

CASE STORY

NAME	<i>Ajok</i>
AGE	<i>17</i>
COUNTRY	<i>South Sudan</i>
THEME	<i>Child Protection</i>
STORY	<i>Separated children – Fighting In South Sudan caused Ajok to get separated from her parents for years</i>



Context

South Sudan is a country in East Central Africa. In 2013 fighting broke out in South Sudan. The fighting in South Sudan greatly affected the people living there. Many families got separated, children and their parents. These families often become separated for many years, some find each other again and some do not

The UN Protection of Civilian sites work to reunite families again. The organization works together with Save the Children (Red Barnet). Save the Children is an organization, that helps these families and children. They work with different foundations to help children and their families in South Sudan (DANIDA). They have developed a project for the children.

The project focuses on helping the children with problems, caused by the fighting in Mali. The project help track the families, so they can find each other again.

Story

This case is about a girl named Ajok. She is 17 years old and has been separated from her family since she was 11 years old. Because of the fighting in South Sudan thousand of children got separated from their families. During the fighting In 2013, Ajok was at a market alone. When she returned home, she could not find her parents. Ajok thought that they were dead. Ajok decided to join the UN Protection of Civilian and through Save the Children Ajok found her family again, after many years.

CASE STORY

Ajok tell her story in her own words

“Fighting got me in the market and when I reached home, I couldn’t find my parents. I got my aunt and then I fled with her to the UN compound in Malakal. I then continued to stay at the UN protection of civilian site with my aunt”.

“I was stressed because I didn’t know the whereabouts of my parents since 2013. I missed the love my parents showed me, and often wondered what had happened to them”.

“After staying for about five years, they then told me that my parents are around. So, when I heard that I will be reunited with my parents, I felt very happy to feel again the love of my parents”.

“From Malakal, they then transferred me to Juba. From Juba, I was brought to meet my father, mother, brothers and sisters. I feel blessed to see them again”.

“I just want to say “thank you” for reunifying me with my family. Now I’m in Primary five. I want to continue with my education and become a doctor”.



Quotes from her mother

“It took us 20 days to walk from Malakal to Akobo here and settle. I never thought I would see my daughter again, since we fled in a difficult moment. I thought she was dead or had been abducted by people from the armed conflict”.

“When I received a message from Save the Children that my daughter is alive and will be brought soon, I was very happy. I appreciate the hard work that you (Save the Children) is doing”.