



Jie raids Toposa cattle from Nakipinakwak

(by Lam Oryem Cosmas)

Perennially, the period from January to February is the peak dry season in the semi-arid area of South Eastern South Sudan in Kuron and Boma areas inhabited by the Toposa and Jie-Murle-Kachipo respectively. With the extreme drought, all water points are dried up, except for Nakipinakwak, a water point north-east of Kuron and south east of Boma.

On **13th January 2017**, the Jie from Boma and Toposa herdsmen from Kuron converged at the water point with the animals; cattle and goats numbering thousands. Within no time of the encounter, fighting erupted in which according to sources from Boma 3 Jie were killed and another 3 were serious injured. Meanwhile, they reported 10 Toposa herdsmen killed with unknown number injured. After being overpowered by the Jie, the Toposa retreated leaving behind their animals, which were all taken by the Jie.

The impact of this incidence is serious to Toposa communities in the Kuron area. Most children who rely on milk and animal products have completely no food and thus starving. This has resulted into massive women and children camping in front of the gate at Holy Trinity Peace Village (HTPV) in Kuron in search of food. Unfortunately, HTPV does not have any food to alleviate the situation.



Toposa women looking for food at HTPV compound

On the **28th & 29th January 2017**, HTPV team comprising Mr. Lam Oryem Cosmas (Director), Ms Patricia Adong (Peacebuilding Coordinator), and Rev Fr Gabriel Tipo Ayik Deng (Chaplain) visited Boma to better understand the magnitude of the situation. In the company of HTPV Field Assistant David Lokai, the team met and shared with the County Commissioner and the selected members of the proposed Boma-Kuron joint peace monitoring team. Later, the team met and discussed the situation with the Deputy Minister of Defence and Veteran Affairs who was visiting Boma County. The purpose of the visit was to explore ways and means for the peace team and county authority would work collaboratively in search of responding to the situation and to avoid counter-revenge and act.



HTPV Team Meeting the Commissioner

Findings

- The animals were taken towards Marua, a county beyond Boma. Some of the animals, especially goats seen in Boma town was said to be those raided from Toposa during the incidence.
- It was only the Jie herdsmen involved in the attack and raid.
- The state and national government are aware of the incidence.
- The joint team comprising chiefs and women agreed to meet with the country authority and together to have an audience with their counter parts from Kuron to work out appropriate remedial action.
- The team agreed and resolved to host the team from Kuron
- HTPV was asked to continue providing the mediative space and facilitation
- HTPV team encourage the Jie leaders to appeal to their youth return the raided cattle, since they had acknowledged the impact on the Toposa women and children.

Way forward

- Peace team works with country authority to (a) locate the raided cattle and (b) prepare to host the team from Kuron area.



HTPV Team meeting members of Boma Joint Peace Team

- HTPV takes the message to affected Kuron community represented by their peace team.
- The National Deputy Minister of Defence requested HTPV team to pass the message to the aggrieved Toposa community NOT to block the road between Boma and Kuron. He also encouraged and appeal to HTPV to continue with the school programme to enhance the co-existence between the Toposa-Jie-Murle-Kachipo for future peace and harmony.

HTPV will be facilitating the joint (Kuron-Boma) peace team comprising of kraal youth and women leaders, chiefs and local government representatives to monitor and respond to emerging issues and concern that threaten peace and harmonious co-existence.

HTPV = Holy Trinity Peace Village