



Rift Valley Institute  
 معهد الأخدود العظيم  
 Taasisi ya Bonde Kuu  
 የስምጥ ሸለቆ የጥናት ተቋም  
 Machadka Dooxada Rift

## SUDAN ABDUCTEE DATABASE ■ KIN-BASED DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH ■ FOUR QUESTIONNAIRES ■ TEN THOUSAND NAMES

[HOME](#) | [ABOUT](#) | [COURSES](#) | [SUDAN ABDUCTEE DATABASE](#) | [SUDAN OPEN ARCHIVE](#) | [SUDAN INTERNET RESOURCES](#) | [PROJECTS](#) | [CONTACT](#)

SEARCH THIS SITE

TRANSLATE THIS PAGE

翻译 ترجم 翻訳する

PROJECT STAFF & PARTNERS

### RVI FIELD RESEARCHERS

Peter Ngor Arol Garang  
 Thomas Yel Deng Nguel  
 Simon Dut Kuol Gai  
 Joseph Manot Mareng  
 John Akot Majok Dut  
 David Deng Deng Akuei  
 Geng Diing Geng  
 Emmanuel Amet Ayii Akol  
 Paulino Manut Tong Bol  
 Paulino Anyaang Chol Jok  
 Mark Athian Malong Athian  
 Daniel Deng Ayom Ayom  
 Abraham Wol Malueth Deng  
 Peter Garang Poul Mou

Gabriel Malong Diing  
 Joseph Baak Abuok  
 Kuol Hal Kuol  
 Santino Garang Akot  
 Santino Diing Diing Deng  
 Victor Dau Deng  
 William Makuei Geng  
 Abraham Garang Jong  
 Abraham Garang Jeluel

Philip Chol Mawien  
 John Akoon Akoon  
 Mawengdit  
 Daniel Mabior Dut Malith  
 Angui Geng Geng Akot  
 David Puot Alic Ngong  
 Barnaba Garang Deng Akec

Makuc Makuc Ngong  
 Marko Manut Mathiang  
 Dut Liai Deng  
 Madit Abol Salva  
 Ambrose Wol Alew

Simon Manyon Akok

Anhany  
 Peter Riak Angok Riak  
 Zakaria Athuai Chol Makuac  
 Aguek Majok Del  
 Santino Makuer Ayuel  
 Madut  
 Donato Dot Ador Wek

Achuil Atem Deng  
 John Pawol Makuac  
 Bagat Malual Bagat

### The Sudan Abduction and Slavery Project

The RVI Sudan Abductee Database is the outcome of an eighteen-month field investigation in Southern Sudan between 2001 and 2003. The research took place in areas of Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal state and Warrab state that were then under the control of the Sudan Peoples Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A), and in neighbouring parts of Abyei district.

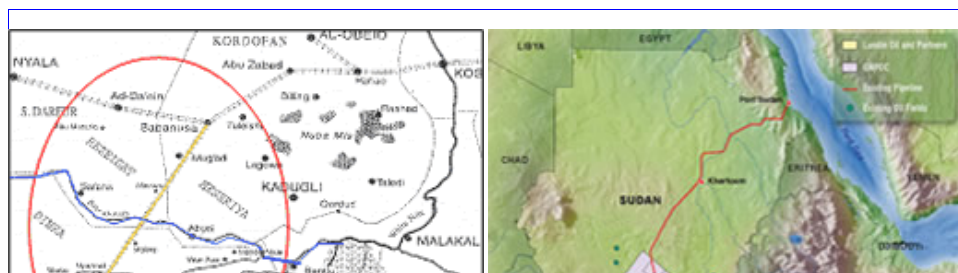
Following the [Comprehensive Peace Agreement](#) of 2005 all these areas (with the exception, to date, of [Abyei](#)) fall under the authority of the Government of South Sudan (GoSS), in which the SPLM forms the majority party.

The research in Bahr-el-Ghazal was designed to create a useable record of persons missing, abducted, enslaved and/or killed in Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal since the start of the civil war. These abductions and killings were the outcome of raids on Dinka, Luo and Fertit communities by Murahaliin - tribal militias - operating out of areas of the North under the control of successive governments in Khartoum. The research covers the period from 1983 to 2002, when abduction from Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal effectively ceased.

### 10,000 names

Rather than eliciting numerical estimates, researchers recorded the full names and identifying details of individual abductees. This made it possible to establish, for the first time, a baseline of fact in an area previously characterised by speculation and controversy.

The first version of the Database, with approximately ten thousand individual records of missing persons, was produced in May 2003. A second, expanded, version was made available in January 2005. Work has continued when possible, in consultation with the affected communities, on completing the research and confirming the details of information previously collected.



Jama Nyok Akoc  
Mangok Zakaria Atem  
Peyien

**DATA ENTRY**

Jackson Garang Ajou  
Nickson Madic Kuek  
Santino Ring Ring  
Malong Lwal Diing

**SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT**

Brown Kanyangi Budambula  
Pete Johnson (Halcrow Ltd)

**PROJECT COORDINATORS**

John Ryle  
Jok Madut Jok  
Fergus Boyle

**PARTNERS**

Open Society Institute  
J.M.Kaplan Fund  
Department for  
International  
Development (UK)  
Bahr-el-Ghazal Youth  
Association  
Save The Children Fund (UK)  
UNICEF  
International Rescue  
committee  
Dinka Chiefs Committee  
Halcrow



*Frontier region between northern and southern Sudan with abduction zone in red* PETER VERNEY (left) and VITRADE

## Scope of the investigation

The area of Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal affected by militia raiding during the civil war consists of seven SPLA/M counties: Aweil North, Aweil West, Aweil East, Aweil South, Twic, Gogrial and Wau - and Abyei County in Kordofan. The inhabitants are Dinka from seven major tribal groups - Malual, Paliepiny, Abiem, Paliet, Twic, Rek and Ngok - with smaller groups of Fertit and Luo, the latter a Nilotic people who live alongside the Dinka of Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal.

During most of the period of the research the SPLA/M controlled the rural areas of Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal and Warrab and the part of Abyei district that lies south of the River Kiir (Bahr-el-Arab). The Sudan Government controlled the garrison towns of Wau, Gogrial and Aweil in Bahr-el-Ghazal, with a number of stations along the railway that runs from Babanusa to Wau, and the northern part of Abyei district (including Abyei town).

## Social and administrative organization in Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal

Under current SPLM/GOSS administration the largest regional units of administration in South Sudan are termed states. States are divided into counties and counties into payams.

In the north of Sudan the equivalent of an SPLM/GOSS county is a mudiriya or mahal (province). A payam in the SPLM/GOSS system is equivalent to a markaz in the northern system. The payam or markaz is the successor to the district or rural district council of the Condominium era.

Administrative systems in Sudan have been subject to frequent change; earlier territorial divisions and names often endure in general usage after they have been formally replaced; and the same names may be used to refer both to a town and to the county or payam it is situated in.

In Dinka areas the people of a payam or markaz are organised under an executive chief, or sometimes several such chiefs (baany alamthith in Dinka). Chiefs are normally elected, but are usually from prominent lineages. The Dinka inhabitants of a payam are normally drawn from a single tribal section, ie a subsection of one of the tribal groups specified above. Each executive chief has a dozen or more sub-chiefs beneath him (baany kor, baany alamcol) with responsibility for particular tribal sections. Under each sub-chief are a number of gol-leaders (sing. nhomgol, pl. nhimgal), each responsible for a dozen or more families.





*Researchers from Aweil West and Aweil North, Marialbai, 2002*

## **Kin-based demographic research**

The RVI researchers worked via the kin-based, patrilineal administrative system described above, which has been operative since the colonial era, in order to establish a systematic account of the historical incidence of raiding and abduction and record the identities of missing persons.

The research was conducted in SPLM/A-controlled areas. In 2004, after the research had been carried out, an exploratory visit was made under UNICEF auspices to Wau, the major town in Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal, which was then under Khartoum government control, but government permission for a follow-up visit proved unobtainable.

The database thus records only people abducted from SPLA-controlled areas, plus some from the Government-controlled area of Abyei. It does not include Southerners abducted or killed in the North, ie within Government-controlled areas (apart from some abducted from Abyei). And it does not include those abducted or killed within the formerly Government-controlled towns of Bahr-el-Ghazal, such as Wau. Nor, with some exceptions, does it record abductions before the outbreak of war in 1983. Finally, certain parts of the SPLA-controlled area, particularly those along the Babanusa-Wau railway, are under-represented. Researchers had limited access to these places because of continued hostilities during the first, major phase of field research.

## **Methodology**

The field research in Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal was conducted by forty-five locally-recruited Sudanese researchers, trained and supervised in the field by one or more of the RVI Fellows who worked on the project. Each local researcher was responsible for collecting data in the area of a single executive chief.

Researchers conducted structured, questionnaire-based interviews with executive chiefs, with sub-chiefs and gol-leaders, and with relatives of missing people. They were engaged on a contract basis and equipped with basic equipment such as bicycles. Field support was provided by Save The Children Fund (SC-UK), the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and the Bahr-el-Ghazal Youth Association (BYDA).

The research technique employed involved a sequence of four questionnaires in English and Dinka. These were designed to elicit the following information, respectively:

- Q1 Subchiefs and gol-leaders in the territory of one executive chief
- Q2 Chronology of raids in a single place since 1983
- Q3 Details of a specific raid and names of those abducted or killed
- Q4 Details of an individual abductee

The four questionnaires are hierarchically linked. For every raid listed in a chronology of raids (Q2), there is a questionnaire (Q3) recording details of that raid. And for every questionnaire recording details of a raid (Q3) there is a separate, detailed questionnaire (Q4) for each person abducted in that raid. This questionnaire – ie the abductee questionnaire (Q4) - with 118 data fields, is the most detailed of the four. Information recorded on this form includes the name of the abductee, their age if known, their



The four questionnaires used in the field research



FROM TOP: RVI data entry team in Nairobi, 2002; John Ryle and Jok Madut Jok with Canadian Foreign Minister Bill Graham, Toronto 2003; Jok Madut Jok with the late Penn Kemble, Chair of the International Eminent Persons Group, 2003, at RVI press conference, Washington DC, 2003; RVI and Halcrow teams in London 2004; John Ryle with James Aguer of the Dinka Chiefs Committee 2006

marital status, gender, village of residence and clan affiliation, the names of their surviving relatives - and the date and circumstances of their abduction.

Sets of these questionnaires are available for those conducting further research into abduction.

## Reasons for the high level of detail

What is the reason for this high level of detail? First, many of the victims were children at the time of abduction. Such abductees, if separated from their relatives, may recollect little about their families or place of origin. For this reason multiple identifying details may be crucial in the process of tracing them and establishing their identity. Secondly, the comprehensive, localised nature of the information makes it possible to cross-check and correct data collected by different researchers, at different times and in different places, and discover where information is inaccurate or lacking. The names of the interviewer and interviewee are noted on each completed questionnaire, with the time and place of the interview, so that the source of any piece of information may be confirmed.

## Data Processing

The completed questionnaires were taken to Nairobi, Kenya and the information recorded was entered into the abductee database by Southern Sudanese data entry staff working with a Kenyan IT trainer. Further software development was carried out in London by [Halcrow Ltd](#).

Where possible the database has been verified against information collected by other agencies, notably agencies that are assisting former abductees. When possible, in locations where data are deficient, further field research will be carried out and the results confirmed by consultation with chiefs and local authorities.



## Implementing agencies, funding bodies, acknowledgments

The Abduction and Slavery Project was conceived and implemented by the Kenya and UK-based Rift Valley Institute. The field research was supervised by John Ryle, Jok Madut Jok and Fergus Boyle.

John Ryle is Chair of the Rift Valley Institute and Legrand Ramsey Professor of Anthropology at [Bard College](#), NY. He was a member of the International Eminent

Images courtesy of Peter Moszinski; [PETER MOSZINSKI];

ABOVE LEFT: Douglas Johnson, John Ryle, Jok Madut, Fergus Boyle and Bénédicte Goderiaux (of Amnesty International), at UK launch of Database at St Antony's College, Oxford [DEBORAH HODGKIN]



Persons Group on Abduction and Slavery and co-author of the Group's report *Slavery and Abduction in Sudan* (2002). Dr Jok Madut Jok is author of *War and Slavery in Sudan* and *Race, Religion and Violence in Sudan*; he is a professor of history at [Loyola Marymount University](#) in Los Angeles. Fergus Boyle is Coordinator of the Shading Tree, an aid organization working in Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal. He is currently a protection officer for [UNMIS](#), the UN Mission in Sudan.

The project was funded by the [Open Society Institute](#), the [J.M.Kaplan Fund](#) and the UK Government's [Department for International Development](#). It was conducted with the assistance of [Save The Children \(UK\)](#), the [International Rescue Committee \(IRC\)](#), the Bahr-el-Ghazal Youth Association and the Dinka Chiefs Committee. The database software was devised by Brown Kanyangi Budambula in Nairobi and developed by Pete Johnson of [Halcrow Ltd](#) in London.

Please [contact the Institute](#) for further information.

[TOP OF THIS PAGE](#) | [HOME](#)

*Wel cath agai wel reer*

*Walking words are surprised by sitting words, ie rumours are one thing; reality is another*

From *Dinka Wisdom*, collected by Dr Bellario Ahoy