

Joint Peace Meeting in Peace Village

In second half of 2017 a conflict occurred between Jie and Toposa due to cattle raiding. Several persons were killed. On the background of this the two tribes met and agreed to stop raiding and promoted peaceful coexistence. However, also in 2018 some incidents of raiding have happened. A group of Jie came to Kuron to discuss the matter with Toposa leaders.

By Per Nordmark

A 2017 conflict

In October 2017 an extensive conflict occurred between Toposa and Jie tribes due to cattle raiding. Some 40 persons were reported dead. The seriousness of the conflict was noticed at Peace Village's Fr Haumann Clinic at Matara



which in October 2017 received some 30 patients with injuries from gunshots. On this background the two had agreed to commit themselves to stop raiding and live in peace.

Jie leaders took initiative

On November 12th information reached Toposa Chief Akadawa and Peace Village: A group of 16 men of Jie was on the way to Kuron. Chief Akadawa and Peace Project staff went 13th up to the village of Nakimogo where they met with the Jie group. The group was led by the chief of the kraal Morukomod. The group stayed overnight, then the next day was followed by Akadawa to Kuron.

Peace Village facilitated a meeting

The Jie group was welcomed at Peace Village and provided food and simple accommodation. The next day, on 15th November a meeting between Toposa elders and the Jie group was arranged under trees by Kuron River. Chief Akadawa chaired the meeting.

Topics of the meeting

Jie informed that 7 minor incidents had occurred in 2018, all due to raiding attempts made by Toposa, none by Jie. This was the reason why the Jie group came. Several speakers from both tribes argued strongly for stopping these incidents. They expressed a strong will and commitment to secure peace. One speaker also asked the Jie to remain for some days to strengthen the friendship!

Two of the speakers in the meeting

A few Toposa youths were blamed for the incidents, and it was discussed how these could be identified and punished. The importance of guiding the youth to prevent further raiding activities was stressed. It was also argued for more information sharing, to be able to prevent further incidents. The lack of government representation in the area was a common concern, as it was considered important for taking action against criminals. Both tribes have the challenge of abduction of children by Murle tribe, and this serious matter was also discussed.



Peace should remain

The meeting concluded by stating that peace between Jie and Toposa should remain. It was also agreed to meet again already within this month at the kraal Morukomod. The meeting should have a wider representation and include women and youth.