

November 7, 2017

HATE SPEECH MONITORING AND CONFLICT ANALYSIS IN SOUTH SUDAN

Report #7: October 24 – November 6, 2017

This report is part of a broader initiative by PeaceTech Lab to analyze online hate speech in South Sudan in order to help mitigate the threat of hateful language in fueling violence on-the-ground. Hate speech can be defined as language that can incite others to discriminate or act against individuals or groups based on their ethnic, religious, racial, gender or national identity. The Lab also acknowledges the role of “dangerous speech,” which is a heightened form of hate speech that can catalyze mass violence.

Summary of Recent Events

Now well into its fourth year, the violent conflict in South Sudan continues to deteriorate, reflected by continuing political, economic and humanitarian challenges. Also concerning is the evolving trend in which major players in the conflict are increasingly breaking the country into regional power structures. Previously, the war appeared pit the Dinka against the Nuer, but more recent developments signify a shift to regional alliances, as well as increasing divisions within communal groups. In the Upper Nile and Equatoria, the base of operations for many SPLA-IO forces and other opposition movements, many believe that the government in Juba must adopt a federal arrangement or risk fragmentation.

Historically, present-day South Sudan existed as a semi-autonomous entity comprised of three regions: Equatoria, Upper Nile, and Bahr el Ghazal. Each of these regions previously acted as a platform for expressing collective interests or grievances. During the recent revitalization forum consultations led by IGAD as well as the ongoing national dialogue process, leaders and citizens who feel marginalized by the current government have expressed interest in self-governance or a return to a three-region structure. This dynamic is reflected by the recent defections in Equatoria, where Equatorians within SPLA-IO are joining Cirillo’s NAS. Some Equatorians want to be equal contenders in the national political arena and take on an influential role in future negotiations, such as the upcoming IGAD talks.

Signs of a regional alignment are also evident in Greater Upper Nile and in Bahr el Ghazal. On October 30, for example, [youth from Jonglei](#) (Dinka of Apadang and Twic East) announced that they have defected to Dr. Machar’s group. This development is surprising given that when Machar was dislodged from Juba in July, few Dinkas remained in his camp. The declaration by Dinka youth appeared to be partly prompted by the constant threat of arrest or intimidation of Bor youth by the national security service, leading the Bor Dinka to find a new ally close to home. Also, President Kiir’s order that Dinka pastoralists and their cattle must leave the [five Equatorian States](#) has triggered negative reactions among the Bor Dinka people. While some suspect a conspiracy, others believe the move is simply [unconstitutional](#). President Kiir’s relations with the Bor youth have soured since the sacking of former Army Chief of Staff, Paul Malong, who had supplied Dinka Bor with weapons against the Murle.

In the Bahr el Ghazal region, particularly in Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Paul Malong, the de facto leader of the region, remains under [house confinement in Juba](#). Meanwhile, proxy outfits such as the South Sudan Patriotic Army/Movement (SSPA/SSPM) are advancing the notion of regional autonomy. The SSPA/SSPM is viewed by some South Sudanese as a surrogate for the Bahr el Ghazal region. This is important because

although the people of Aweil see themselves as victims of Kiir's administration, they also want to be prepared militarily in the event Kiir is ousted.

Another scenario promoting regionalism relates to the battle waged over Kajo-Keji by the Equatorian wing of the SPLA-IO and National Salvation Front (NAS) led by Thomas Cirillo. The fighting largely comes down to establishing a sphere of influence in Equatoria. NAS could be motivated by placing boots on the ground as well as becoming the standard-bearer for repressed Equatorians. In fact, since the launch of NAS, a significant number of Equatorians and other marginalized communities have joined the movement. During his recent tour of the USA, Cirillo insisted that one mechanism for preventing South Sudan from total disintegration is the right to [self-governance](#). While [addressing the UN](#) in New York City, Cirillo also said, "the old political configuration of Kiir and Machar is not capable of addressing the national crisis." Instead, he suggested that, "a new leadership should be supported to introduce genuine political and socio-economic transformations in the country."

Support for a regional structure has also been witnessed in the rise of a new opposition coalition called the National Resistance Front/Army (NRF/A). In a [communiqué](#), the group pledged, "to ensure South Sudan transforms to a Federal Republic of South Sudan where a presidency is rotational among the three greater regions of Upper Nile, Equatoria and Bahr-el-Ghazal by law."

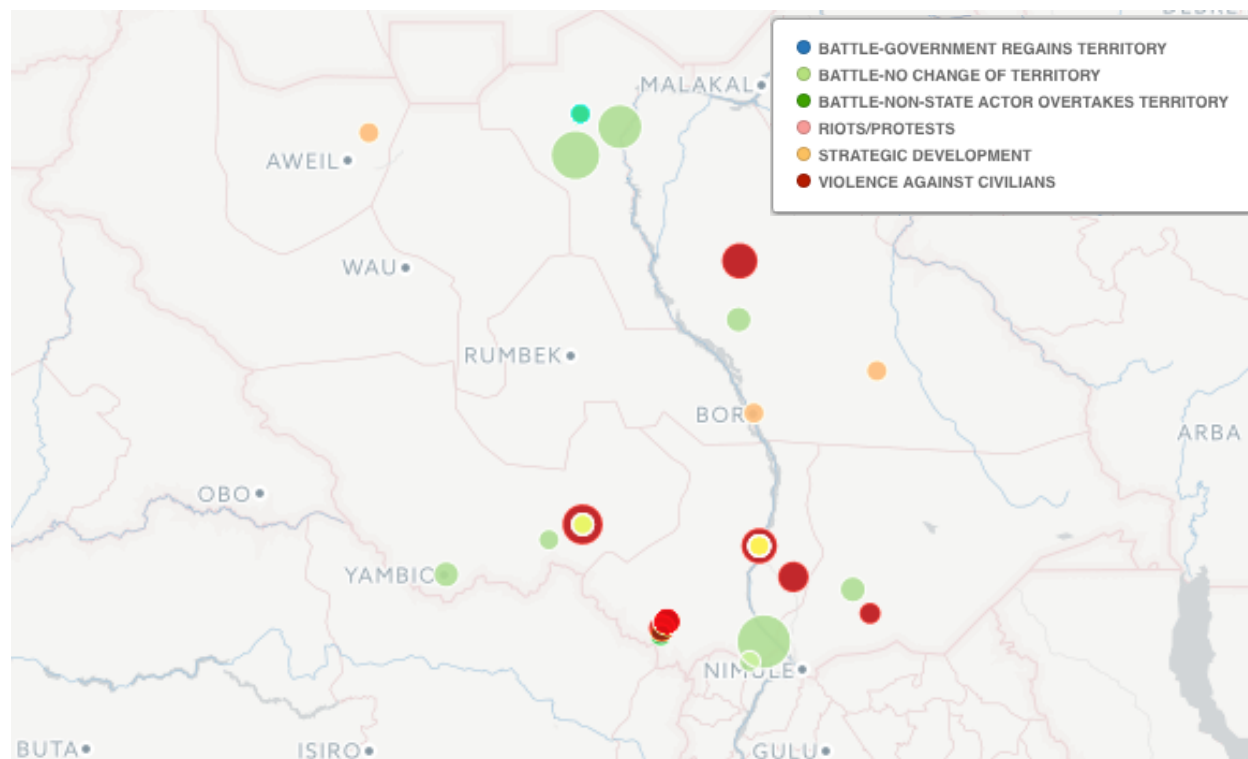
Meanwhile, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley completed a trip to Addis Ababa and Juba. Ambassador Haley [drew a hard line](#) by indicating that continued financial support for the government would be staked to progress in reducing violence.

Considering these developments, opinions were sharply divided on social media. Pro-opposition advocates appear to prioritize the IGAD revitalization forum, while government supporters are more attached to the national dialogue initiative. As noted, NAS has taken a very controversial position in online narratives. Consequently, social media users have been actively using inflammatory language, including well-established terms like "coward," as well as new phrases such as "Dinka insects" and "stooges."

Visualization and Analysis of Conflict Events

Violent Events: October 21 – November 4, 2017

The visualization and table below use data from the Armed Conflict Location and Events Database (ACLED) to portray incidents and trends in conflict-related events in South Sudan from October 21 – November 4, 2017. This is the most recent two-week period for which we are able to generate event data for South Sudan.



Data Source: Armed Conflict Location and Events Database

Date	Event Type	Location(s)	Description	Fatalities
10/22/2017	Battle-No change of territory	Kajo-Keji	An SPLA-IO official's statement on 23 October claimed fighting between SPLA-IO and NAS had continued for control of territory in Kajo-Keji since it erupted on 17 and 18 October. Dates unclear. SPLA-IO claimed to have killed 20 NAS soldiers in the past week (3 fatalities in past events).	17
10/22/2017	Battle-No change of territory	Kuerkulang	Clashes between government (including forces led by FVP Deng Gai) and SPLA-IO forces in Kuergeng, Guit County in Unity. Both sides claimed control of the area. Pro-government factions claimed at least eight died in the fighting, including four policemen, and 14 others were injured, including the Kuergeng commissioner. Rebels claimed 17 government soldiers were killed in the fighting.	8

10/26/2017	Battle-No change of territory	Buaw	Clashes between SPLA-IO forces led by FVP Deng Gai and SPLA-IO forces under Machar at Boaw and Pakur in Unity's Koch and Rubkona counties respectively. The rebels claimed to have gained control of both areas. The pro-government faction claimed to have repulsed the rebels from at least Boaw inflicting "heavy casualties".	10
10/29/2017	Violence against civilians	Bahr Olo	Clashes between government and rebel forces spread to Bahr Olo, Fergsika and Zangwa from 27-29 October after SPLA-IO ambushed a government forces' convoy on its way from Mundri to Maridi at Bamurye in Kajo Keji. Local residents claimed SPLA burnt houses in the area after they were defeated by the rebels, leaving six people killed.	6

Data Source: Armed Conflict Location and Events Database (events in South Sudan with 5 or more fatalities)

Early Warning of Violence – Predictive Analytics

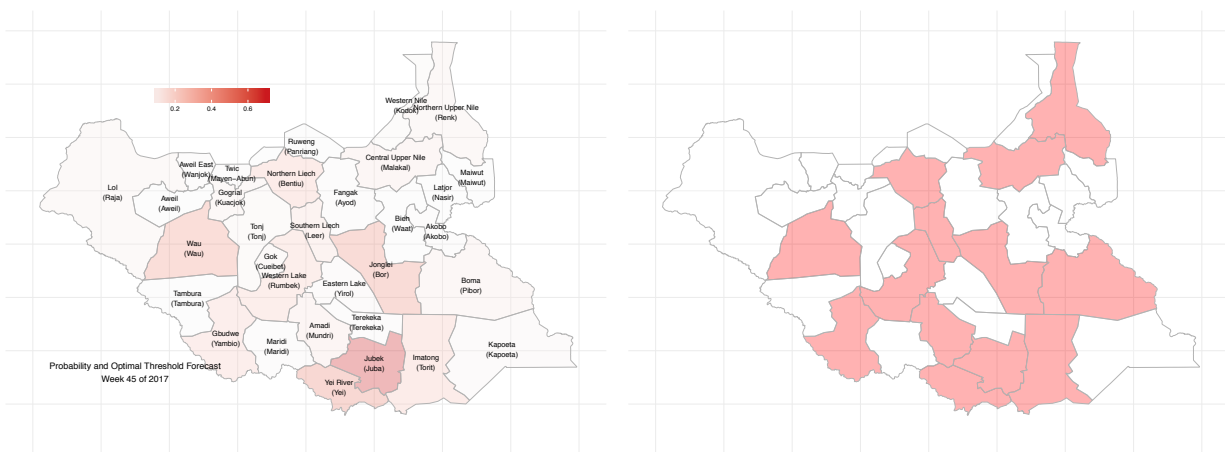
PeaceTech Lab is collaborating with partners to develop an early warning system using predictive analytics. Using a combination of data sources including the Armed Conflict Location and Events Database (ACLED), the Global Database of Events, Language, and Tone (GDELT), and social media content from Crimson Hexagon, the Lab has built a statistical model for predicting violence in South Sudan before it occurs. Over time, the Lab plans to refine and improve our model's accuracy.

ACLED publishes new updated data every Monday. Each update covers the violent events that occurred up until the Saturday prior to the Monday that data is released. Our statistical model is re-trained every Monday with this updated data and then produces predictions for the upcoming week. The most recent ACLED data was published on November 6, 2017, for the week ending on November 3, 2017 (Week 44). We used that data to train our model and then forecasted for the following week of November 6-10 (Week 45).

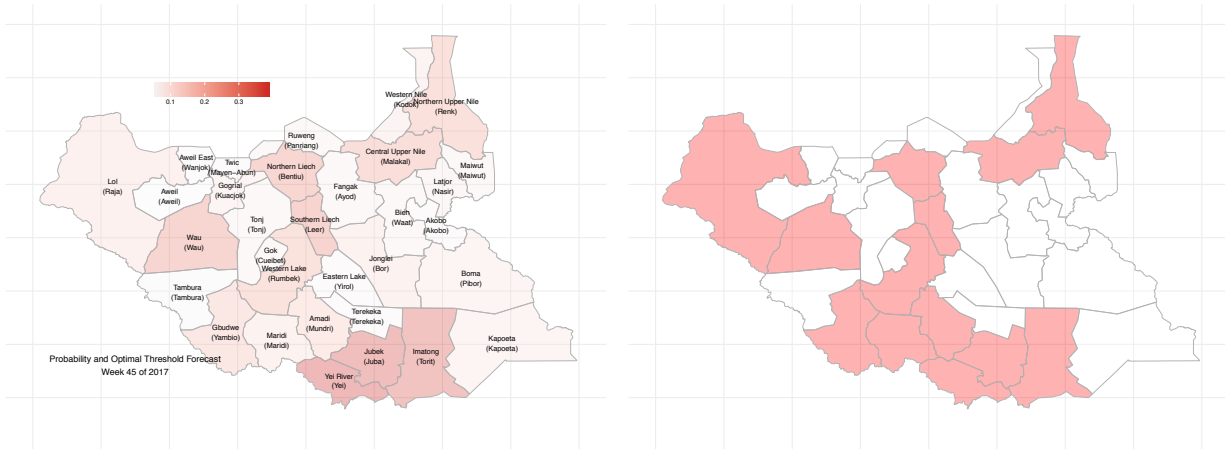
The maps below visualize this system in practice. The model outputs a probability of violence for Week 45 – illustrated by shades of red in the map on the left. Using a probability threshold we then make predictions of which states will experience violence for Week 45– the red states in the map on the right.

Based on our predictions for week 44, compared to the real data that was released for week 44, our model's accuracy has remained at about 75-80%.

Predicted Violence against Civilians for Week 45



Predicted Battles for Week 45



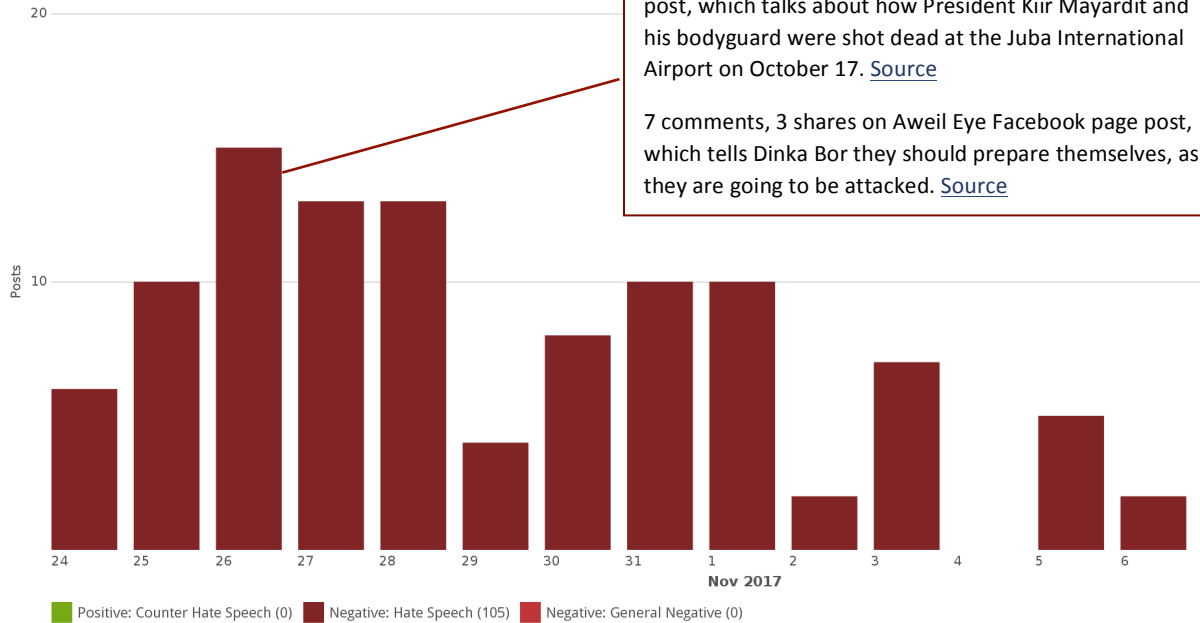
Visualizations - Overall Hate Speech¹

Volume of Hate Speech

The visualizations below show trends surrounding social media content identified as hate speech surrounding the South Sudan conflict. Content sources include: Facebook, Twitter, blogs, forums, new comments, and YouTube.

Dates: October 24 – November 6, 2017

Number of posts: 105

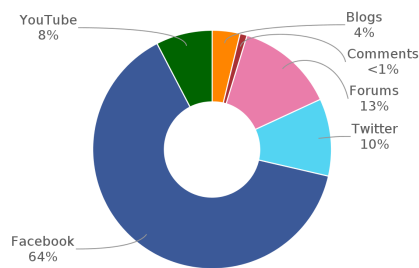


171 comments, 200 shares on Aweil Eye Facebook page post, which talks about how President Kiir Mayardit and his bodyguard were shot dead at the Juba International Airport on October 17. [Source](#)

7 comments, 3 shares on Aweil Eye Facebook page post, which tells Dinka Bor they should prepare themselves, as they are going to be attacked. [Source](#)

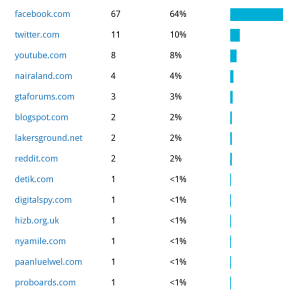
South Sudan - Hate Speech Monitor: ... — Volume of Posts (Opinion Analysis) from 10/24/17 to 11/6/17

Content Sources for Hate Speech



South Sudan - Hate Speech Monitor: ... — Source breakdown from 10/24/17 to 11/6/17

Top Sites for Hate Speech



South Sudan - Hate Speech Monitor: ... — Top Sites from 10/24/17 to 11/6/17

¹ This section and the next display content from hate speech categories, which were produced using a combination of hand coding and machine learning using social media data. Crimson Hexagon's ForSight platform was used to filter for content of interest and train posts to categories. Posts that contain the terms identified through the lexicon and include inflammatory language were categorized as "hate speech".

Hate Speech Terms

Equatoria Wew/ Equatorian wew

This term is a derivative of “Nuer wew” and “Nuer yioni” and refers to Equatorians who love money more than the welfare of their own communities. “Equatorian wew” emerged online as a variation of “Nuer Wew” in 2015. The term was previously applied to portray Equatorians working in the current political regime as sellouts. Although the online use of “Equatorian wew” was sporadic, it has recently gained traction given current tensions between Nuer and Equatorians who are defecting from the SPLM-IO to Thomas Cirillo’s NAS (which is mainly comprised of Equatorians).

The term reflects the perception of many Equatorians that South Sudan's political space is dominated by Dinka and Nuer who have imposed a subordinate role on Equatorians. In this equation, Equatorians are considered a strategic ally by both Dinka and Nuer, but they are not seen as capable of military or political leadership. The use of the term “Equatorian wew” implies that Nuer feel a sense of entitlement to the continued loyalty and support of Equatorians. Therefore, the existence of NAS can be viewed through a very narrow ethnic lens in which all political activity in South Sudan is an extension of the Dinka vs. Nuer struggle. [Thomas Cirillo's call for the right to self-governance](#) has been interpreted in some quarters as promoting the secession of Equatoria from South Sudan, and this has continued to fuel hostility between Equatorians and Nuer.

In this context, the term mainly targets NAS supporters. Some social media users have employed the term while listing the names of individuals they are targeting, thereby making these people and their friends or family members potential targets for violence.

This term is considered inflammatory because it can stoke tensions between Nuer and Equatorians, as the former feel that their political interests and grievances should always be supported and prioritized by non-Dinka communities. By centralizing support for the opposition in one community, other communities are denied the political space and the legitimacy to express themselves.

Sample Posts:

Date: October 23, 2017
Source: Facebook

The io supporters are different from Nuer wew. Our agenda is to change juba Regime under JCE and bring justic and Equality for all South Sudanese. While Nuer Wew and Equatorian wew are under Salva Kiir payroll. Mr Aphones L Kenyi, “ if you gave up the war we fought with you since 2013, than you fall under Equatorian wew, which is wrong I do not want you to be Equatorian wew

Date: October 25, 2017
Source: Sudan Tribune

My dear friends/Colleagues Kush, Nairobi and South Sudan
Don't bark of supporting Lomuro. He is after his position. you are still creating instability in the Country creating more problem of states with no resources graping other people land talking idiot minded of rulling the Country for 200Yrs are you normal? Leave those Equatorian and Nuer wew are their stomach. We are for change not after D

Date: N/A
Source: Facebook (post has since been made private or removed)

Hell to your ceasefire Equatorian wew.

Date: October 23, 2017
Source: Facebook (post has since been made private or removed)

NAS must be Equatoria wew.

Insects (also Dinka nyor/nyor insect/jienge insects)

This term has appeared online in its Dinka version (“nyor”) which is described as a brown insect. In 2013, the term generated controversy when Sudanese President Omar Bashir was accused of referring to South Sudanese as insects. Although he claimed to have been using the term against the army, and not the entire population of South Sudan, the statement offended many people in South Sudan.

This term aims to dehumanize the Dinka community by referring to them as sub-human. It is commonly used together with other degrading terms such as: JCE insects, Dinka insects (Dinka nyor), nyor insect, animal, mentally sick, baboon, parasite, half-human and useless insects. Language that can dehumanize is a hallmark of dangerous speech, but the significance of the term “Dinka insects” contrasts with other hateful terms such as “animals” in that insects has been used as a call to action to “crush” targets or “clear/cleanse” the land of the target group’s presence.

This term mainly targets the Dinka community, although “insects” has also been used to blame the government and the opposition for the inhumane way in which South Sudanese are dying and suffering due to the violent conflict.

“Insects” is considered inflammatory as it can dehumanize an entire community. This type of language is one of the precursors of mass violence. Related terms that are used alongside “insects” are usually used to emphasize the core description of Dinka as sub-human. Such characterizations can incite ethnic violence that targets individuals and communities.

Sample Posts:

Date: October 13, 2017
Source: Sudan Tribune

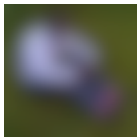
Eastern

Dear my compatriot comrade plz don't waste ur precious time in replaying this Dinka's insects animals call Lenin bull coz the more tha u engage him is the more he will feel he is really a human, this Dinka's insects really lost human sense of thinking n they re mentally sick with a severe delusional trauma. Imagine someone calling an bishop idiots this cld be really a proud Dinka;s dog

Date: October 21, 2017
Source: Sudan Tribune

Abrahamovic asses hold gangs

First of all I am not an W. Army I am a professional officer who have been fighting ur Dinka's nyor insects n animals since the beginning of this ur imposed war on Nuer, 2 to that I don't entertain shits here ya jiengs insects baboon thugs, be honest although honesty is a crimes in ur Dinka's customs, we will keep fighting u till u re out of Chinese rices in juba coz u



Date: October 19, 2017
Source: Facebook

South Sudan, the house for all where

Both Devils, Pagan, Muslim and Angels are sharing the same things, where Innocent citizens are being killed like insects, where rich rules over poor, where civil population has no voice, where workers are not given their salaries, where security forces are causing insecurity and many more.

Date October 21, 2017
Source Sudan Tribune

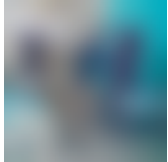
Fuck all Dinka's insects n animals idiots in this forums, why u guys re rejecting ur jiengs thugs who wanted the FM to be fires by kiirminal? Some of u insects re saying that it's or will be unconstitutional for kiirminal to sack FM. When u guys do thing with human sense, when kiirminal sack RMT n replace him with STD u didn't questions that while RMT was one of the signatories to the ARCRSS himse

Date: October 11, 2017
Source: Sudan Tribune

Con.. Since the beginning of Dinka's imposed war, I was the one who instigated the first fighting n the killing of Dinka's insects on Sunday 22/12/2013 in the town of Nadir, so I have been fighting ur negatives insects all the way from last yr dog fighting in J1 all the way to the DRC than I left DRC for another country than I return to my usual deployment in Waat fighting same enemies

Date: October 11, 2017
Source: Sudan Tribune

South South. You are permanently mentally sick baboon Dinka's insects, what u are writing are delusional believe.. U insects will badly regret ur evils acts, we will take that power by all meant mark my word... Kiiriminal will not reach 2019 January as President.



Date: October 3, 2017
Source: Facebook

Don't think about Dinka you knew well , they are like mosquitoes,if you kill theses insects it still coming it need only to consume ,just simple ten men of them we see like Animals if you killed the Animals they don't know what is result and what is going & coming.
Io Viva. — feeling proud.

Stooges

This term has been used to negatively refer to public figures as puppets of Salva Kiir. “Stooges” has been used sporadically in the past, but one of the earliest online references can be traced to [2013](#). In this case, the term describes Equatorians as politically submissive “handbag and briefcase carriers” for Dinka and Nuer who keep the top political and economic posts for themselves. More recently, the term has been used to personally target Dr. Lam Akol, Thomas Swaka, Pagan Amoum and Changson Law following their [visit to the United States of America](#). It was previously used to accuse the [opposition and Equatorians as being puppets](#) of the West who were trying to bring down Salva Kiir’s government.

“Stooges” currently targets Equatorians, and is used by pro-Machar supporters against anyone seen to oppose the SPLM -IO agenda. This includes NAS supporters, Salva Kiir supporters and Taban Deng Gai's Nuer supporters. A social media user labeled the alleged [killer of Riek Machar's spokesperson Lam Kuei](#) in Khartoum a “Nuer wew stooge” who had been bribed by Taban Deng Gai to kill his friend.

With the current divide between Nuer and Equatorians laid bare by the differences between NAS and the pro-Machar SPLM-IO operating in Equatoria, NAS is viewed by some as a puppet of Salva Kiir’s government.

This term can be inflammatory as it follows the trend of ethnic-based political narratives that don't allow for alternative expression. It closes space for dialogue and self-

expression, especially for ethnic groups that don't belong to the Dinka or Nuer communities.

Sample Posts:

Date: October 22, 2017

Source: Sudan Tribune

The press secretary to RMT late Lam Kuei Lam was poisoned by a stooge Nuerwew foods lovers who was been bribes by STD to murder the guy in cold blood the poisonous guy is now in cld custody in Khartoum n he already reveals the truth, the murdered use to be a long time best friend to late Lam that is why std use him to poison the guy, Sudan government can't poison him he use to report secr

Date: October 23, 2017

Source: Nyamilepedia

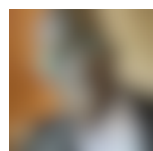
THE FOUR STOOGES (DR. LAM AKOL, GENERAL THOMAS C. SAWAKA, CHAGNSON LAW AND PAGAN AMOUM) SISIT TO THE USA: TO DO WHAT?

Date: October 14, 2017

Source: Sudan Tribune

South Sudan

You can tell jienges anything and he in his limited brains will believe. Hopeless creatures. Has there been any IO activities in jiengeland at all? Where were their bases and who are their commanders? Why have we not heard of battles between SPLAnyors and IO? Why defect now if at all? These are jienge criminals trying to boost their Stooage Taban. Only jienges believe in this shit.



Date: October 24, 2017

Source: Facebook

Bol Ring, being a wise man you need to analyse logically. Without Dr Riek Machar in that National dialogue or Peace process in South Sudan, no peace and no dialogue, forget about those four Stooges who came to USA last week for nonsense mission.they will not be welcome in Canada or they may deal with their safety

Coward(s)

Historically, this term has been used by Dinka to taunt the non-violent nature of Equatorian communities, while furthering the claim that Equatorians did not contribute to the armed struggle against Sudan and are therefore not entitled to leadership positions. "Cowards" has also been used to justify land and property grabbing by Dinka and Nuer military personalities in Equatoria, because they claim that they are the ones who liberated the country, and as a result, should have access to any resources they want.

Currently, social media users can employ the term to target Salva Kiir's army (and the Dinka by extension) by describing these forces as “cowards” who violate vulnerable women, children and the elderly while relying on the help of Uganda and other external allies to hold on to power. Some Equatorians have also referred to Dinka Bor as “cowards” who ran away to Nimule after attacks by the Equatorian Murle. The term has also been used by Dinka against pro-NAS Equatorians, and by Nuer against other Nuer. Both Dinka and Nuer political entities seem to feel that the formation of NAS, and the defection to NAS by some Equatorians, is a betrayal. In other cases, pro-government supporters are denigrating the SPLM-IO by indicating the rebels are relying on cowards (Equatorians) to help them in their doomed mission to overthrow the government.

This term is considered inflammatory because it has long been in use to denigrate Equatorians. The “coward” narrative has historically diminished the contributions of Equatorians in the struggle for independence, and as such could continue to exacerbate divisions along ethnic lines. This term is also dangerous as it has the potential to spark violence by targeted parties, which seek to prove that they are not cowards. For example, the term has been used as a call to get rid of the Dinka Bor in Equatoria (see sample post below).

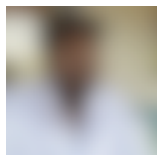
Sample Posts:

Date: October 24, 2017
Source: Sudan Tribune

You talk like a real man, but you are not, just a coward who make empty noises. Yes, some Nuers need to see this. They are so blind and they think that cowards from Equatoria will support them. We fought real war with fake Arabs for more than 20 years, cowards from Equatoria were hiding like chicken. Anyway, Nuer will pay very heavy prices when this war is over

Date: October 24, 2017
Source: Sudan Tribune

South South, once a bastard always a bastard and a bitch. These characters fit you precisely! Now, first fix your goddamn lower fork teeth before you call others names, you skunk! A coward is dinka/jienge who runs to Museveni to fight his dinka/jienge'e battle everytime the heat is on! Looting, raping, killing innocent little girls, women and the disabled doesn't make you a real “man” you weak bastard.

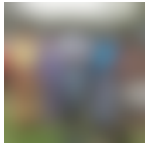


Date: October 18, 2017
Source Facebook

There is a number of cowards specially those diaspora putting more fire woods, while barking at a distance, singing songs of war, letting others innocents ones to die. I would like to call upon nuer youths under delusive influence to retreat to their beloved parents not to participate in one man's interest war.

Date: October 12, 2017
Source: Sudan Tribune

Jubaone, I hit you very hard, you can not sit down. In terms of security, the situation in the country has been ominously calm for the last month or so except for sporadic clashes at the far borders. This is to tell you that our country is back to normal. Bari tribe is not a bad tribe, but there are many coward people in it. They gave up culture very easily.



Date: October 14, 2017
Source: Facebook

During power-sharing, Equatorians were given bones or nothing because they are termed, cowards

Date: October 12, 2017
Source: Sudan Tribune

Commander Wutkhor, See how Murles have terrorized Jienge Bor to the extent all have cowardly relocated to Nimule. Sad that Madis, Acholis at large are peaceful people. Now Madis, Acholis and Equatorians must rise up and say stop to this Jienges. They must be driven away by force now, 3, 10yrs or 50. Jienges belong to Jiengeland. Period.

Date: October 14, 2017
Source: Sudan Tribune

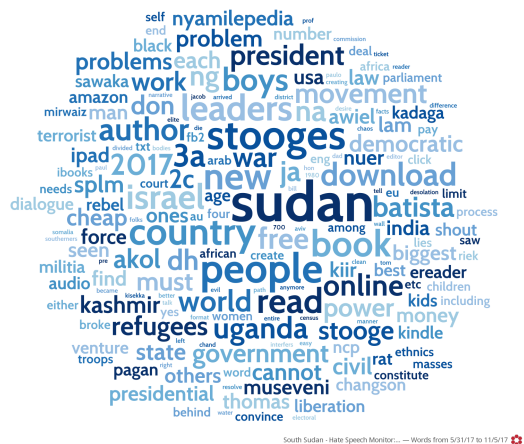
Tutkew Gatluak is a cowardice Nuer man I have ever seen among Naath society. The guy is easily forgotten what masters Salva Kiir has done to his own clans Bul Nuer. The Majority that died in Juba genocide were Bul Nuer and slowing still dying this war as they are fighting in both sides. Good to know of what type of prson you are Tutkew.

Visualizations - Word Cloud by Term

The word cloud visualizations below show recurring words and themes in posts used alongside each of the terms we feature in this report.

Disclaimer: For the terms “equatoria wew” and “insects” we were unable to generate accurate visualizations that properly depicted how the terms were being used as hate speech. Due to this, we have excluded the visualizations for “equatoria wew” and “insects”.

Stooges



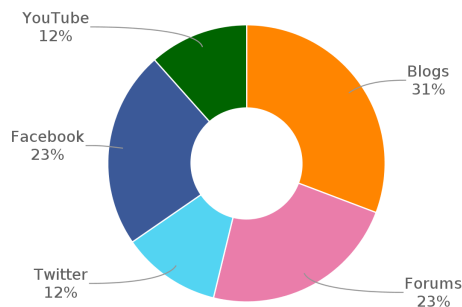
Coward(s)



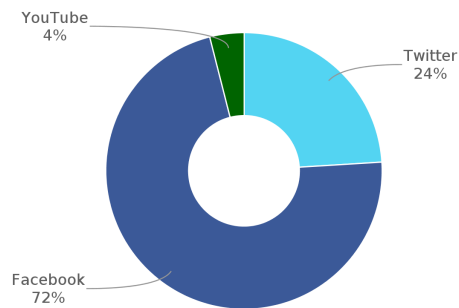
Visualizations - Content Sources by Term

The charts below show the type of platforms as percentage of overall content in which each of these terms is used during the reporting period.

Stooges



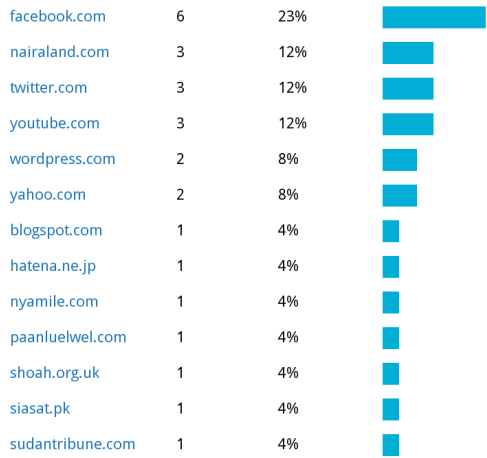
Coward(s)



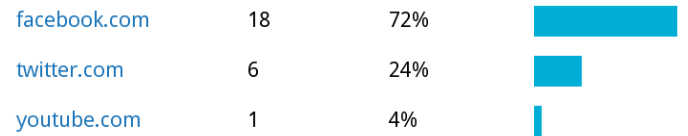
Visualizations - Top Sites by Term

The charts below show the top sites in which each of these terms has been used since the beginning of the reporting period.


Stooges



Coward(s)



South Sudan - Hate Speech Monitor:... — Top Sites from 8/31/17 to 11/5/17 

South Sudan - Hate Speech Monitor:... — Top Sites from 5/31/17 to 11/5/17 

Notes

The terms featured in this report were prioritized based on volume of posts from our social media monitoring and analysis. Please note that we are only able to collect and analyze public social media content, which limits our ability to access a significant amount of posts including hate speech. This is particularly true for South Sudan, given that many of the major platforms for inflammatory comments and posts are largely private, including Facebook and WhatsApp. In our own monitoring, we have seen examples of terms identified in our lexicon of hate speech terms that we have not been able to include as examples above since they are primarily used in private user pages.

For any comments or questions about this report, or to be removed from the distribution list, please contact Theo Dolan at theo@peacetechlab.org.