
	United States of America			
Front of box	4 cartridges HEAT M307 () P1M90A1			
	57MM RIFL			
	COMP			
	LOT L79			
	WT 40.50			
Back of box	United States of America			

Each round had identical markings stencilled in yellow, and each had identical headstamp codes and engraved markings on the fuses. The engraved markings on the rounds were not identical.

Markings on the rounds

Main Body	AMM LOT/LOP-2-79 (painted in yellow) – both rounds
	57R/HEAT/SHELL M307A1 (painted in yellow) – both rounds
	HMC-1-565357MMM307A1 (engraved) – round one
	HMC-1-545357MMM307A1 (engraved) – round two
5	FUZE P1 M90A1 (engraved) – both rounds
Fuse	LOT LOP-1-39 6-53 (engraved) – both rounds
Back of box	1953 – both rounds
	LOT AKG 3-29 – both rounds
	57MM – both rounds
	M30AIBI – both rounds

Markings on the tube

Tube	COMP B
	R1JR
	CARTRIDGE HEAT M307A1
	W/FUZE A1 M90A1
Tube plug	57MM RIFLE
	CONTAINER M166A2



Markings on both rounds
Malakal, 11 December 2014



Lot number markings on both rounds

Malakal, 11 December 2014

THE TYPES OF MATERIEL AIRDROPPED TO SUPPORT SPLA-IO OPERATIONS IN JONGLEI STATE MIRROR WEAPON TYPES THAT SUDAN HAS SUPPLIED TO SUPPORT ARMED OR INSURGENT FORCES ELSEWHERE IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA, INCLUDING IN

DARFUR AND THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC.

In November 2014, CAR investigators also documented an identically marked M307 A1 round at the South Sudan National Security Services Internal Security Bureau (NSS ISB) Headquarters in Juba.



US-manufactured 57 mm M307 A1 round

Juba, 22 November 2014



Markings on the body of the round

Juba, 22 November 2014



Additional markings on the body of the round

Juba, 22 November 2014

Markings on the head of the cartridge

Juba, 22 November 2014

The SPLA recovered this round from SPLA-iO forces in Malakal after recapturing the town in March 2014. The SPLA subsequently transferred it to Juba for further investigation.12

On 4 February 2015, CAR sent an official trace request to the US Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York, requesting information on the transfer history of the three rounds. As of June 2015, the US authorities had yet to respond.

82 MM RECOILLESS RIFLE AMMUNITION

CAR documented six 82 mm rounds for B-10 recoilless rifles. While the rounds were stored in their original metal tubes, CAR was unable to remove the rounds due to damage, sustained during the airdrop.

The six tubes bear a range of marks, which the table below presents in detail.

Markings on the tubes

Position of marking	Tube 1	Tube 2	Tube 3	Tube 4	Tube 5	Tube 6
Top-half (painted in black, vertically)	ГК-2 144-20-59 114-59-2403	ΓK-2 144-26-58 28-59-2403	ГК-2М 42М-3-83	ΓK-2 144-17-58 146-58-2403	ΓK-2 144-41-57 41-58-2403	ΓK-2 144-41-57 41-58-2403
Bottom- half (painted in black, vertically)	17-59-Б	3-58-Б	Б.10-83 167-83-2403	19-57-M	40-57-M	40-57-M
Bottom-half (painted in black, horizontally)	82++ КУМ Б-10	82++ КУМУЛ Б-10	++82 ОСКОЛ.Б-10	82+ КУМ Б-10	82Н КУМУЛ Б-10	82Н КУМУЛ Б-10
Tube plug (painted in black)	33	2	42	51	6	6
Opening lever (engraved)	318-58 П	59 IO3 Я167 93	383-82	318-58 Ζ π b	318-58 π Z 'K' painted in black	318-58 π Z
Back of the opening lever (engraved)	None	None	None	B A	None	None
Plug seal (engraved)	81 КРТИ	None	None	None	None	None

The tube marks indicate that each round originated in the former Soviet Union. Lot marks printed on the top half of the tubes indicate that five rounds were manufactured in the late 1950s (1957, 1958, and 1959) and one in 1983.









Lot number markings (top row: tubes 1-3, bottom row: tubes 4-6), indicating manufacture in 1957, 1958, 1959, and 1983

Malakal, 11 December 2014

Tubes 5 and 6 have identical markings (144-41-57), which indicates that they were part of a unique production lot, and potentially part of a single consignment.

CAR investigators have previously documented similar Soviet-produced 82 mm rounds in Sudan,

in particular among weapons captured by the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) from the Sudan Armed Forces in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States. CAR has not been able to conduct comparative analysis between these rounds and those documented in Malakal due to damage to the latter.

TYPE 56-1 ASSAULT RIFLES

In addition to the weapons reportedly airdropped, SPLA Sector II forces also claimed to have seized weapons directly from SPLA-iO fighters during the March 2014 recapture of Malakal. These weapons include 20 Kalashnikov-pattern assault rifles and six PKM-pattern general-purpose machine guns.¹³

CAR investigators inspected a slightly modified Chinese-manufactured Type 56-1 assault rifle. The SPLA reportedly redistributed the remaining weapons to local communities and militias to protect against SPLA-iO-backed cattle raids. ¹⁴ The marks on the rifle's receiver had been deliberately removed by grinding prior to its capture by the SPLA. However, secondary marks on the weapon's recoil spring guide remained intact.



Type 56-1 rifle with customized fore grip





Type 56-1 with marks removed by grinding

Malakal, 11 December 2014



Partial repeat of the serial number (34293) on recoil spring guide

Malakal, 11 December 2014

The deliberate removal of serial numbers is a common feature of weapons supplied by Sudan to South Sudanese rebel forces. For example, CAR and the Small Arms Survey documented Chinese Type 56-1 assault rifles, Chinese CQ assault rifles, RPG-7-pattern rocket launchers, PKM-pattern general-purpose machine guns, DShKM-pattern heavy machine guns, and Chinese Type 65 recoilless rifles with removed markings. Sudanese state agents had either fully, or partially, removed identifying marks before supplying them to the South Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SSLM/A) and various factions of the South Sudan Democratic Movement/Army (SSDM/A) in South

Sudan, in addition to Kamal Loma's militia in Blue Nile state, Sudan, in 2011-12.¹⁵

The type of rifle documented in Malakal, and the fashion in which its markings had been removed, is identical to these cases of Sudanese supply to other rebel forces in the region. Moreover, the partially repeated serial number, applied to the weapon's recoil spring guide, falls within the same sequence as nearly 200 Type 56-1 rifles that Sudan supplied to the SSLM/A in 2011. Despite these findings, it is not clear how the SPLA-iO procured the weapon, and whether its transfer involved intermediary parties.

ENDNOTES

- 1 The materiel held in Malakal was reportedly a small part of the captured materiel (including approximately 1,000 rounds of small-calibre ammunition). The SPLA reported having redistributed most serviceable weapons and ammunition to support its own military operations. CAR interviews with SPLA officers in Malakal, 11–12 December 2014.
- 2 CAR interviews with SPLA officers in Malakal, 11–12 December 2014.
- 3 SPLA personnel claimed to have witnessed these airdrops from the opposite bank of the river and that airdrops occurred after sunset (between 2000 and 2400) or before sunrise (0500). SPLA officers interviewed in Malakal also referred to Sudanese helicopter airdrops that they routinely observed between August and October 2014, in particular in Ulang County, Upper Nile state. CAR interviews in Malakal, 11–12 December 2014.
- 4 See Small Arms Survey (2011).
- 5 CAR documented one cartridge of each type in Bentiu. See CAR's findings reported in HSBA (2014).
- 6 See CAR (2015).
- 7 The size and shape of the marking codes, however, appear to be slightly different, suggesting that two different manufacturing lots may have been produced with the same headstamp. CAR visited the Ivory Bank facilities in Bentiu on 26 May 2014.
- 8 CAR documented three cartridges of this type in Bentiu, both in the Mosque and among the equipment that the SPLA 4th Division units captured from rebel fighters, in April 2014. See CAR's findings reported in HSBA (2014).
- 9 For a full account of findings, see HSBA (2013a).
- 10 References to these specific types of ammunition are available in several CAR, Small Arms Survey, and United Nations Panel of Experts reports. See, in particular, CAR (2014, p. 12; 2015, p. 15), HSBA (2013b; 2013c), Leff and LeBrun (2014), UNSC (2009, pp. 37-38; 2011, p. 22; 2015, pp. 32-33, p. 110).
- 11 For additional information, see Gramizzi, Lewis, and Tubiana (2012).
- 12 CAR interview with the Deputy Director of the Internal Security Bureau in Juba, 22 November 2014.
- 13 CAR interview with SPLA officers in Malakal, 11 December 2014.
- 14 CAR interviews with SPLA officers in Malakal, 11–12 December 2014.
- 15 See for example Gramizzi (2013, p. 39), HSBA (2012; 2013a; 2013c; 2013d), Leff and LeBrun (2014, p. 14).

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