

Chapter 1: The move

UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD: ARTICLE 7 *Right to name and nationality*

UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD: ARTICLE 8 *Right to keep your identity*



1: The move

ARTICLE 7 *Right to name and nationality* ARTICLE 8 *Right to keep your identity*

TABAN, 10 YEARS OLD SAYS:

“My home country is South Sudan. That is where I live. When I was born I lived in Sudan, the country that now has been divided into two countries, South Sudan and Sudan. My family and I had to move, because my relatives are from South Sudan. So we had to travel to the new country, which actually is our old country. Sounds confusing, doesn't it? It is like this: When my parents were young, they left Lui because there was a war going on here. They moved to the capital of Sudan, Khartoum. There was no war and many others had already fled from Lui. In Khartoum it was quite difficult to live. Even if there were roads, electricity, food and many other things, much of that was not available for us. Since we were not Sudanese from Khartoum we were not counted as full citizens. We lived in a refugee camp outside of Khartoum close to the desert.

My family are now back in Lui. One day when I was drawing in the sand on the ground, my friend Bennet asked me what I was drawing. I answered “The boat we were travelling in when we moved from Khartoum to Juba”. Why were you going by boat? Bennet wondered. I told him my family and I lived in a refugee camp in the north in Khartoum during the war. We were poor and my parents longed to go back to the south all the time! Bennet told me that his family stayed in the south during the war. A few times they had to run away to the mountains

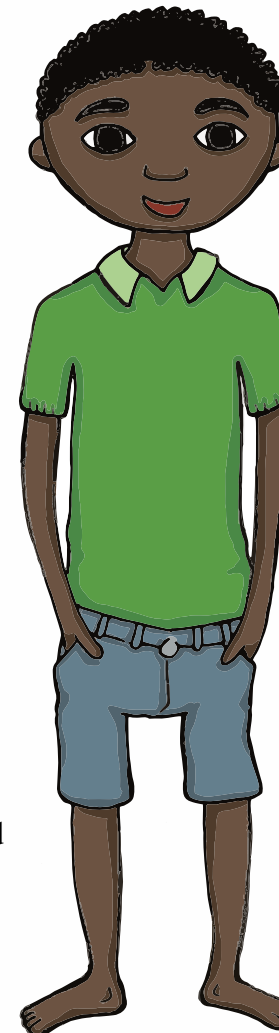
when the soldiers were coming. Bennet asked me to continue my story. I told him that when South Sudan became a country of its own, we could not stay in Khartoum any more. Most of the refugees wanted to go back to their homeland, South Sudan, and here is the boat we travelled on. I showed him the picture in the sand. He asked “How was the journey?” I said “Well, first we had to wait to get a place on a boat. We had to wait for three months! We stayed in grass huts near the boat station by the river, the place from where the boats were leaving. It was not easy for my parents to find food and all the things we needed.”

The boat trip from Khartoum to Juba took three weeks and there were lots of people on the boat; too many for one boat. We were afraid the boat, which had two floors, was going to capsize and all of us would end up in the water. All our possessions were on the boat. In the river Nile there are plenty of crocodiles and we did not want to end up with them! We could cook on the boat; my mother made porridge and baked bread.

When we came to Juba, we were very happy to have arrived safely. Finally we could walk on dry ground again, but we still had no money.

We went to stay with our relatives, Uncle Paul and his family. But we did not want to stay in Juba. My parents and my Grandma wanted to go to Lui, where you grow your own food and have more space for living. Anyway my parents were happy to have made part of the journey to Lui and they started to look for jobs. Mum and Dad tried very hard to find work. They asked for a job in many places and finally they succeeded. My mum met some people who needed a person to clean in a guest house, a kind of a simple hotel. Now many people come from other parts of Africa and even from the whole world because they want to be around and help build the country. All those people have no relatives to stay with and have to live in guest houses or hotels. That is good because that gave my mum an opportunity to work and earn money. For my dad it took somewhat longer to find a job, but after a while he started working in a market carrying boxes and other things.

It was rather exciting to live in Juba.



We stayed a short distance away from the city and we could see all the aeroplanes take off and land at the airport. Sometimes a car came along on the gravel road near our house. On the roof of the car there was a big loudspeaker. A voice shouted out news and announcements. Sometimes the car played music and so there were adverts. “Buy this and buy that!” Not too easy for our family to hear since we have no money.

One day I was allowed to go fishing with my uncle Paul. It was on the same big river we had come by boat from Khartoum, the big river Nile. Uncle Paul told us to be careful standing on the ground near the river, and we were. The river is wide and the water runs very fast and it seemed to be very dirty. In Juba you drink a lot of water from plastic bottles and when the bottle is empty you throw it into the Nile. Here in Lui I have seen how people save the bottles to use for water or for other liquids like petrol or oil. But in Juba there are so many bottles they can throw them away. After about an hour of fishing, we had only caught a few small fishes, but it was exciting to be a fisherman. We saw crocodiles! There are many crocodiles living in the Nile, but for me it was not the first time. I had seen them before when we travelled by boat from Khartoum.

Suddenly Bennet and I were interrupted by a crackling sound. Today is the day we are celebrating South Sudan, the newest country in the world! We had better hurry up to the festival site.



Facts



SOUTH SUDAN

The 9th of July is an important date for all South Sudanese. It is the day when South Sudan became a country of its own. Every year since then, people in Lui have celebrated that day by meeting by the Lara tree, the big old tree in Lui. They dance, someone gives a speech and then they sing the national anthem. The name of the national anthem is “South Sudan Oyee” and that means South Sudan Hurray! There was a competition to create a national anthem and those who won were some teachers and students at Juba University. You can listen to the national anthem here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zIKwclozkMs>

The country also has a flag. It was the flag used by the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). The black colour represents the people in South Sudan, the red all the blood that has been wasted during the war, the green the country that has a lot of agriculture, the blue represents the water in the River Nile and the star symbolises the different states and how they should keep together and follow each other. South Sudan is divided into 10 states; Lui is situated in Western



Equatorial State, which is divided into 10 counties. Lui belongs to Mundri East County, where the commissioner is the head person.

In South Sudan there are between 10 and 11 million inhabitants. When people in South Sudan shop, they often do it by changing things with each other (barter). But there is an official currency, South Sudan Pounds. There are no coins, only paper-notes. The smallest one is a one-pound note. There are also 5, 10, 20, 50 and 100 pound notes. The notes are decorated with a picture of John Garang, a former leader of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), who died in an aeroplane accident.

THE WAR

Earlier on South Sudan belonged to Sudan, a country that has been at war most of its time. During the 19th century the southern part of Sudan was a place where slaves were captured and ivory was plundered. When Sudan became a British colony in 1898, the northern part became more developed while the southern part was kept apart.

When Sudan became an independent country in 1956, the war between the north and the south had already started, since the inequality and unfairness was considered too big by the southerners. This was the first civil war and it lasted until 1972. In 1983 Sharia/Islamic laws were implemented. The guerrillas in the south, the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), led by John Garang, demanded the Sharia laws to be repealed. Then a new civil war started because of disagreements about power, local self-government and about implementing sharia laws in the south, which was mainly inhabited by Christians. In 1991 the SPLA was splintered. The biggest new group was the Southern Sudan Independence Movement, SSI, led by Riek Machar.

In January 2005 a peace agreement was decided between the Arabic/Islamic government in Khartoum and

SPLA, about self-government and a promise of a referendum about self-government for South Sudan. During the civil war 1983 – 2005 more than four million South Sudanese were forced to flee. Three millions went to the north of Sudan where the authorities set up permanent refugee-camps outside Khartoum. Approximately one million people left for the surrounding countries. From 2005 and onwards, refugees started to return. Up to October 2009 2,5 million had returned according to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), among them 330 000 from the neighbouring countries. By independence day in 2011, between a half and one million South Sudanese were still in the north and their Sudanese citizenship was taken away from them by a newly implemented law. In January 2011 a referendum was held about independence for South Sudan. Of those who had the right to vote, 98.83% voted for dividing the Sudan.

On the 9th of July 2011 South Sudan was proclaimed



Facts



to be independent from Sudan. Salva Kir became president. After decades of war the inhabitants hope for a better situation, but the new country is already split from the start and the need for rebuilding is enormous. Not even the expected big incomes from the most important export product, oil, seems to go very far to create decent living conditions in this country with an almost no modern infrastructure. Since December 2013 there has been an outbreak of violence starting in the northeast parts of the country, something that has also influenced Lui.





SUGGESTION 1

Conversation

CHILD RIGHTS CONVENTION

Article 7, Right to name and nationality and Article 8, Right to keep your identity.

.....
Talk about how everybody has the right to have a name and a citizenship from birth. Talk about what it means to be a citizen in a country. What happened to Taban and his family when the new country South Sudan was founded? Do you know someone who has moved to the UK and then moved back to the home country?



BASIC FEELINGS

Taban and his family were forced to move, how do you think they felt about that? Taban was afraid the boat should capsize, are you afraid when you travel by boat? When Taban and his family arrived in Juba, they were happy. How do you usually feel when you arrive at the place of destination?

.....
Talk about leaving a place and friends. That you can feel sad and worried but also excited and happy about what is coming.

.....
What feelings arise from the thought that you have to move? Do you get happy, sad or afraid?



SUGGESTION 2

Prayers

BIBLE WORDS

This chapter is both about being forced to escape and to move by your own wish. Therefore we suggest two different bible texts.

Abraham moves (Genesis 12:1-6)

.....
The escape to Egypt (Matthew 2:13-15 and 19-23)

SONGS

God knows my name (CJP 550)

.....
I gotta home in gloryland that outshines the sun (CJP 97)

.....
One more step along the world I go (CJP 188)

.....
Put your trust In the man who tamed the sea (CAHON 882)

.....
Step by step and on and on, we will walk with Jesus (CAHON 885)



PRAYER

God, we pray for all people arriving at a new place. Help them to feel safe and needed. Help us become good friends to those who arrive here in our country. Amen





SUGGESTION 3

Compare

Bring a world map or a world globe, point out South Sudan, Sudan and your own country. On what day do we celebrate our own country? What is the date of our national day? Why is this the day of celebration? How do you celebrate the national day?

What is the name of our national anthem, when was it written and who wrote the song? Do you know it? Do you know what your national flag looks like? Do you know the meanings of the colours?

How many people live in your country? Compare to South Sudan! What are the names of the money and their value in your country? What are the values of the notes? Compare to South Sudan!

What languages do you speak?
What languages do you know?

What does it mean to be a citizen?



SUGGESTION 4

Names

Everybody has a right to a name. How did you get your name? Do you know the meaning of your name? You can borrow a book about names and look up the meaning of different names and where they come from.



SUGGESTION 5

About moving

Have you ever moved? How was that arranged? Could you visit the new flat/ the new house before you moved there?



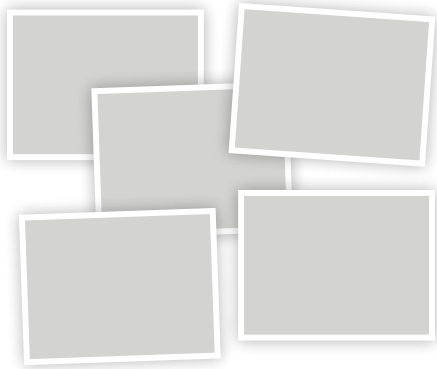
SUGGESTION 6

Games

Play different name games, i.e. everybody say the name and something you like: My name is Kate and I like sweets. My name is David and I like dinosaurs. My name is Anne and I like oranges.



Resources



PICTURES

Boat in the Nile

People in Juba

In the market, Juba

The Nile

Plastic bottles in the Nile

Tank lorry with water in Juba

Water for sale in Juba

