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**A VOLCANO RUMBLES IN EAST AFRICA; A CRITICAL EXAMINATION  
OF THE VULNERABILITY OF SOUTH SUDAN TO WIDESPREAD  
GENOCIDE**

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## **ABSTRACT**

*S.Sudan is the world's youngest state having seceded from Sudan in 2011<sup>1</sup>. The state, comprised of over 60 nations (ethnicities) is presently dominated by 2 ethnic groups<sup>2</sup> (Dinka and Nuer). Nonetheless, the Dinka reign supreme having established a "Dinkocracy".<sup>3</sup> Distressingly, the Dinka and Nuer are profoundly polarised.<sup>4</sup> The state has a bloody inter-ethnic conflict history especially between the Dinka and the Nuer<sup>5</sup> in addition to tribalism, marginalisation and exclusion.<sup>6</sup> The economy is in shambles.<sup>7</sup> The government has failed to assert its authority throughout the country.<sup>8</sup> Sudan sabotages S.Sudanese progress.<sup>9</sup> A bulk of the population is traumatised from war and human rights violations<sup>10</sup> as countless "extremist" ethnic militias armed to the teeth roam the country.<sup>11</sup> These factors provide the ideal climate for the precipitation of genocide. An alleged coup d'état in December 2013 exposed the state's vulnerability to genocide. It triggered a genocidal state-wide conflict. Uganda's military intervened early and arguably prevented widescale genocide.<sup>12</sup> This paper applies data representative of the dynamics and realities in S.Sudan to the Stages of genocide formulated by scholars to portray the country's susceptibility to genocide. The paper argues for meaningful interventions from Bystanders especially the "international community" since its best*

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<sup>1</sup> AU, *Final Report of the African Union Commission of Inquiry on S.Sudan*, 2014, Para 62

<http://www.peaceau.org/uploads/auciss.final.report.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Thon Agany Ayiei, *The New Sudan Vision, Understanding the Tribal, Political and Economic Aspects of the current South Sudan civil war and their complications in achieving a peaceful, lasting solution*, <http://www.newsudanvision.com/sudan-news-stories-publisher/2813-understanding-the-tribal-political-and-economic-aspects-of-the-current-south-sudan-civil-war-and-their-complications-in-achieving-a-peaceful-lasting-solution> accessed on 27/4/2016 at 21.40

<sup>3</sup> Ole Frahm, *Defining the Nation; National Identity in S.Sudanese Media Discourse*, German Institute of Global and Area Studies, Institute African Affairs in cooperation with the Dag Hammarskjold Foundation Uppsala and Hamburg University Press, Page 29, Paras 2, <http://journals.sub.uni-hamburg.de/giga/afsp/article/view/519> accessed 21/6/16 at 11.21

<sup>4</sup> Sharon Elaine Hutchinson, *Nuer Ethnicity Militarised*, *Anthropology Today* Vol.16 No 3, June 2000, <https://www.uio.no/studier/emner/sv/sai/SOSANT1200/h11/Hutchinson%20sosant%201200.pdf> accessed 20/6/16 at 10.16

<sup>5</sup> Ibid 4

<sup>6</sup> Ibid 1, Page 240

<sup>7</sup> *South Sudan Economic Outlook*, <http://www.afdb.org/en/countries/east-africa/south-sudan/south-sudan-economic-outlook/> accessed 22/6/16 at 20.38

<sup>8</sup> Ibid 3

<sup>9</sup> Ibid 1, Page 237, Para 855

<sup>10</sup> *Assessment Mission by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to improve Human Rights, Accountability, Reconciliation and Capacity in South Sudan: Detailed Findings* 10/3/16, Page 24, Para 88, <http://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan/report-high-commissioner-human-rights-assessment-mission-office-united-nations> accessed 20/6/16 at 16.41

<sup>11</sup> Mayank Bubna, *South Sudan's Militias*, [www.enoughproject.org/files/SouthSudanReport.pdf](http://www.enoughproject.org/files/SouthSudanReport.pdf) Page 10 Para 1 accessed on 30/5/2016 at 11.38

<sup>12</sup> Dr. Kasaija Phillip Apuuli, *Explaining the (il)legality of Uganda's Intervention in the current South Sudan conflict*, *African Security Review*, Routledge, 24/09/2014, Pages 2- 4, <https://paanluelwel2011.files.wordpress.com/2014/09/explaining-the-illegality-of-ugandas-intervention-in-south-sudan.pdf> accessed 11/6/16 at 18.38

*positioned to spearhead S.Sudan's insulation from genocide and bears a responsibility to do so.*

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