

Factors influencing minorities group in South Sudan: A Case study of Boma County-Greater Pibor Administrative Area



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ABSTRACT

This study attempted to discuss the factors influencing minorities group in South Sudan, Boma County-Greater Pibor Administrative Area. The research was conducted to address the minorities' group' background and the scope of protection of minorities group rights in South Sudan. The paper also covering the international Human Rights mechanisms to address the rights of minorities group in the County in general and Boma County in particular. The study also recommended to devise effective political mechanisms which do not allow a person to abuse power by becoming a dictator with plan for economic, social policies and increase the educational share which will narrow the gap between the more developed and minorities group marginalized areas. Study also recommended that, government should encourage and promote the laws that protect the rights of minorities group in the County in particular as well as the country in general. In this paper, the primary and secondary sources of data collection were employed. Nevertheless, the analysis of results indicated that 30% of respondents strongly agreed that the causes of violence against minorities group are not systematically investigated in South Sudan. Moreover, 70% of respondents said no that minorities group are not always organized in South Sudan. Also, in analysis descriptive methods are used as well as quantitative and qualitative also are used in the process of data collection.

KEY WORDS: *Boma County, minority group and Pibor administrative area.*

1. INTRODUCTION

A minority group, by original definition, refers to a group of people whose practices, race, religion, ethnicity or other characteristics in classifications. However, sociology, refers minority group as a category of people who experience relative disadvantage as compared to members of a dominant social group. Minority group membership is typically on based differences in observable characteristics or practices such as ethnicity (ethnic minority), race (social minority), and religious (religious minority) and sexual orientation (sexual minority) or disability. The term "minority group" and collective rights often occurs within the discourse of civil rights, as members of minority groups are prone to differential treatment in the countries and societies in which the live. Minority assembly members often face discrimination in multiple areas of social life, including housing, employment, healthcare and education. Discrimination may be committed by individuals, it may also occur through operational inequality, in which rights and opportunities are not equally accessible to all. The language of minority rights often used to discuss laws planned to protect minority groups from discrimination and afford them equal social status to the dominant group (en.m.wikipedia.org).

On the Same occasion, the United Nations Minorities Declaration in 1992, in its article (1) refers to minorities group as based on national or ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic identity, and provides that States should protect their existence. There is no internationally agreed definition as to which minorities group constitute. It is often stressed that the existence of a minority is a question of fact and any definition must include both objective factors such as the existence of a shared ethnicity, language or religion and also including individuals to identify themselves as members of a minority. The term minority as used in the United Nations human rights system refers to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, pursuant of the United Nations Minorities Declaration. All States have one or more minority groups within their national territories, characterized by their own national, ethnic, linguistic or religious identity, which differs from that of the majority population.

Francesco Capotorti in 1977, with Special Rapporteur of the United Nations Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities group, defined a minority as a group numerically inferior to the rest of the population of a State, in a non-dominant position, whose members-being nationals of the State-possess ethnic, religious or linguistic characteristics differing from those of the rest of the population and show, if only implicitly, a sense of solidarity, directed towards preserving their culture and traditions, religion or language.

The term "minority group" often occurs within the discourse of civil rights and collective rights, as members of minority groups are prone to differential treatment in the countries and societies in which

they live. Minority group members often face discrimination in multiple areas of social life, including housing, employment, healthcare, and education, among others. The discrimination may be committed by individuals, it may also occur through operational inequalities, in which rights and opportunities are not equally accessible to all. The language of minority rights is often used to discuss laws planned to protect minority group from discrimination and afford them equal social status to the dominant group (Francesco, 1977).

In addition, Francesco Capotorti (1991) defined “minority” as “a group numerically inferior to the rest of the population of a state, in a non-dominant position, whose members existence nationals of the state possess ethnic, religious or linguistic characteristics differing from those of the rest of the population and show if only indirectly, a sense of solidarity, directed towards maintaining their culture, traditions and religion or language”.

Deschênes (1985) also defined condition of citizenship for minorities as a group of inhabitants of a state, establishing a numerical minority and in a non-dominant position in the state, talented with ethnic, religious or linguistic characteristics which differ from those of majority of population, having a sense of solidarity with another motivated, if only indirectly by a joint will to persist and achieve equality of minority groups rights. “Also, Francesco stated that: “minority is any group of person’s resident within a sovereign state which constitutes less than half the population of the national society and whose members share common characteristics of an ethnic, religious or linguistic nature that distinguish them from the rest of the population” (report to the UN Sub- Commission).

2. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

This study focused on the background of minority and factors influencing minorities group in South Sudan, Boma County in Greater Pibor, Administrative area. The study also aimed at discussing the scope of protection the rights of minorities group in South Sudan and international human rights mechanisms to address the issues of minorities group in South Sudan. Moreover, the paper is conducted to answer the following questions:

- 2.1.** Definition of Minority?
- 2.2.** Determine the factors influencing minorities group in South Sudan?
- 2.3.** What is the scope of protection the minorities’ group rights in South Sudan?
- 2.4.** What are the mechanisms of international human rights to address issues of minorities’ group rights?

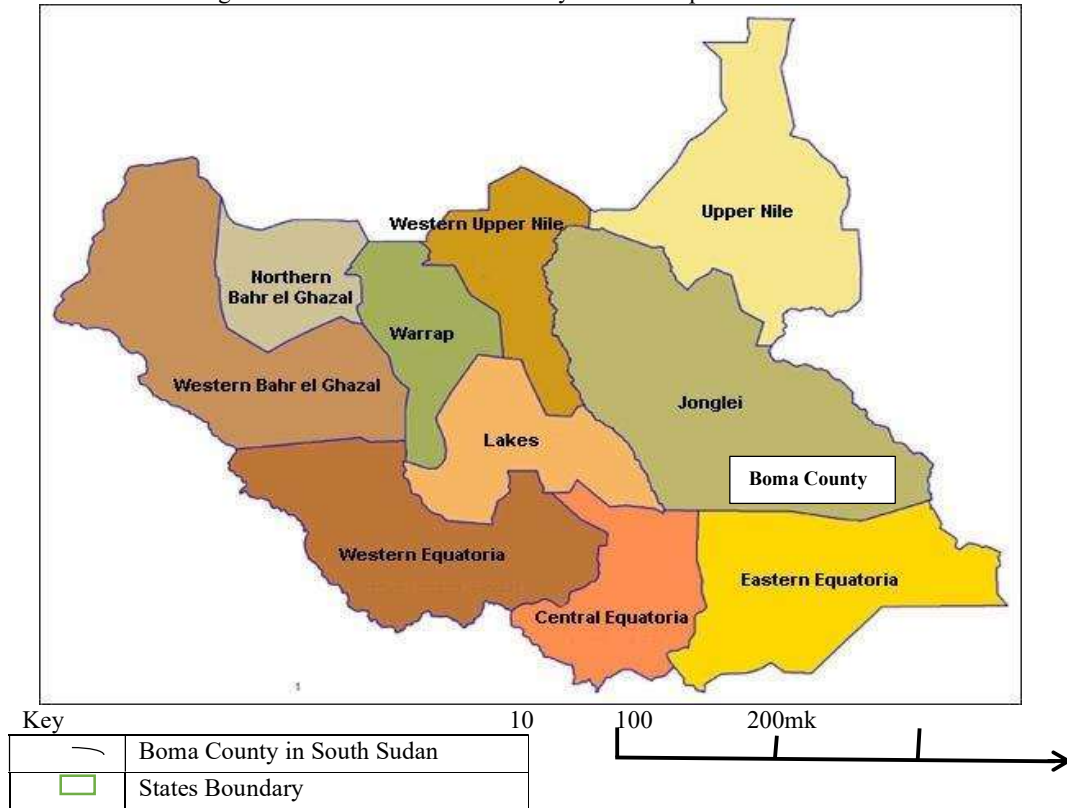
3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of this study are:

- 3.1.** To explore the background of minority group
- 3.2.** To discuss the factors influencing the minorities group in South Sudan.
- 3.3.** To investigate the scope of protection the rights of minorities group in South Sudan.
- 3.4.** To determine the international human rights mechanisms to address the issues of minorities’ group rights in South Sudan.

4. MATERIALS

Figure 1: Materials used in this study involve map of South Sudan



5. AREAS OF STUDY

Boma County is located in a former Jonglei state and currently in Greater Pibor Administrative Area. The County is lying in plateau area of South Sudan in eastern Upper Nile Region. It is located at latitude of 6.1805 °N and longitude of 34.3888°N. The County borders the Akobo County to the northwest, Imatong County to the south west, and Kapoeta to the southeast, Jonglei State to the west and Country Ethiopia to the east.

The county is important wetland for birdlife and also is one of the few places in the world where wild coffee Arabica grows.

6. PHYSICAL FEATURES

Physical features of the County are:

6.1. CLIMATE

The area has tropical climate, characterized by a rainy season of high humidity and large amount rainfall in summers, followed by a drier season in February. The temperature on average is always high and coldest in July with temperatures ranging from 37°c (73 to 98°F) and precipitation is about 1363 mm|53.7 inch per year (en. Climate data.org).

6.2. SOIL

The County has deep fertile loam soil fitted for agriculture activities.

6.3. VEGETATION

The all parts of Boma County covered by of thick vegetation or forest and grassland.

7. POPULATION

The ethnics groups in the County consist of Murle in the west and Jiye to the South and Anyuak to the north adjacent to border region of Ethiopia. Other groups are Suri or Kachipo who is among the minorities in the County. Their population estimated around 10,000 people. The group believed in Christianity and worship God the creator of the universe.

8. ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

These groups are farmers and rearing livestock such as cattle, goats and cheeps. Other activities include hunting of animals for meat and skins for choose as well as sleeping purposes. They grow mainly corn, sorghum and greens. They also collect honey and pan for gold as well as make pots. They trade in

tobacco, pots, animal skins, honey, ivory, rifles and ammunition. They engage in traditional stick fighting after harvests.

9. METHODS

Methods used in this study for data collection involves

9.1. PRIMARY DATA COLLECTION

This study used a personal interview, discussions and questionnaires method for the purposes of data collection from Boma County, greater Pibor administrative area. Data was collected from all eligible migrants who are usually residents in the selected households in four areas after giving them a brief description of the purposes and procedures of the study and ensuring that they had properly understood, before beginning of an interview. Also, the method of observation was used in this research to establish solution to the research problem and meeting inclusive. The internet services were also used to generate data.

9.2. SECONDARY DATA COLLECTION

There were no specific methods of secondary data collection, although secondary source data varied, and included: information from references, public records, organizational records, census data, previous studies, friends & colleagues, surveys and competitive websites as well as electronic media/ Government and NGOs reports.

9.3. DATA COLLECTION INSTRUMENTS

The main instrument which was used in this study to obtain relevant data from respondents was the questionnaire, which was administered to the selected sample population.

9.4. ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

This study used a primary data analysis of survey. In order to protect the anonymity and confidentiality of the information regarding respondents, names and house numbers were not identified in the Questionnaire and in the data set. Permission to carry out the study was obtained from the local stakeholders of the County (Angelo.O (2021).

9.5. DATA ANALYSIS METHODS

In analysis of data sets, descriptive statistical method was employed for the purpose of getting the background of minorities in Boma County, Greater Pibor administrative area, using frequencies, percentages and distribution Tables

10. DISCUSSION AND RESULTS

The discussion of the study are:

Table 10.1: Minorities group are always organized in South Sudan

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	30	30%
No	70	70%
Total	100	100%

Table 10.1: show the minorities group always are organized in South Sudan.

30% of respondents answered by yes that minorities group are always organized in South Sudan, while, 70% of respondents said no minorities group are not organized in South Sudan .

Table10.2: the government recognition the rights of minorities group in South Sudan

Response	Number of respondents	Percentage
Yes	40	40%
No	60	60%
Total	100	100%

Table10.2: show the government recognition the rights of minorities group in South Sudan. 40% of respondents answered by yes that government recognize the rights of minorities group in South Sudan, and 60% of them affirmed no because they are not aware about the government policies toward the minorities group recognition in the country such as protection of their rights.

Table10.3: Minorities group are represented in public administration as Members of the Parliament, judicial services and law enforcement

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	25	25%
No	75	75%
Total	100	100%

Table10.3: Show minorities group represented as Members of Parliament, judicial services and law enforcement. 25% of respondents answered by yes that minorities group are represented in public administration as Members of Parliament, judicial services and law enforcement, while, 75% of them affirmed by no that minorities group are not represented in public administration as Members of Parliament, judicial services and law enforcement.

Table 10.4: The causes of violence against minorities group are investigated in South Sudan.

Response	Number of respondents	Percentage
Agree	20	20%
Strongly Agree	30	30%
Disagree	10	10%
Strongly Disagree	20	20%
I don't know	20	20%
Total	100	100%

Table 10.4: show the causes of violence against minorities group are investigated in South Sudan. 20% of respondents agreed, and 30% of them strongly agreed that the causes of violence against minorities group are investigated in South Sudan. 10% of respondents of them disagree, while, 20% of them strongly disagree and 20% others of respondents said they don't know whether the causes of violence are investigated in the country.

Table 10.5: The rights of minorities' group are protected in Boma County

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Agree	20	20%
Strongly Agree	30	30%
Disagree	10	10%
Strongly Disagree	20	20%
I don't know	20	20%
Total	100	100%

Table 10.5: show the rights of minorities' group are protected in Boma County. 20 % of respondents agreed that the rights of minorities group are protect in Boma County, and 30% of them strongly agreed, while, 10% of respondents disagree, whereas, 20 % strongly disagree, and 20% others of respondents said they don't know if the rights of minorities group are protected in Boma County.

Table 10.6: The responsibilities of United Nations in South Sudan are to build the capacity of minority groups to participate in decision-making and monitor the implementation of public policies.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Agree	30	30%
Strongly Agree	30	30%
Disagree	10	10%
Strongly Disagree	10	10%
I don't know	20	20%
Total	100	100%

Table 10.6: show the responsibilities of United Nations in South Sudan are to build the capacity of minority groups to participate in decision-making and monitor the implementation of public policies. Whereas, 30% of respondents agree, and 30% others strongly agreed, while, 10% of respondents disagree, and 10% of others strongly disagree. Nevertheless, 20% of respondents said they are not sure whether the responsibilities of United Nations in South Sudan is to build the capacity of minorities group to participate in decision-making and monitor the implementation of public policies.

7. Factors influencing minorities group in South Sudan?

- 7.1. Domination by the majorities group on social services in the society.
- 7.2. Lack of participation in government institutions and decision-making in the Country.
- 7.3. Lack of equal opportunity in education among the minorities group contributed to violent within the group.
- 7.4. Discrimination in term of ethnicity and employment process in the country.

8. What are the mechanism of Human rights to address issues of minorities 'group in South Sudan?

The mechanisms involves equal judicial services and law enforcement to protect the rights of minorities group in the county in particular and in the country in general.

9. What is the scope of protection the minorities' rights group in South Sudan?

The scope of protection of minorities' rights involves the discrimination, unequal chances of employment and decision making in the country. Also, through promoting judicial services as well as law enforcement to protect their rights.

10. Are the minorities group represented in public administration as Members of Parliament, the judicial services and law enforcement? If so, is it proportionate to the size of their communities and the interests to be addressed? If not, what should be done to promote their integration in the public service?

The minorities group are not represented in public administration as Members of Parliament, the judicial services and law enforcement. To integrate them in the public services the government should support to establish schools in their areas of settlements and provide chances to promote them to the Parliamentary of the country.

11. How is the general situation of children and women belonging to minorities group in the Boma County? What information is available to assess the situation? Is there a need to improve the information?

The general situation of the children and women in the county is bad due to lack of programs such as schools and training awareness in human rights and gender issues in Boma County authorities, Greater Pibor Administrative as well as the national government of South Sudan. There is no available information to assess the situation in the area. The government should establish schools, training and awareness to promote and integrate the in the society.

12. What are the recommendations that the paper would recommend to the government of South Sudan to respect the rights of minorities group in the country?

12.1. Government should offer opportunities of employment to minorities group in the national institutions of the County as well as the Country at large.

12.2. Schools should be allocated in the areas where minorities group are settled.

12.3. Government should provide the chances to minorities group to participate in government decision-making in the national level.

12.4. Government should protect the rights of minorities group based of the constitution of the country.

13. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the study involve the background of minorities group, causes influencing the minorities group in South Sudan, Boma County, Greater Pibor administrative area. The study also, covered the international organization mechanisms in protection the rights of minorities group in South Sudan. The paper concentrated on the scope of international human rights to address the issues of minorities group in the country. Moreover, the study used secondary as well as the primary sources in data collection. The tables were employed in analysis and quantitative and qualitative descriptive of data are presented in the study.

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