

JOHN KON GARANG KUOT'S STORY

My name is John Kon Garang Kuot. I am a Sudanese by nationality. I was born on the first of January, 1979, in Jongulai in a town called Mading in Bor district. My father's name is Garang Kuot Akuer and my mother's name is Awop Anyjeth Mac.

My being a refugee started in 1983 when Arabs began fighting against us, One day at night we were in our village (when) the Arabs came and started shooting people to death in which they killed some people. We ran away with my mother to the bush. We were hiding from 1983 to 1987. The war was continuously serious. So in 1987 the attack came and I ran in my own direction to the bush in which I found large numbers of people running eastward. I joined them too.

On our way to the border of Ethiopia we faced so many problems. Many of our number died of sickness., thirst and hunger. We were walking (about three months) until we reached Panyido in Ethiopia in 1987. It was the first year in which they enrolled us as refugees. We spent three years in Ethiopia, but in 1991 the war broke out between Ethiopian government . We were brought by UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) and Red Cross to Pachula in Sudan. The same thing happened when the camp was attacked and captured by Arabs. As we were driven out the two agent organizations played their roles. They brought us to Nairus, then the nearest town was captured. After this we were taken to the Kenyan border at Loki. In May 1992 we were taken to Kakuma by UNHCR.

In Kakuma I spent eight years. I was enrolled as a refugee for a second time. I started my process for resettlement in October 2000. On 20th of April I flew to Nairobi in which I was taken by Refugee and Immigration Services, who took over my processing for resettlement. I arrived here to my destination in April 2001, where I am now in Roanoke, Virginia.

I thank God for he has taken over my life up to these years.