



Sudan 2011 OSAC Crime and Safety Report: Juba

Burglary; Riots/Civil Unrest; Counterfeiting; Civil War; Crime; Elections; Fraud; Insurgencies; NGO; Political Violence; Religious Violence; Stolen items; Surveillance; Terrorism; Theft

Africa > South Sudan > Juba

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Overall Crime and Safety Situation

Southern Sudan has been heavily influenced by 22 years of civil war, which ended with the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in 2005. While the security situation has improved dramatically from the pre-2005 period, southern Sudan still suffers from violence associated with occasional flare-ups of internal and tribal conflicts.

Crime Threats

Juba, and southern Sudan in general, is rated critical for crime. Since the vote for southern Sudan to become independent from Sudan, the U.N. and NGOs have noted that there has been an increase in petty crime, most likely due to the increased costs of goods and services. Often, these crimes are committed against targets of opportunity, taking items like bags, electronics, and money left unattended.

However, there is a trend toward armed compound invasions, where perpetrators force themselves into the compounds and hold the occupants at gunpoint while looting the facility. The invasions are often accompanied by threats to kill the residents and include physical violence. In one recent invasion, the perpetrators broke into a compound during daylight hours and, in their attempt to escape, used a hand grenade to disperse the crowd that was pursuing them.

Southern Sudan does have issues with the production of counterfeit currency; however, the counterfeit is of low quality and relatively easy to identify.

Road Safety

Road conditions are poor at best in southern Sudan. Paved roads are the exception, and the dirt roads are crisscrossed with large, garbage filled ruts. Following directions is also a



challenge, as there are no road signs, and there is often more than one name for any given road.

Driving is technically on the right side of the road; however, there are no lines dividing the lanes on most roads, and it is not uncommon to find traffic flowing both ways even on the few "divided" paved roads in Juba. At night, there are few street lights, so visibility is poor, and one must be aware constantly of pedestrians in dark clothing crossing the roads, together with stopped vehicles and motorcycles parked randomly along the roadways.

The U.N. Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) has designated certain roads throughout southern Sudan as having higher risks than others due to activities by local militias and bandits, including setting up roadblocks to elicit extortion payment before allowing one to pass and general theft. For some of the higher threat roads, UNDSS requires armed escorts for their staff.

While traveling through southern Sudan by automobile or by other vehicle, you may be "asked" to take passengers along with you. Often times, these are soldiers who lack government-supplied transportation.

Political Violence

Historical Perspective

Sudan achieved independence on January 1, 1956. Since that time, Sudan has been in conflict with itself for nearly three quarters of its existence. The conflict is rooted deeply in cultural and religious differences and has caused slow economic and political development in Sudan. Traditionally power has been seated in northern Sudan, which is influenced strongly by Arab and Muslim values that conflict with the more African, Christian, or secular values of the south. The various bouts of conflict throughout the years came to an end on January 9, 2005, when the north and the south signed the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA).

In January 2011, southern Sudan held a referendum to vote for either unity or secession from the north. The results were overwhelming for secession. The progression toward an independent southern Sudan will continue through the end of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement period on July 9, 2011.

Regional Terrorism and Organized Crime



Al-Shabaab elements in Somalia, Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF) in Ethiopia, and an uncertain situation vis-à-vis the north place many regional terrorist groups in close proximity to southern Sudan. Further, the Lord's Resistance Army has been reported to operate in parts of southern Sudan and seeks refuge in neighboring countries.

Organized crime is a diminished threat.

International or Transnational Terrorism

The threat of international terrorism remains an area of concern, given the fact that southern Sudan does not currently have an effective border control monitoring system in place and borders several areas that harbor persons who intend harm to American citizens. While there is no current, specific threat data, the lack of infrastructure and relative easy access to southern Sudan may make international actors targets of opportunity in southern Sudan.

Civil Unrest

Currently, southern Sudan has been relatively quiet with only the occasional bout of fighting. According to U.N. reports, there has been sporadic fighting related to cattle raiding and the use of natural resources by nomad herders along the border between the north and the south. There has also been internal fighting within the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) as units are ordered to return to the north, and the southern soldiers prefer to stay in the south with their equipment. Political spoilers have also recently resorted to violence in isolated incidents, attacking Sudan People's Liberation Army forces and causing civilian casualties and displacement.

Post-Specific Concerns

Environmental Hazards

Southern Sudan has a warm climate and can become extremely humid during the rainy season. During periods of heavy rains, rivers can overflow their banks resulting in blocked roadways and covered bridges. During the rainy season, the dirt roads can become treacherous and difficult to pass.

Juba is located on a fault line; however, significant earthquakes happen infrequently.

Kidnappings



Historically, kidnappings are concentrated in Darfur rather than southern Sudan. There have been reports of kidnappings in Juba Town for profit, including targeting foreign citizens. It is reported that the kidnap victims were chosen and surveyed before being kidnapped.

Drugs and Narcoterrorism

There are no reports of significant drug activity in southern Sudan. There are low levels of marijuana use but no major drug cartels.

Police Response

Southern Sudan does not have a program similar to "911". It is advisable to identify your local police station and develop relationships with the authorities in the area you will be living/working.

Southern Sudan is still developing, and many of the police officers are new to the profession. If you are approached by a local authority, cooperate to the best of your abilities and do not give them reason to use force or detain you.

How to Handle Incidents of Police Detention or Harassment

In case of corruption or bribery, contact one of the following offices: the Southern Sudan Anti-Corruption Commission, located in Hai Malakal area of Juba (Ph. +249 (0) 1219243198 or + 256 (0) 477145744), the Inspector General of the Southern Sudan Police Service (SSPS), or the Deputy Inspector General of the SSPS. The SSPS offices are located in the Ministry of Internal Affairs – SSPS building (please note, physical addresses are not common in southern Sudan). Further, if you find yourself under arrest, contact American Citizen Services at +249912157623.

Medical Emergencies

Medical support is very limited. Physical addresses are not common, so contact the organization and visit to confirm the location before an emergency happens.

Basic Medical needs:

Unity Clinic
+ 249 922 054 856



+ 249 955 336 611
+ 249 922 054 856

X-rays and ultrasound assistance:

Juba Complex
icomplex@yahoo.com
+256 477 156 689
+249 912 247 569
+249 127 292 723

Airplanes are not able to land or take off from southern Sudan during night-time hours. Most airports close as early as 1800 daily. Medical emergencies requiring a flight out of southern Sudan will require the patient to be stabilized during night hours until flights are able to take off the following day.

AMREF, Flying Doctors

24 hour control center in Nairobi
emergency@flydoc.org
www.flydoc.org
+254 733 639 088
+254 722 314 239
+254 (0) 20 699 2000

Tips on How to Avoid Becoming a Victim

Photography is frowned upon in southern Sudan. One is required to have a permit to take any pictures, and it is forbidden to take pictures of any official building, equipment, or persons. Also, one should not take photographs of infrastructure, to include bridges. It is not uncommon for people to be harassed by the local population for having a camera and to be arrested when the authorities arrive. In one recent incident, a German reporter with a photo permit was asked to stop taking pictures by the police. He refused and was badly beaten by the police and left by the road side.

Public areas, such as open markets, should be avoided at night. Large crowds are known to gather there, and in the dark is it easy for pick-pockets to strike.



Landmines are of significant concern in southern Sudan. Avoid open areas that have little foot traffic. Additionally, as areas in southern Sudan develop, avoid construction sites with newly turned or delivered soil. It is possible that a land mine could have been exposed or shipped in by mistake, and an area once considered clear could have unexploded ordnance in it.

Contact Information

To receive emergency assistance at the Consulate General, Juba, please contact the Tactical Operations Center (TOC) at +249912157623 and identify the person or office with whom you wish to speak. The TOC is manned 24 hours, seven days a week.

OSAC Country Council Contact Information

There is no Country Council in southern Sudan. The nearest is in Kampala, Uganda.