

## **ETHNIC TENSION IN SOUTH SUDAN: THE WAY FORWARD**

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### **ABSTRACT**

South Sudan the world's newest state is on the cusp of a civil war since 15<sup>th</sup> December 2013 its capital Juba, has seen rival units of its army the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) fight each other Armed groups have at the time targeted civilians based on ethnicity ,violence has spread beyond the capital ,violence including areas already fraught with ethnic tensions, principally Jonglei State over which the government has lost control .The dynamics of the leadership struggle between President Salva Kiir, a Dinka, and former Vice President Riek Macher a Nuers colours politics throughout the country, illustrating the prevalence of Ethnicity at the highest office .Following Kiir's dismissal of Macher and the entire cabinet did not come as a surprise to the international Community.

This paper observes the role of ethnicity in South Sudan is real and problematic in the country's polity and her people social experiences. It has been adopted by leaders to unite their respective members for defensive and offensive purposes. The Conflict in South Sudan is seen as a challenge and a threat to the democratization process in South Sudan. This paper observe the role ethnicity has played in the conflict .It has resulted in the loss of lives and break down of law and order .The solution lies with a leadership that is transparent and accountable to the people.

**KEYWORDS:** Ethnicity, Crisis, South Sudan