

By Tasew Gashaw, Southern Voices Network for Peacebuilding Scholar
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is a continent-wide network of African policy and research organizations that works with the Africa Program to bring African analyses and perspectives to key issues in U.S.-Africa relations. Founded in 2011 with the support of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the project provides avenues for African researchers to engage with, inform, and exchange perspectives with U.S. and international policymakers in order to develop the most appropriate, cohesive, and inclusive policy frameworks for peacebuilding policymakers in

The Murle people are one of the most disadvantaged groups in South Sudan in terms of social, economic, and political development. Poverty and illiteracy are major factors that have propelled the Murle into conflict, worsening the cross-border instability. The livelihood of the Murle centers on cattle as the sole basis of their economic activity. Youth have little to no education and are often idle rather than participating in economic activities. The lack of representation in the workforce and limited educational opportunities could be alleviated by the Government of South Sudan and international partners through the implementation of integrated development plans focused on education, job training, and infrastructure in the borderland areas of Pibor and Boma State. The Government of South Sudan and development partners could empower traditional leaders, youth, and women of the Murle through education, agriculture, vocational training, and political participation. This will help the Murle to have enhance their economic livelihoods and reduce the impetus for turning to insurgency.

4. For the Ethiopian Government and International Partners

a. Provide protection from child abductions and cattle rustling: The people of the Anyuaa and Jikany-Nuer in Ethiopia suffer from child abductions and cattle rustling by Murle insurgents. In 2016 an organized group of Murle fought with the Jikany-Nuer, killing 208 people, raiding 2,000 cattle, and abducting 131 children.⁴ Child abduction is a serious human rights violation and worsens insecurity in the region. The Ethiopian government and international partners should consider paying attention to these human rights violations and address it with the government of South Sudan and other regional and international organizations. Additionally, the federal government of Ethiopia with the semi-autonomous regional state of Gambella could protect the borderland people by reassessing their security gaps among Regional Special Forces, Regional Police, and National Defense in terms of information exchange, immediate decisions to take action, coordination, budget allocation, and transportation.

For an in-depth analysis of cross-border intergroup conflicts in the Horn of Africa, specifically Ethiopia-South Sudan borderland people, see the accompanying Southern Voices Network for Peacebuilding Research Paper No. 19 by Tasew Gashaw.

Tasew Gashaw was a Southern Voices Network for Peacebuilding Scholar from September to November 2017. Tasew Gashaw is working towards his PhD in Peace and Security at Addis Ababa University.

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1. Dereje Feyissa, *Playing Different Games: The Paradox of Anywaa and Nuer Identification Strategies in the Gambella Region, Ethiopia* (New York: Berghahn Books, 2011), 31-53.
 2. Patta Scott-Villiers, Hussein Boru Ungiti, Diba Kiyana, Molu Kullu, Tumal Orto, Eugenie Reidy and Adan Sora, "The Long Conversation: Customary Approaches to Peace Management in Southern Ethiopia and Northern Kenya," *Future Agricultures Consortium, Institute of Development Studies* no. 022 (2011), <https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/ds2/stream/?#documents/7613/page/1>.
 3. Tesfa-Alem Tekle, "South Sudan, Ethiopia sign security, development cooperation accord," *Sudan Tribune*, April 4, 2012, <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article42139.15>.
 4. Dereje Feyissa, *Playing Different Games: The Paradox of Anywaa and Nuer Identification Strategies in the Gambella Region, Ethiopia* (New York: Berghahn Books, 2011), 31-53.

