



## Uganda's Double Game: Arms Supplier and Peace Mediator for South Sudan

**OE Watch Commentary:** Uganda has been accused of playing another role besides peace broker in the civil war consuming neighboring South Sudan...that of clandestine arms supplier to both sides. As the accompanying excerpt from an article posted on the *Deutsche Welle* website describes, Uganda appears to have taken lawfully exported weapons from the "EU, US, and China," and without the exporters' knowledge, diverted them to South Sudan, possibly violating end-use and non-transfer agreements.

It should be noted that Uganda does not appear to be alone in breaking the arms embargo the UN imposed on South Sudan in 2018. Sudan, South Sudan's northern neighbor and the country from which it gained independence in 2011, has also been implicated in selling ammunition to the forces opposing South Sudan's government. Sudan has something else in common with Uganda besides reportedly breaking the arms embargo; it is also supposed to be serving as a peace broker.

Uganda purchased weapons and ammunition from the EU member states of Bulgaria, Romania, and Slovakia. The retransfers of at least some of these to the South Sudanese military and its armed allies in Sudan took place after the EU imposed an arms embargo. According to the London-based Conflict Armament Research (CAR) organization, South Sudan acquired the Bulgarian weapons after asking Uganda to issue end-user certificates to give the appearance that they were actually intended for use by the Ugandan military.

The CAR report, produced with funding from both the EU and the German Federal Foreign Office, and on which much of this article is based, has been dismissed by Michael Makuei Lueth, information minister of South Sudan, as being fake. He added that if the EU passes an arms embargo of African countries, they are not bound to follow it since they are not in the EU. As of the writing of this commentary, Uganda has not yet responded to the report. It is worth remembering that South Sudan's warring factions, the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and its main opposition, the SPLA-in-Opposition (SPLA-IO), signed a peace deal in September 2018. It was brokered by Uganda and Sudan. **End OE Watch Commentary (Feldman)**

**Source:** "Uganda's Double Game in South Sudan Civil War Revealed," *Deutsche Welle*, 29 November 2018. <https://www.dw.com/en/ugandas-double-game-in-south-sudan-civil-war-revealed/a-46500925>

*Despite its role as peace broker in neighboring South Sudan, Uganda has been among the clandestine suppliers of weapons that originate in the EU, US and China to both sides of the bloody civil war, a new report shows.*

*The diversion of the weapons appears to have taken place without the knowledge of the original exporters and may have breached end-use and non-retransfer condition of sale agreements with South Sudan's neighbors, it says.*

*Chinese-made ammunition, supplied lawfully under contract to the government in Juba between 2011 and 2014, is by far the most common used by the two sides, the report says. Some of this ammunition was supplied by Sudan.*

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SPLA-IO soldiers at Juba in April 2016.

Source: Jason Patinkin (VOA) [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons, [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:SPLA-IO\\_soldiers\\_\(Juba\\_-\\_April\\_2016\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:SPLA-IO_soldiers_(Juba_-_April_2016).jpg).