



United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)

Media & Spokesperson Unit
Communications & Public Information Office

MEDIA MONITORING REPORT

FRIDAY, 18 OCTOBER 2013

SOUTH SUDAN

- Hilde Johnson, UNMISS Boss and President Kiir Discuss Jonglei (*The Citizen.info*)
- South Sudan to open more embassies (*Gurtong*)
- Five killed in blast of buried explosives in Juba (*Sudantribune.com*)
- Floods affect 150,000 people in eight states (*Catholic Radio Network*)
- Minister vows to increase food production (*Gurtong*)
- VP to supervise ministers' duties (*Bakita Radio*)
- Japan extends, increases UNMISS participation (*Catholic Radio Network*)
- Girls top boys in CES' 2013 exams (*Gurtong*)
- N. Bahr el Gazal votes on new parliamentary (*Sudantribune.com*)
- No Cases of rift valley fever disease in EES, says Director (*Sudantribune.com*)

SOUTH SUDAN, SUDAN

- Sudan finalizes draft on border trade with South Sudan (*allafrica.com*)

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- Expulsion of Ugandans from Sudan 'understandable' (*The New Vision*)
- Sudan agrees to cease hostilities in South Kordofan for polio campaign – UN (*Sudantribune.com*)

LINKS TO STORIES FROM THE MORNING MEDIA MONITOR

- Hilde Johnson SRSG meets President Salva Kiir over situation in Jonglei (*CTV*)
- Five killed in South Sudan civil war-era bomb blast (*AFP*)
- South Sudan child scrap metal diggers blown up in Juba (*SUNA*)
- 47 million dollar water supply project kicks off in Juba (*Catholic Radio Network*)
- 2 children suffer oil pollution in Melut (*Eyeradio*)
- NBGS, Humanitarian Agencies Hold Partners' Forum (*Gurtong*)
- ACF urges government to improve citizens' livelihood (*Catholic Radio Network*)
- UN Envoy urges Juba, Khartoum to agree on Abyei poll (*Gurtong*)
- Juba clarifies public media blackout on Abyei referendum campaigns (*Sudantribune.com*)
- Ngok Dinka to hold conference on referendum this week (*Eyeradio.org*)
- Abyei requires global approach, Kiir tells UN envoy (*Sudantribune.com*)
- US warns of terror attack in Uganda (*Sudantribune.com*)
- Darfur businessman killed in Rumbek, shops remain closed (*Sudantribune.com*)
- Congo rebels, gov't troops clash in eastern DRC (*Sudantribune.com*)

NOTE: Reproduction here does not mean that the UNMISS Communications & Public Information Office can vouch for the accuracy or veracity of the contents, nor does this report reflect the views of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan. Furthermore, international copyright exists on some materials and this summary should not be disseminated beyond the intended list of recipients.

Highlights

Hilde Johnson, UNMISS Boss and President Kiir Discuss Jonglei

The Citizen.info Juba, 18/10/2013-President Salva Kiir Mayardit met in his office yesterday with the Special Representative of the Secretary General of United Nations Ms. Hilde Johnson and discussed with her issues related to the general situation in Jonglei State and the importance of embarking on tangible reconciliation for reaching peaceful co-existence among the different communities in the State.

“We discussed with the President the need for a lasting peace and reconciliation between the different communities of the State. It is very important to have strategies to develop dividends for the people in Jonglei,” Johnson told the press after the meeting.

She also pointed that the meeting also dwelt on reaching a peaceful deal with the remaining rebel groups of David Yau Yau.

Johnson added that she discussed with President issue of accountability in regards to any possible violation committed in Jonglei.

“We talked about the issue of accountability on anybody who committed violence in the State including members of SPLA. The President has reassured me that investigations are ongoing concerning this and all necessary redress will be made,” she said.

On the other hand, President Salva Kiir Mayardit was also briefed in his office yesterday by the Governor of Eastern Equatoria State, Louis Lobong Lojore on general security situation in his state.

Governor Long said in a press briefing after the meeting that his government has managed to handle some of cases of cattle rustling, except some isolated cases of theft in the remote parts of the state.

“Our meeting was a very fruitful one, I told the President that we are handling the issue of cattle rustling and also some small pockets of crime in the state,” Long said.

“We will continue to do so and as well work hard so that Eastern Equatoria is peaceful,” he added.

Lobong assured that some areas in the state have witness good rainfall this year and the citizens are expecting good harvest.

“However, the floods affected some areas like in Kapoeta, but we are working towards helping the affected people,” he also revealed.

In a related development, President Kiir was also visited by leader of the minority in the national Legislative assembly Onyoti Adigo Nyikwec.

Nyikwec also told the press after the meeting that he led a delegation to congratulate the Kiir for the formation of lean government and the granting of amnesty to political detainees.

“We congratulate him for forming a lean government and also granting a general amnesty to all political detainees as well as leader of the SPLM/DC Dr. Lam Akol. We also discussed with him the arrival of Dr. Lam Akol in the country soon as well as freedom of all political parties in their operation in the country,” Nyikwec said.

He said President Kiir assured him that all political parties including SPLM/DC will start operating freely with objection or hindrance.

We also talked about the need for national consensus on transformation in the civil and security services among others. We also discussed about the need for a proper road map for the future of the country and also the issue of Ayei,” Nyikwec. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

South Sudan to open more embassies

Gurtong Juba, 18/10/ 2013 - South Sudanese Vice President, Hon. James Wani Igga ON Thursday said his government plans to open more embassies in an effort to widen its international relations two years after attaining independence..

Igga who took office after the sacking of Dr. Riek Machar was addressing government and representatives from the Japanese embassy and the media.

“Our government is very committed to promote relations,” Igga said following calls from Japan that it should open its embassy there so as to boost diplomatic ties.

“It is these two years of austerity that made us not boost our embassies abroad.. But with the improvement of our oil revenues, we will not only establish embassy in Japan but establish if not in 52 countries, more in the world,” Igga said.

Last Friday he also pointed out his government’s new plans to boost foreign but peaceful relations with South Sudan’s neighbouring countries and several others in the world.

Igga pointed out that, while he was in his recent trip to New York to attend the United Nations General Assembly, he found out that, South Sudan’s image had been badly portrayed in the international scene as a result of absence of several embassies there to coordinate issues and correct them accordingly.

South Sudan gained independence two years ago. Last year the fledgling nation appointed several ambassadors to go and establish its embassies in some of the countries in the world.

However, following the country’s oil shutdown, economically Juba found it difficult to finance the operations embassies. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

Five killed in blast of buried explosives in Juba

Sudantribune.com Juba, 18/10/2013 – Five people were killed on Thursday when explosives exploded in the South Sudanese capital, Juba at Suk Sitah area, near the former military barracks of the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF).

Those killed, according a statement from the Police, included four children and a Ugandan man. Five others were also injured in the blast.

The statement, issued on the state-run SSTV, further explained that the blast occurred when the children were digging a foundation of a house in which they were hired to build, thus hitting the buried explosives.

The four dead were identified as very young boys from the Murle community.

Phillip Aguer, the spokesperson of South Sudan army (SPLA) also confirmed the incident in an interview with Sudan Tribune on Thursday evening.

The incident stirred an outcry from the citizens who witnessed the scene, with some accusing the government of allowing children to be subjected to such hard and dangerous labour in the country.

Children as young as 12 are involved in the construction industry in South Sudan as well as involved in business boda boda (motorcycle) ridings, which always involve fatal road accidents.

Others challenged the demining authority to ensure that such war leftover explosives such as grenades, some of which are still visible in the towns, are cleared.

South Sudan split from Sudan two years ago after a brutal civil war. Juba was a garrison town held by government troops from Khartoum, but southern rebel forces controlled the surrounding countryside.

Large areas of the impoverished country are littered with debris of war, including unexploded explosives such as artillery as well as landmines.

Casualties are reported every year, especially as thousands of refugees return home and begin to build houses or till the land for farming. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

Floods affect 150,000 people in eight states

Catholic Radio Network Juba, 18/10/2013-Floods are affecting some 150 thousand people in eight states of South Sudan and only over 91 thousand got humanitarian aid.

Inter-agency assessments indicate that 91,300 people affected by the floods received food, household items, health care and water and sanitation supplies, UNOCHA said.

Lakes, Upper Nile, Jonglei, Warrap, Northern and Western Bahr el Ghazal are the states affected by seasonal flooding.

Humanitarian partners are unable to access areas of Jonglei, Lakes and Upper Nile states due to impassable roads.

Some affected communities can only be reached by boat.

This year's floods are more limited than in 2012. By the end of September last year, 260,000 people were affected by surging waters. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

Minister vows to increase food production

Gurtong Juba, 18 /10/ 2013 - The Central Equatoria State (CES) Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Jacob Lupai has vowed to increase food production in the State.

He calls for public and development agencies to work closely with the farmers in an effort to understand the problem of food insecurity.

Dr. Lupai, who was appointed as the new CES Agriculture Minister last month, said the trend at which the State and the country survives on food imported from the neighboring countries need to change.

"You know most of our food is coming from outside and we want to reverse this," Lupai said on Wednesday at his Ministry in Juba on the World Food Day. The day was commemorated under the theme: "Sustainable Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition."

"We want to reverse this by increasing production, by getting involved directly in the field with the farmers, addressing their problems, making the farmers to be the center of production," Lupai said.

"One plan we have is collusion for food security. This means government institutions, development agencies and the farmers have to work together jointly so that we address the problem of food insecurity," he explained.

According to statistics, 70% of South Sudan's population does not have access to healthy food.

The fledgling nation still continues to suffer from the effects of food insecurity as most food items are being imported.

South Sudan's Minister of Agriculture Beda Machar recently warned that a large population of the country is likely to be food insecure by the end of the year following the destruction caused by flood in recent months.

The National Ministry of Agriculture in the newly approved budget has been allocated a total of about SSP 149million. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

VP to supervise ministers' duties

Bakhita Radio Juba, 18/10/2013-The Vice President said the President of the Republic tasked him to supervise the work of the ministers to enable effective service delivery.

James Wani Igga said Salva Kiir Mayardit told him to supervise the ministers and make sure they report for work at 8:00 AM, Bakhita Radio reported.

He said the government is under pressure and there is need to put a working system in place.

VP Igga added that every government employer needed to double effort in their duty.

He said the country needed to change and everybody must work hard to make the difference.

VP Igga noted that the habit of relaying on relief from the UN and other agencies must end to stop depending on the neighbouring countries where the food comes from.

He said the new policy will abolish television sets in offices except for undersecretaries and directors.

The VP added that the liberation struggle was not to bring suffering to the people.

He urged the organized forces to respect human rights or offenders will face justice. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

Japan extends, increases UNMISS participation

Catholic Radio Network Juba, 18/10/2013-The Japanese Government announced on Tuesday that it will extend and increase its participation in UNMISS, the UN Mission in South Sudan.

The current term of the Japanese Ground Self-Defence Force mission in South Sudan as part of U.N. peacekeeping operations expires at the end of the month.

The Japanese contingent will increase from 350 to 400 to expand its area of activities, Japan Times reported.

The Japanese military engineers arrived in South Sudan in November 2011.

They are based in Juba where they have been involved in improving infrastructure, including local roads. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

Girls top boys in CES' 2013 exams

Gurtong Juba, 17/10/2013 - The Central Equatoria State (CES) Minister of Education Hon. Hasten Yokwe on Wednesday announced the State's 2013 examinations results, indicating girls performed better than boys.

"The number of students who sat for the exams this year was 5,137. Of them 3,857 passed representing a percentage of 75.1% passed," Yokwe told journalists on Wednesday.

"Girls performed better than boys," the minister added.

He said 3,113 males sat for the examinations in which 2,282 passed representing a percentage of 73.3% and 2,013 females sat for the examinations and 1,125 passed representing a percentage of 77.8%.

It is the first time South Sudan set its own national School Certificate Examinations.

Announcing the results last week, the National Minister of Education, Science and Technology John Gai said 18,050 students registered for the examinations in the whole country though 17,103 students sat for the exams.

"The overall results indicated a 2% decline in performance compared to the last year's results, said the Minister. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

N. Bahr el Gazal votes on new parliamentary

Sudantribune.com Juba, 17/10/ 2013 - Members of parliament from South Sudan's Northern Bahr el Ghazal state have unanimously approved new parliamentary leadership changes, including the appointment of a new deputy speaker.

The move comes a week after former deputy speaker Athiang Manok Athiang was removed from his position over remarks widely viewed as undermining the independence and integrity of the national legislative assembly.

Multiple legislators who spoke to Sudan Tribune on Wednesday said the changes will only affect a parliamentary committee responsible for human rights and legal affairs.

Member for parliament Angok Achuol said Nyibol Achor had been appointed as the new deputy speaker, while Isaac Makau was named as the committee's new chairperson, after his predecessor decided to run for the position of deputy speaker.

"There is now a new deputy speaker and a new chairperson for [the] human rights and legal affairs committee. The members of Aweil South county, according to the conduct of business of our transitional constitution, were allowed by the house to go and sit down to make [a] selection of who they want to fulfil the position of deputy speaker", Achuol told Sudan Tribune from the state capital, Aweil town.

The legislator further explained that by law a person cannot contest a position while holding another.

The new human rights and legal affairs chairperson also confirmed his appointment in a separate interview after the decision.

"The house today on 16 October allowed us to go and sit down as members of parliament from Aweil South county to select the new deputy speaker because the position was given to us. So it was up to us to bring the person. So five of us who are members of the assembly from the area went and sat down and made the selection", he said.

Prior to the ballot, some members of parliament had expressed uncertainty over whether they would be able to vote without interference.

The seat of deputy speaker was declared vacant on 8 October, after Athiang was removed by simple majority vote.

According to Makau, the position was contested by Garang Majak Bol and Nyibol Achol.

The latter was appointed after securing the support of three members in comparison to the former, who was supported by just one member.

The same applied during the vote for a new committee chairperson, with two members approving Makau's nomination against his rival, Kuot Kuac, who managed to obtain only his own vote and the vote of another member.

"It was a civilised exercise as it ended peacefully. There was no problem. The person who was standing for the position of the deputy speaker said he was going to make a minority report, which we all accepted, because it is his right but the fact remains the same. The report will not change the outcome because the new deputy speaker was democratically elected by the simple majority", the lawmaker explained

The removal of the former deputy speaker followed comments he made in relation to a decision by the house in August when at least 150 members voted to reject the nomination of Telar Riing Deng.

Now a presidential advisor for legal affairs, Deng was president Salva Kiir's nominee for the national minister of justice post following a major cabinet shakeup on 23 July.

Deng's rejection by the house drew mixed reactions, with some members saying the decision undermined the president, while others saw it as an assertion of the parliament's constitutional roles and oversight functions.

It was during this period that Athiang called on the president to dissolve the house, describing members who participated in the vote to reject Deng as "crooks and betrayers".

His comments sparked outrage, forcing the house to convene a special session in which members voted to form a parliamentary select committee drawing membership from all 10 states.

The move was seen as an attempt by the state government to distance itself from getting involved in the conflict with the national parliament, with members subsequently voting to remove Athiang from his post on 7 October.

He has since apologised, claiming he had been overwhelmed by emotions at the time and was not intending to insult the house.

A campaign by members to fill Athiang's position following his removal was terminated on 15 October, after the house reached a consensus that the position should be filled by a member of parliament from the same county as the predecessor. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

No Cases of rift valley fever disease in EES, says Director

Gurtong Torit, 17/10/2013– There is no case of Rift Valley Fever disease outbreak in Eastern Equatoria State (EES) since 2007, an official has said.

Two cases were confirmed when the disease broke out in Riwoto of Kapoeta North County according to Dr. Guari Johntana, the Acting Deputy Director of Veterinary Services and Disease Control at the State Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries.

He told Gurtong that his Ministry's Acting Director General, Mr. Apari Donato is currently in Juba attending a Rift Valley Fever joint workshop. He said there is no confirmed case of the outbreak of the disease in the state.

Latest Media reports of an outbreak of the Rift Valley Fever disease in EES are not correct according to the director

Aluma Araba, Director of Vector and Disease Control in the national Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Tourism, said this was the first time authorities reported an outbreak of rift valley fever disease.

He added that the ministry is preparing an emergency response that requires allocation of more resources to fight what he termed a "serious disease."

Rift Valley fever is a viral disease that affects both animals and humans. It spreads primarily by mosquitoes but can also be transmitted by raw milk or meat if not well cooked from contaminated animals. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

Sudan finalizes draft on border trade with South Sudan

Allafrica.com Addis Ababa, 17/10/2013-Sudanese Trade Minister Osman Omer Al-Sharif said this week that Sudan and South Sudan had finalized a draft agreement aiming to simplify cross-border trade, eliminate tariff and non-tariff barriers, and recognize each other's standards.

The minister said the bilateral trade agreement, which is in line with the Four Freedoms Agreement signed in September 2012 in Addis Ababa, includes banking arrangements for the settling of payments for inbound and outbound payments. The draft agreement also calls for further consultations and coordination between Khartoum and Juba in international fora as well as dispositions aiming to facilitate the flow of merchandise between the two sides. A delegation from the Ministry of Trade will visit the border states with South Sudan after Al-Eid holiday, to prepare dispositions for the crossing points and river ports between the two countries.

Sudan's Interior Minister Ibrahim Mahmoud recently announced Sudan's readiness to resume trade activities with the South Sudan and urged the international community to put pressure on the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North to engage talks to end the conflict in the two border states of Blue Nile and South Kordofan. Presidents Omer Al-Bashir and Salva Kiir agreed during a summit held in Khartoum last month to commission their foreign ministries to coordinate the activities of the over 36 joint committees tasked

with the implement of the Cooperation Agreement. Last week, the Sudan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, tasked with the implementation of the Four Freedoms Agreement, held last week a meeting attended by different ministries to coordinate positions and prepare for the meetings to be held with their South Sudanese counterparts. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

Expulsion of Ugandans from Sudan 'understandable'

The New Vision Kampala, 18/10/2013-The Permanent Secretary Ministry of Trade and Industry Ambassador Julius Onen has waded into the touchy debate about South Sudan's recent edict expelling Ugandans dabbling in petty trade labeling it "understandable."

Onen while interfacing with legislators on the Public Accounts Committee to answer queries highlighted in different reports of the Auditor General about his ministry, stopped short of faulting Ugandans for lacking the foresight to realize that South

Sudanese authorities were bound to draw a curtain on their petty trade at some point.

"The petty trade that Ugandans have been doing in South Sudan should have been a temporary venture," Onen said in response to queries by Wamai Wamanga about alleged maltreatment of Ugandans in Africa's youngest country, adding:

"You cannot have citizens of a different country finding a niche in petty trade in another country."

Onen told riled legislators that those "Ugandans transacting in serious export trade in South Sudan are experiencing no problems."

Since it gained independence two years ago, Ugandans have dominated South Sudan's informal sector with the simmering subsequent disquiet from the locals recently forcing South Sudanese authorities to give a one month ultimatum for Ugandan petty traders to leave the country.

As a result of the large number of Ugandan traders in South Sudan, government at one time toyed with the idea of erecting a modern market in Juba – before reservations by technocrats in Ministry of Trade, according to Onen, scuttled the venture.

As thousands of Ugandans – especially boda boda riders – left Sudan helter-skelter, they were allegedly attacked and dispossessed of their property forcing President Yoweri Museveni's intervention through his counterpart Salva Kiir. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

Sudan agrees to cease hostilities in South Kordofan for polio campaign - UN

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 17/10/ 2013 - Sudanese government agreed to cease hostility for two week next month in South Kordofan to allow the conduct of a vaccination campaign, announced the UN resident and humanitarian coordinator for Sudan, Ali Al-Za'tari.

"I was informed by the government that they will be declaring unilaterally a cessation of hostilities from the 1st to the 14th of November", said Al-Za'tari in an interview from New York to OCHA website released on Wednesday.

He further expressed hope that the Sudan People's Liberation Movement – North (SPLM-N) ceases hostilities and gives them a green light to start the campaign aiming to immunise children under five year against polio and vitamin A deficiency.

The UN humanitarian coordinator in Sudan confirmed that 5th November is agreed to be the start date.

On 3 October, head of Sudanese Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC), Suleiman Abdel-Rahman Suleiman announced that they reached an agreement with the members of the tripartite initiative — UN, AU and Arab league — to carry out the vaccination operation on 5 November.

However, besides the lack of a deal on the cessation of hostilities, the two parties have also to agree on the mode of transporting vaccines and the local humanitarian workers who will participate in the operation.

The SPLM-N demands direct talks with the Sudanese government on the humanitarian truce brokered by the African Union mediation but Khartoum refused saying indirect talks through the members of the tripartite is enough for such measure.

The rebel group further said they want more than two weeks because there is a need to bring the children from the caves in the hills to the vaccination points and to return them back to their families.

The SPLM-N also wants to involve its humanitarian organisation in the operation and suggests that UN peacekeepers in Abyei bring the vaccines to their areas.

The UN Security Council last week issued a press statement calling on the Sudanese parties to urgently reach an agreement on the technical details underlining the imminent threat of polio spreading to South Kordofan from South Sudan, following a recent outbreak in the Horn and East Africa countries.

The vaccination campaign targets mainly 147,000 children in the rebel controlled areas in South Kordofan. In the Blue Nile state there are only 700 children. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

further information or media enquiries please contact:
UNMISS Spokesperson
Tel.: +211 (0) 912 06 7149 or Mobile: +211 (0) 912 396 539