



# United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)

Media & Spokesperson Unit  
Communications & Public Information Office

## MEDIA MONITORING REPORT

TUESDAY, 13 AUGUST 2013

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# Highlights

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## **Kiir instructed justice minister designate to approve \$600m for land acquisition**

*Sudantribune.com Juba, 12/8/2013* – South Sudanese president Salva Kiir has accepted authorizing his appointed justice minister, Telar Ring Deng, to approve \$600 million on behalf of the government, apparently to acquire a land required for the national security services.

Kiir cleared Deng of involvement in a financial scandal, after concerns were raised by South Sudan's parliament's appointing committee that questioned the latter's role in the huge transaction.

"The president has confirmed authorizing Telar Riing Deng to act on behalf of the government. He has written to the committee and the team is studying the constitutionality of the authorization because constitutional post holders including advisors are not supposed to be approving any money", a member of the vetting committee told Sudan Tribune on Monday.

The lawmaker, who preferred anonymity, said the committee is in quest for more information to examine the authenticity of Deng's academic credentials and competence for the key government position.

"Justice Minister should be someone not just high integrity, but someone knowledgeable, experienced and independent because he will be handling legal matters which would require honesty and fairness," he stressed.

"This is why the committee is conducting thorough background check of Telar Deng," he added. "The committee is not against him as a person".

The 11-member select committee, the MP further said, sought to carry out more background check on the newly appointed minister allegedly because information on his personal resume does not reconcile with academic credentials.

"There is a disparity in the information on his Curriculum Vitae (CV). He told the committee that he has a law degree and had been a judge during a war in the SPLA liberated areas, but the academic documents show a degree of Arts. The documents also do not have dates on which the award was made. No transcript and other relevant information", the legislator explained.

President Kiir has also asked public not to interfere with the vetting process, asserting it was following a system.

The president was reacting to claims that the chairperson of the committee, Abuk Payiti, a quiet but conservative lawmaker, held grudges against Justice Minister designate, Telar Ring Deng and his deputy information and broadcasting counterpart, Rachael Nyadak Paul.

Members of the committee were, however, quick to dismiss the allegations, saying their chairperson was merely following the criteria set

The two form part of the new ministers Kiir appointed on 31 July. However, parliament has failed to approve them after it received a letter on 7 August from its select committee, which demanded "more information" before they are cleared.

"This is a system and must be respected. The committee should be allowed to do its work and see how they do it. Let people not interfere with their work"; Kiir told a group seeking influence to use his powers to allegedly bully members of parliament to clear the minister of justice.

## **No Ill-Intentions**

Joseph Ngere Paciko, a member of the vetting committee said his team conducted assessment on the personal resume of individual appointees, interviewing them to assess the level of knowledge and other relevant information about their previous experiences and performances and ascertaining whether or not they are competent to deliver services to the people of South Sudan.

He said that the committee was neither holding grudges against individuals cabinet ministers nor influenced by anyone to target those in the vetting process but that it was doing its work based on criteria.

The committee, he said, had relied on the criteria used by the president to appoint his cabinet ministers and the Transitional Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan 2011.

Paciko said regulation 148 of the Conduct of Business Regulation 2011, gave powers to the speaker and members of the parliament to appoint a select committee.

“There were attempts to discredit the committee by claiming that it was biased because the chairperson of the committee Hon. Abuk Payiti was not neutral because she is holding grudges with the Minister of Justice because her husband, Dr. Peter Adwok Nyaba was one of the ministers dismissed by the president,” he explained.

Other theories went on further to suggest that members of the committee were influenced by some powerful former ministers to make sure that Telar was not sworn in as justice minister, he added.

He however dismissed as false allegation that the select committee members had been bribed to approve the vetting of the embattled justice minister.

The lawmaker, in an interview with Sudan Tribune, described the select committee chaired by Payiti as "a neutral and competent committee, whose members are all committed sons and daughters of the republic of South Sudan."

The Committee has in its disposal the powers accorded to it in Article 57 (h) of the Transitional Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan, 2011.

“The committee was just performing its duties and exercising its mandate in accordance to the law. It is the prerogative of the Select Committee to investigate concerns raised against a candidate and clear them,” observed the lawmaker, who previously served as Western Equatoria state’s deputy governor.

The terms of reference of the select committee are the Conduct of Business Regulations, he added.

### **Vetting Postponed**

Meanwhile, South Sudan’s parliament on Monday moved to a later date the tabling of the final parliamentary report vetting the appointment of the newly appointed justice minister as well as his information and broadcasting counterpart.

The chairperson of the select committee vetting minister said told reporters that the process had to be rescheduled to allow them interview ministers who were not in the country at the time appointments were made by the president.

“The committee would not be able to present the report today [Monday] because we are conducting interviews with the other appointees who were not in the country. They came and the committee is still interviewing them,” Payiti told journalists at parliament.

### **Public Reactions**

Jok Dut, native of Upper Nile State, commended the house for conducting an aggressive background check on Deng and asked the members not to approve his appointment saying the minister does not have the experience to hold the position.

“The minister of justice should be someone with legal background. It should not be filled by anybody because this is where laws of the country are drafted”, Bol told Sudan Tribune Monday.

Bol claimed that Telar will not independent as a justice minister because of his interests in the Dura saga.

“This guy (Telar) is not independent. He is now campaigning around telling community members from Bahr el Ghazal that he would block taking those who were involved in the Durra saga to court. This is why he wants to be appointed. He is not going to be an independent justice minister. The house should not therefore approve his appointment”, Bol further said.

But Mawien Garang Dut, a native Northern Bahr el Ghazal said it is relatives of corrupt ministers who are opposed to Deng’s appointment.

"Those who are against his appointment are relatives of those corrupt ministers. He is competent and also a freedom fighters. He fought for this country. He should be allowed to offer service," Dut told *Sudan Tribune*. ([Back to Top/Headlines](#))

### **Two injured in Akobo shooting**

*Radio Miraya*, 12/8/2013 – At least two people have sustained serious gunshot injuries during a shooting incident in Akobo County, Jonglei State on Monday.

The Sudan People Liberation Army (SPLA) in Akobo said one person has been arrested in connection with the incident.

The suspect Lual Makwach, a soldier is now in custody for further questioning. The casualties are now receiving treatment in Bor hospital. ([Back to Top/Headlines](#))

### **Bor County starts mobilizing residents to return to villages**

*Gurtong.net Bor*, 13/8/2013 – The authorities of Bor Country are mobilizing their people in the state capital to go back to their respective villages despite the prevailing security situation as most of the villages affected by insecurity are deserted.

The commissioner of Bor County Agot Alier Leek has said that there is already a process of mobilizing people in Bor town to go back to their homes.

He said there has been no complete villages in Bor County were people are still maintaining their positions due to fear of insecurity.

"We now have embarked on actually on community mobilization through Chiefs, Members of Parliament (MPs) and then the youth leaders and women leaders trying to inform the people to go back to their villages and I think that process is going on" said the Commissioner.

He told Gurtong that despite the prevailing insecurity, the population has to go back very soon.

"Once you are displaced, you are not at your home and then your own problems increase," he said.

Agot says there is no any single village that is now intact as there is a wide spread of bandits operating in the whole neighbourhood of Pibor County.

"Almost all the villages have been affected, there is no one complete in the villages, and you may get actually in Bor County that is intact," Agot said.

With renegades with David Yau Yau who are still on move, Agot said there are still a lot of problems such as child abduction, cattle raiding and killing of innocent people which has become a daily thing.

Bor County is one of the counties affected by the inter-cattle raids where the civil populations have been evacuated from their homes due to fear. ([Back to Top/Headlines](#))

### **Forum between journalists and security organs commences in Aweil**

*Gurtong.net Aweil*, 13/8/2013 – A two-day discourse workshop between journalists and the security sector in Northern Bahr el Ghazal state has been launched under the theme 'Working towards Mutual Understanding', to help bring together the two divergent institutions work together.

The forum is attended by over 20 journalists from different media houses in the state and several other government officials who are dealing with day to day running of the government affairs, representatives from Police, Prisons, Wildlife, National Army and state ministries.

The Chairman of Union of Journalists of South Sudan (UJOSS), Oliver Modi, in his opening remarks said the day had been set aside to bring the two different components of the nation's backbone which of are of importance together.

Modi said there has been a kind of misunderstanding between journalists and the security personnel and that's why there have been numerous intimidations, harassments, physical torture, unlawful arrest or imprisonments, killings, and many other things journalist encounter when producing stories.

"We are here to bridge a way forward on how the two can understand each other role especially not to be confronting each other carrying out their duties," Modi said.

Modi further added that the two bodies must respect and work together for the protection of citizens and the conduciveness of the working environment for all.

In an interactive forum, journalists complained that their rights to access of information, coverage of some sensitive news and denial of freedom of expression have been highly rated as main challenges affecting them.

Others registered cases where some of the journalists were unlawfully arrested and later after some time set free without trial in the court of law which they say has led to undermining journalists' work and their safety across the country.

Meanwhile the representatives from security organs who turned up in large numbers insist that there have never been cases whereby journalists are physically assaulted or confronted when carrying out their duties and that the matter only relates to few individuals who are of low understanding and temper as well. ([Back to Top/Headlines](#))

### **Relieved commissioner says he was humiliated by opponents**

*Radio Miraya*, 12/8/2013 – The outgoing Commissioner of Pariang County, Unity State has claimed that he was attacked by allies of his successor.

Ex-commissioner, Majok Gatdet Deng, said armed men believed to be allies of the newly appointed commissioner stoned his house on the day he was relieved of his duties.

Gatdet said police have also confiscated from him one government car and his personal pickup.

"I send my own pickup to unity oil field to collect some four barrels of diesel on the way to Pariang the police commander ordered the police confiscate and take the vehicle to police headquarters," he said.

"This is humiliation I condemn it, my things cannot be confiscated using force, it is not a military coup. It is just a normal procedure and how government should be changed, why I should be put under threat."

*Radio Miraya* asked the police for a comment but declined, while the state government Secretary General Dhoal Koryom Lingling denied government involvement and said the incident will be investigated. ([Back to Top/Headlines](#))

### **Official accused of selling alcohol illegally**

*Gurtong.net Rumbek*, 12/8/2013 – Citizens in Lakes State have raised alarm that the state government is not fully enforcing the order banning the sale of local brews and beer in the area as some senior government officials are still involved in the business.

On Friday, residents of Wulu County accused the office manager of Wulu County, John Sunday Ajac, of loading a private mini bus with beer bought from Mvolo County of Western Equatoria State.

Residents said that one bottle of beer is sold at 10 South Sudanese pounds and the office manager turned his own private house into a secret bar.

One man who requested anonymity said senior government officials who have several connections with big hotels sell their beer but communities are denied to sell their beer or local brews made from cassava.

The resident also said that Ajac converted a private house as secret bar but county authorities are silent about it.

John Sunday Ajac was not available to comment on the allegations.

In June, Lakes state military caretaker Governor Maj-Gen Matur Chut Dhuol ordered the banning of local brew and sell of beer across eight counties of Lakes state.

Women across the state are complaining that the ban on alcohol introduced by the military caretaker governor has deprived them of their livelihood, meaning that they are unable to feed their children or pay school fees.

Some widows said they have been forced to feed their children with wild fruits collected from the forest.

Governor Duol ordered the alcohol ban after a series of violent clashes between rival cattle raiding groups but it has been resisted by some bar owners with political connections.

However, women without connections in the government have complained that they have no other option but the government has so far overlooked their concerns.

In March, Lakes state's security services carried out an intensive search for alcohol in Rumbek Central market just days after the military caretaker governor banned the sale of alcohol in the state.

Dhuol also instructed members of the security forces to arrest on sight anyone found drinking, either in town or in the cattle camps.

Several women groups, mainly comprising those who lost their husbands during the long civil war with Sudan, have protested the governor's decision to ban their alcohol brewing businesses in the state.

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### **Police investigating death of 25-year-old man**

*Gurtong.net Rumbek, 13/8/2013* – South Sudan Police service (SSPS) are investigating the death of a 25-year-old man whose body was found hanging in a remote village of Wulu County, Lakes State.

Police officer who requested anonymity said that “Nyoli Dojo Miran hanged himself or someone maybe hanged him to death, the reason is not known.”

The incident happened in Gulumar Boma under Barhgel Payam of Wulu County. This is the first time such dead incident of hanging is being reported in Wulu County especially in Gulumar which is believed to be peaceful place in Wulu County of Lakes state. [\(Back to Top/Headlines\)](#)

### **Police say poor roads hinder security patrols in Juba**

*Radio Miraya, 12/8/2013* – South Sudan Police Service said combating insecurity in Juba becomes difficult due to poor roads.

Speaking to Radio Miraya, Police Spokesperson Col. James Monday Enoka said most areas in the city are impassable, preventing police rescue teams from responding urgently to security threats, especially at night.

Spokesperson Enoka identified Rock City residential area as one of the areas with most impassable roads in Juba.

“If you see Rock City the terrain is very difficult, there is lot of hills; the roads have not been opened up. The police find it difficult to response to emergency calls,” he said.

“We still appeal to the Ministry of Physical Infrastructure to at least speed the process of opening up roads to facilitate easy movement.”

Meanwhile, Central Equatoria State Minister for Physical Infrastructure, Samuel Soba, said the state has procured graders and bulldozers to start upgrading roads in the state. Soba confirmed that the program will start soon. [\(Back to Top/Headlines\)](#)

### **Police in Warrap state need uniforms and training; says DPI.**

*Eye Radio, 12/8/2013* – Police in Pan Nyok Payam in Warrap state urgently need uniforms and more officers to manage security effectively say the Deputy Police Inspector of the area.

DPI Aguek Bol Yor said that the Payam must also stop using volunteers and untrained personnel.

“At least the Payam headquarters need 15 policemen and trained police in the Bomas for the community to respect them,” he said.

The national police spokesperson, Colonel James Monday Enoka told Eye Radio that “currently the officers down there come from the background of the police which is the SPLA, Militia group, or old Sudan and even from civilians”

Colonel Enoka said “not only in Warrap state, most of the states, the uniform were run out and they need new ones which we have already received and have sent to the states, but there are some bad roads in some places. It is a matter of time otherwise we are already in custody of new uniforms which we have received and distribution have already started” Colonel Monday also said all police must have “proper training as security personnel”. ([Back to Top/Headlines](#))

### **South Sudanese should pay taxes to keep the government honest: Analyst**

*Eye Radio, 12/8/2013* – A leading analyst has urged South Sudanese to pay taxes in a bid to ensure the government achieves its development goals. Dr. Jok Madut Jok the Executive Director of the SUDD Institute and Undersecretary in the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports said that by paying taxes, citizens can hold the government accountable.

“People who pay taxes do two things; one, they spend cautiously because they know it is coming from them and that money needs to go to services that benefits all of us such as roads, education and healthcare and so forth,” he said.

The Commissioner General of Central Equatoria state revenue authority Michael Amule Joseph has also encouraged the government to take a more vigorous approach to raise the collection of taxes above the current minimal.

“Payment of taxes is a national obligation, and this is the corner stone to development, in order for the government to realize the developmental plans that it has put forward,” he said.

“Collecting taxes include; property tax, income tax and poll tax. Even cattle should be taxed” said Jok Madut, who also said taxes should be levied on many different services to ensure enough revenue gained by the government.

Taxes aid the government to develop infrastructure like roads, hospitals, legal protection, welfare security, environmental conservation and education among other services. ([Back to Top/Headlines](#))

### **Minister concerned with increase of street children**

*Radio Miraya, 12/8/2013* – The new Minister of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, Awut Deng Acuil, has expressed serious concern over the growing number of street children in urban centres across South Sudan.

She made the remarks during a joint inauguration ceremony for ministers held in Juba on Monday where they set out their agenda for their coming term of office.

Minister Awut said she would do all she could to reduce the number of children living on the streets with the help of outside agencies.

The deputy Minister of Youth, Culture and Sports, Josephine Napon Cosmas, also urged youth to cooperate with relevant authorities to curb what she described as enormous challenges facing youth in the country.

Meanwhile the Minister of Electricity, Dams, Irrigation and Water Resources Jemma Nunu Kumba, said she will exert necessary effort to provide clean drinking water to the city population but said this will only be achieved through teamwork. ([Back to Top/Headlines](#))

### **Road accident leaves one dead, two others in critical conditions**

*Easter Radio, 12/8/2013* – A road accident in Yei River County of Central Equatoria State left one Boda-boda rider dead and two others hospitalized in critical conditions.

The Deputy Traffic Police Officer Andrew Kenyi said two Boda-boda riders collided at Kinji road, Easter Radio reported. He urged motorists not to over speed to avoid accidents and loss of lives in the county. The two victims are currently receiving medical treatment at Yei civil hospital. ([Back to Top/Headlines](#))

### **Suspected measles cases reported in Yei**

*Gurtong.net Yei, 13/8/2013* – Suspected measles disease cases have been reported in Yei River County, Central Equatoria State.

Michael Lugala Nicholas, the County Disease Surveillance Officer at the County Health Department reported that there are children suspected of suffering from measles admitted at Yei Civil Hospital.

Michael said some blood samples were taken to Juba for laboratory confirmation by the State Ministry of Health, UNICEF and the World Health Organization.

The laboratory results are not yet out.

The disease occurrences are being reported in areas of Mahad, Lomuku and Hai Jezzira all in Yei town payam in Yei River County.

Measles disease is characterized by rashes developing on the body of a child, red eyes, high fever, running nose and sometime accompanied by diarrhea.

The disease kills if not treated urgently, as the child gets dehydrated due to severe diarrhea, rashes and high fever.

Michael said surveillance team at the county Health Department started recording the cases of measles in June.

He attributed the occurrences to the neglect, resistance and ignorance by some parents to take their children for measles and other vaccinations.

Michael added there are some returnees from Sudan and refugees from the Democratic Republic Congo who reside in Yei whom their children do not have immunization cards and have not received measles' vaccines; this might have contributed to the occurrences of the measles in the county.

He said the County Health Department is strategizing the extension of the outreach programs to cover the areas where children are not yet being immunized.

The Department is also looking forward in using media in the sensitization of the communities on the importance of vaccinations to the lives of the children in the communities.

Michael also revealed there are cases of Hypertension B been confirmed in the greater Yei, adding the County Health Department, State Ministry of Health and International Health partners are going to introduce another new vaccine to fight Hypertension B.

Sayida Rose Mary Bismarck, a nurse working at the pediatric ward at Yei Civil hospital said the hospital receives more than five children every week suffering from Measles.

She urged the parents to make sure their children get vaccinated against measles and other diseases, adding that if measles attacks a child when the child is carrying the vaccine, the case will be a minor compared to when the child has not been vaccinated against measles.

Yei Town alone has four Health Centers where immunizations are being carried out on daily basis; these centers include Yei Civil Hospital, St. Bakhita, Evangelical Presbyterian Church and Martha Clinic.

Polio also stands as another threat to the county and the Nation, as Yei County borders the Democratic Republic Congo where cases of polio still remain high.

Though the County Health Department has good strategies and logistics on ground to carry out the sensitization campaigns on the measles and other disease, the running costs of these vehicles remains a big challenge for the surveillance team to reach the uncovered areas in the county. ([Back to Top/Headlines](#))

### **Juba accuses Khartoum of moving troops beyond centerline**

*Sudantribune.com* Juba, 12/8/2013 – A senior South Sudan Army General on Monday accused the government of neighbouring Sudan of moving troops into the contested centerline along the border that divides the two countries.

Lieutenant General Gabriel Jok Riak, commander of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) Sector II in Unity State, told *Sudan Tribune* in an exclusive that "unusual movement" of Sudanese troops had been detected in the first week of August around the areas of Teskuin in Unity State and 4 Miles area in Northern Barh- Ghazal State.

"The general security situation along the border areas has been relatively quiet but in the first week of August our troops started witnessing unusual movement of the troops from the Sudanese side of the border into areas beyond centerline", said Lieutenant General Gabriel Jok Riak.

Teskuin and 4 Miles areas are claimed by the two countries. Also they disagree on the delimitation of the centerline proposed by the mediation, a matter that complicates the operationalization of the buffer zone.

On 5th August tension flared along the non-demarcated 2000-km borderline that divides South Sudan and Sudan after skirmishes during patrol by soldiers on both sides.

Khartoum blamed the clash on Juba but South Sudan denied that its soldiers triggered the skirmish. Instead the SPLA claimed the Sudanese soldiers crossed into Panthou or Heglig.

Lieutenant General Gabriel Jok Riak told Sudan Tribune that SPLA posts came under heavy gunfire attack from Sudan soldiers at Teskuin on 5th August prompting a response from South Sudan in what he called "self defence".

"The SPLA (Sudan People's Liberation Army) responded in self defence to firing from the Sudan Armed Forces which crossed into areas beyond centerline", said Jok Riak who accused the Sudanese army of entering inside Unity State in South Sudan.

Lieutenant General Gabriel Jok Riak said there were no deaths or injuries on civilians during the shoot-out but accused Sudan of not wanting peace.

"Sudan does not want peace to prevail in this region", he said. "This becomes clear from military incursion inside the South Sudanese territory and provocative actions along the border line". ([Back to Top/Headlines](#))

### **South Sudan and Sudan's negotiations will continue: Foreign Minister**

*Radio Miraya, 12/8/2013* – South Sudan's Foreign Affairs Minister, Dr. Barnaba Marial Benjamin, said South Sudan and Sudan will continue to negotiate for a lasting peace.

Minister Marial said the negotiations will continue in the interests of citizens in both countries. He was speaking at his first press conference as Foreign Minister since he was appointed last month.

Marial was the first Minister to be announced in the new Cabinet, which was sworn into office last week. ([Back to Top/Headlines](#))

### **Sudan extends oil flow deadline**

*News24 Cairo, 12/8/2013* – Sudan will extend a deadline to allow the flow of oil from South Sudan until 6 September in a move following mediation by the African Union to keep crude exports flowing, the Sudanese state news agency said.

"There will be an extension to the flow of South Sudan oil for two extra weeks until 6 September," it said.

The African Union has stepped up efforts to prevent the production shut-down, starting an investigation of the Sudanese allegations. Ethiopia also mediated between the former civil war foes. ([Back to Top/Headlines](#))

### **Heiban Commissioner urges parents to put education top**

*Voice of Peace, 13/8/2013* – Heiban Commissioner in Nuba Mountains urged citizens to put education the top priority in the County. Mubarak Bolis Tutu advised parents to stop denying children's right for education, but send them to schools.

He said education is a right tool for bringing up children for better future. Mr Bolis also urged the youths to study and advised those who cannot afford their studies to farm to produce enough food.

He challenged youths against staying idleness in the county. Commissioner Bolis made the remarks during his visit to Kauda administrative Unit on Monday. ([Back to Top/Headlines](#))

## **Sudan becomes the newest player in Syria's protracted conflict: NYT**

*New York Times/Sudantribune.com* Washington, 12/8/2013 – The Sudanese government has been selling Chinese and local-made weapons to the Arab Gulf state of Qatar which in turn has been shipping it to rebels in Syria who have staged an uprising against Bashar al-Assad's rule since 2011, U.S. officials and rebels told the *New York Times* (NYT).

The shipments included newly manufactured small-arms cartridges and anti-aircraft missiles which were desperately sought by rebels over the last year to neutralize Assad's superior firepower.

Two American officials told NYT that Ukrainian-flagged aircraft had delivered the shipments. Air traffic control data from an aviation official in the region shows that at least three Ukrainian aviation transport companies flew military-style cargo planes this year from Khartoum, the Sudanese capital, to a military and civilian airfield in western Turkey.

Western analysts and officials said Sudan's clandestine participation in arming rebels in Syria suggests inherent tensions in Bashir's foreign policy, which broadly supports Sunni Islamist movements while maintaining a valued relationship with the Shia theocracy in Iran.

Other officials suggested that a simple motive was at work — money. Sudan is struggling with a severe economic crisis after losing the oil-rich south in July 2011.

"Qatar has been paying a pretty penny for weapons, with few questions asked," one American official familiar with the transfers told NYT.

"Once word gets out that other countries have opened their depots and have been well paid, that can be an incentive" the official added.

But officials in Khartoum speaking to NYT, vehemently denied the claims but nonetheless said that if Sudan's weapons were indeed seen with Syria's rebels then perhaps Libya had provided them.

Sudan supplied Libyan rebels with weapons during their war to overthrow Gaddafi's regime in 2011.

However, the NYT argued that this would not explain the Sudanese-made 7.62x39-millimeter ammunition this year in rebel possession near the Syrian city of Idlib.

The ammunition, according to its stamped markings, was made in Sudan in 2012 — after the war in Libya had ended. It was used by Soqor al-Sham, an Islamist group that recognizes the Western-supported Syrian National Coalition's military command.

Also it would not explain the presence of FN-6 anti-aircraft missiles in Syrian rebel units. Neither the Gaddafi loyalists nor the rebels in Libya were known to possess those weapons in 2011, analysts who track missile proliferation told NYT.

But detailed photos of one of the FN-6 missile tubes, provided by a Syrian with access to the weapons, showed that someone had taken steps to obscure its origin. Stenciled markings, the photos showed, had been covered with spray paint. Such markings typically include a missile's serial number, lot number, manufacturer code and year of production.

Rebels said that before they were provided with the missiles, months ago, they had already been painted, either by the seller, shipper or middlemen, in a crude effort to make tracing the missiles more difficult.

Still Sudanese officials were adamant they were not part of the rebels' supply network.

"Sudan has not sent weapons to Syria," said Emad Sid Ahmad, the press secretary for Sudanese President Omer Hassan al-Bashir.

The spokesman of the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) Colonel al-Sawarmi Khalid Saad for his part said that the allegations defied common sense, except perhaps as a smear.

"We have no interest in supporting groups in Syria, especially if the outcome of the fighting is not clear," Col. Saad said.

"These allegations are meant to harm our relations with countries Sudan has good relations with" he added.

When told that the newly produced Sudanese cartridges were photographed with Syrian rebels, Col. Saad's response was that "Pictures can be fabricated...That is not evidence".

A Qatari official on the other hand said he had no information about a role by his country in procuring or moving military equipment from Sudan.

Despite initial cheers over this line of weaponry, Syrian rebels later complained that they often turned defective.

One rebel commander, Abu Bashar, who coordinates fighting in Aleppo and Idlib Provinces, called the missiles, which he said had gone to Turkey from Sudan and had been provided to rebels by a Qatari intelligence officer, a disappointment.

"Most of the FN-6s that we got didn't work," he said. He said two of them had exploded as they were fired, killing two rebels and wounding four others.

If Sudan's role in feeding weapons to Syria rebels is true, it will reveal a new aspect of Sudan's frequently messy foreign policy.

Bashir and his government have initially called events in Syria a conspiracy caused by foreign meddling.

"Syria is exposed to a foreign conspiracy because of its firm position on Arab issues and any weakening of Syria is a free service to enemies of the Arab nation," Bashir was quoted as saying in October 2011 after meeting with Syrian deputy foreign minister Faisal al-Mikdad in Khartoum.

But as Sudan appeared to have a change of heart on the Syrian conflict, Damascus signaled that it feels betrayed by Khartoum.

"So how did Sudan act with us today? Total silence. Why? Of course they have their reasons but I don't want to justify these excuses," Yussef al-Ahmad, Syria's ambassador to Egypt and the Arab League asked in response to Khartoum voting in favor of Arab League vote suspending his country's membership in the Pan-Arab body in November 2011.

Sudan not only supported this resolution but convinced Mauritania and Somalia to back it, according to diplomats who spoke to Reuters at the time.

"You all remember that the president of Sudan was wanted [by the ICC] but when Sudan was partitioned do you hear now about any specific requests? That's it. The required task was dividing Sudan," al-Ahmad added.

Arab newspapers at the time had published that Syrian ambassador in a closed Arab League session admonished Sudan's foreign minister Ali Karti for his country's stance.

"Even Sudan and we are the ones who are defending it...This is a shame on Sudan and the Arab League," Yussef al-Ahmad told Karti again in the hallway after the meeting according to the London based Al-Sharq Al-Awsat.

It remains to be seen how Sudan's closest allies such as Iran, China and Russia will react to reports that it is supplying weapons to Syrian rebels.

All four countries are considered the main backers of Assad. China and Russia have blocked several United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions condemning the Syrian regime.

Beijing in particular may be irked by knowing that weapons it sold to Khartoum has ended up with anti-Assad insurgents. ([Back to Top/Headlines](#))

### **East Darfur governor survives assassination attempt as tribal tensions worsen**

*Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 12/8/2013* – The governor of East Darfur, Abdel Hamid Musa Kasha, has escaped an assassination attempt on Monday after gunmen affiliated with the Maalia tribe attacked him in the Adila locality, which recently witnessed a fresh wave of tribal violence.

The governor, who is a member of the rival Rizeigat tribe, had apparently been visiting the Maalia stronghold, in a bid to calm recent tribal tensions, which escalated on the weekend, resulting in the death and injury of at least 150 people.

Kasha was reportedly surrounded by the hostile group of youths armed with sticks and batons inside the locality headquarters where he was meeting with the commissioner and the security committee inside.

Bullets were fired at the building, with the police evacuating the governor and the security delegation.

Kasha was accompanied by senior military officials including the Sudanese army chief-of-staff, Lt. Gen. Ahmed Ali, and the commander of East Darfur's army division, Maj. Gen. Isam Sheriff.

Maalia elders who intervened to prevent the youth from harming the governor were themselves injured by the angry mob.

It is believed the youth wanted to avenge the killings in tribal clashes over the past few days. The Maalia accuse the East Darfur government of siding with the Rizeigat and supplying government vehicles and weapons. Both the army and police have also been accused of carrying out the killings themselves.

Reliable sources from East Darfur state told *Sudan Tribune* that the Maalia were angered by Kasha's statements to the media in which he denied that violent clashes in the state are tribal conflicts.

The governor is also accused of trying to mislead public opinion and the federal government by representing the Maalia-Rizeigat conflict as fighting between the Rizeigat and rebel groups.

The Maalia further accuse Kasha of seeking to antagonize the Sudanese army and the regular forces by portraying their tribe as a rebel group, and say he is committing ethnic cleansing against them.

SPLM-N secretary general Yasir Arman condemned the tribal clashes in East Darfur. He said in a statement he extended to *Sudan Tribune* that the ongoing violence "reflects the result of the policies of divide and rule of the National Congress government".

"This new plan of the National Congress is a recipe for a new genocide at the time when the ongoing genocide has not ended", he said.

Arman further called on the Sudanese and Darfurians particularly to use reunite their efforts to challenge the NCP plans, which threaten the social fabric in Darfur and the whole Sudan, and to bring down the regime. He also called for an international condemnation to Khartoum's policy in the region. ([Back to Top/Headlines](#))

### **Japan & U.S. offer assistance to flood-stricken Sudan, SAF steps to help affected areas**

*Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 12/8/2013* – The United States and Japan said on Monday that they are providing relief supplies to help alleviate suffering of people affected by floods that hit different areas of Sudan amid heightened fears over forecasts projecting more rainfall in the next couple of days.

The U.S. embassy in Khartoum, in statement obtained by *Sudan Tribune* on Monday, said that it is providing \$50,000 in additional humanitarian assistance to support life-saving aid for flood-affected populations.

The statement noted that since early August, heavy rainfall and resultant flash flooding have affected approximately 147,000 people across eight states in Sudan, including more than 84,000 in Khartoum, damaging or destroyed houses and public infrastructure.

The embassy added that this additional humanitarian assistance will support the International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC) and Red Crescent Societies (RCS) for ongoing needs assessment in coordination with a local partner and to provide immediate relief assistant to communities.

"Our emergency contribution of \$50,000 is in addition to more than \$147 million in United States government funding to humanitarian partners to provide assistance in Sudan this fiscal year", added the statement.

The Japanese ambassador to Khartoum, Ryoichi Horie, for his part, said in the handover ceremony for emergency assistance in response to Sudan's floods disaster, that his country's aid includes tents, water purifiers, electric generators, sleeping pads and other items worth 16 million yen, which is equivalent to \$166,000.

Horie announced that an airplane carrying some of the emergency relief goods will arrive in Khartoum on Monday for the sake of supporting the victims' daily life in Sudan.

The Japanese ambassador extended condolence and sympathy to those who suffered from the floods disaster, pointing that hundreds of thousands of people are still in urgent need of essentials such as foods, water, and tents.

He added that Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is also supporting the residents of 'Maraabiiu Al-Sharif' in Khartoum State by distributing basic foods such as rice, oil, sorghum, wheat and other commodities.

Today Sudan's defense minister, Abdel-Rahim Mohamed Hussein, has issued a directive asking all military personnel in Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) to offer support for the affected populations, calling for allocating all army resources to help them.

SAF spokesperson, Al-Sawarmi Khalid Saad, said that the defense minister ordered provision of all possible assistance to the affected, adding that the Air Force continues its intensive efforts surveying the affected areas as well as moving government officials and aiding the affected.

He pointed that SAF had provided four boats and an ambulance to evacuate the affected people in Maraabiiu Al-Sharif to the military hospital in al-Ailafoon.

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said in a statement that it has provided, along with its partners, a range of emergency relief items, including tents, plastic sheeting, blankets, water cans, buckets and mosquito nets from its emergency stockpiles in Khartoum state.

"Other emergency support is currently being mobilized, particularly food, shelter, water, sanitation, hygiene and health services," OCHA said.

The statement stressed that the UN and its partners remain committed to assisting flood-affected communities and supporting the Government's relief efforts throughout the country.

Today the Qatar state news agency (QANOL) confirmed that the Emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, has ordered dispatch of urgent relief to Sudan, on board of two cargo planes.

The 80-tonne aid is an expression of Qatar's stand along with Sudan and its people to counter the effects of the heavy rains and floods that swept through some of its areas recently, an official at the Qatari foreign ministry told QANOL.

Sudan official news agency (SUNA) announced that the first plane arrived in Khartoum in the early hours of Tuesday.

The Sudanese foreign minister Ali Karti today chaired a meeting on how to procure foreign assistance which has so far been meager compared with level of help provided by world nations during the 1988 floods.

UAE news agency (WAM) quoted the Speaker of the Arab Parliament Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Jarwan as appealing Arab countries, Arab League, Red Crescent, and Red Cross, regional and international organisations to provide urgent humanitarian relief to the Sudanese people.

### **Kiir condoles Bashir**

The Sudanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs said today has received a message of from South Sudan president Salva Kiir to his Sudanese counterpart Omer Hassan al-Bashir expressing sympathy and condolence over the flood victims and losses resulting from the heavy rainfalls that hit Sudan this month.

In a related issue, the Sudan People Liberation Movement North (SPLM-N) called on the government to declare the affected areas of Sudan disaster areas.

"It is the biggest floods witnessed by Sudan since 1946 and 1988, and the floods expose the inefficiency and inability of the corrupt government of the National Congress [Party], which continues to deny the magnitude of the disaster and it continues to demonstrate a lack of capacity and concern," said a statement signed by SPLM-N Secretary General Yasir Arman.

"The SPLM-Sudan repeats its earlier calls on the National Congress government to take this situation seriously and to declare a state of emergency, to identify the areas affected as disaster areas, and to

allow the regional and international agencies, especially the United Nations, to intervene and to provide the necessary assistance," Arman said.

The heavy rains and floods that hit different areas in Sudan in the past few days have led to the death of at least 60 people and injured dozens as well as destroying thousands of homes. Many ordinary citizens voiced rage over poor preparations by the government and inadequate response to the floods.

Yesterday, the Civil Defense Council in the Nile state announced that 36 people were killed as a result of the floods and that 5,000 homes have collapsed either partially or completely. This has caused 1,600 families to be homeless, it added.

The Sudanese Red Crescent Society and the Commission for Voluntary and Humanitarian Work estimated last week that 98,500 people have been affected in Khartoum, River Nile, Blue Nile, North Darfur, South Darfur, Northern and Red Sea states between 1 and 4 August.

The states in Sudan that were most affected included Khartoum (56,000), River Nile (33,000), West Kordofan (12,000), North Darfur (8,000), Blue Nile (6,000), Red Sea (3,000), Northern (1,000) and South Darfur (1,000).

Drainage is poor in the capital of Sudan, where even a little rain can cause flooding, but this year's water surge was unusually severe.

Local officials said that ten people were killed last week including eight family members as in Sudan's twin capital of Omdurman and thousands of homes were damaged. ([Back to Top/Headlines](#))

### **The Sudanese regime lost face before the international community'**

*Theniles.org Khartoum, 13/8/2013* - Sudanese opposition representatives met in Geneva in July, attending a gathering of representatives from the EU, USA, Canada, France and Switzerland organized by the Center of Humanitarian Dialogue.

*Q: Mr. Muhammadeen, did the lack of local opposition representatives, including the leadership of the National Consensus Forces (NCF), make this meeting a failure? Will there be any real results?*

**A:** Had all the opposition parties attended the meeting, it would have had great significance, especially in light of the confusion that happened in the aftermath of the Kampala meeting and the divergent attitudes of the opposition vis-à-vis the New Dawn Charter. Consequently, the failure of all opposition parties was negative for all parties in the meeting. However, it cannot be said that the meeting failed, considering that influential forces were there. The general atmosphere was positive.

*Q: How do you view the government's objection to the meeting, which led them to prevent NCF representatives from attending?*

**A:** We have reiterated that the armed opposition is a reality, which cannot be ignored by the regime. In fact, it is the other way round. Failure to recognise or negotiate with it would lead to one option only: the escalation of armed action. And the recent military operation in North Kordofan is clear evidence of this.

The regime might have partially succeeded in disrupting the opposition's meeting, but it lost face before the international community. This was alluded to by the meeting's delegates and organizers. That was a major gain for the opposition -- revealing the true face of the regime.

*Q: But Sudanese opposition, such as the Baath Party, or the Revolutionary Front or the Sudan Liberation Movement led by Abdul Wahid al-Nur, also had reservations about the Geneva meeting.*

**A:** It is not logical to view the opposition as if it is one organisation; it is a broad-based alliance comprising several parties, each with its attitudes. It constantly struggles to meet and work together under the terms of minimum shared positions. It is natural that it differs about certain issues, as happened after the 'New Dawn' meeting.

Difference is a natural, expected, thing. What really matters is how ready these forces are to iron out their differences or conflicting views on issues.

Generally speaking, the opposition today is more united than ever before about its position towards the regime. Attitudes become more and more evident, and are moving in one direction: to oust the regime.

*Q: What do you think of participants' declarations that they are prepared to negotiate with the government?*

**A:** The meeting was held under a single agenda: To explore the possibility of building a comprehensive national dialogue. All participating parties and the parties supposed to attend the meeting were fully aware of this -- but this is something very different from negotiating with the regime.

We believe that the importance of the meeting was as an opportunity for the opposition to present its vision regarding the future of the country as a whole before the international community, and that is what happened. All parties stressed the impossibility of entering into any form of negotiations with the regime -- and offered many examples and evidence for that stance.

*Q: The opposition can't agree on key issues, doesn't that hamper its chances of negotiating with the regime?*

**A:** Whatever the opposition's problems are, no party can talk about negotiating with the regime. Many parties within the NCF have tried that but their attempts have come to nothing.

*Q: The SNA appears to be moving beyond the framework of the opposition alliance. Last January, SNA Leader Abdul Aziz Khaled signed the New Dawn Charter in isolation from the internal opposition. And now you participate separately in the Geneva meeting. Does this mean you are now closer to the Revolutionary Front, especially given your historical background as an armed movement?*

**A:** We were back to the homeland, and announced through our third conference that we were a political force that would struggle peacefully for toppling the current regime. We have now and again said the problem of Sudan will not be resolved by a single party, regardless of its power. Consequently, the unity of the opposition is a key goal of our party.

We are a force for peace and freedom, and our role is to work in that direction all the time. Our efforts should be understood as a national move aimed to unify the forces that believe in democracy, freedom and peace, in order to find a way out of the country's severe crisis. All parties testify that we have presented several initiatives in this regard. We will continue our efforts in this direction, and will spare no efforts towards achieving that goal.

Our participation in the Geneva meeting has given us the opportunity to explain to the international community that it made a mistake in its dealings with Sudan, focusing on peace first and freedom later. That concept eventually resulted in the loss of the country's unity and peace.

We have emphasized that freedom is a prerequisite for peace, which cannot be protected by agreements, mechanisms, monitoring systems, or international troops, but by the people only. And the people will only be able to play its role when freedom is ensured.

We have explained that Sudan needs a Sudanese version of international community's stance towards Syria, where it has thrown its full weight behind the opposition. ([Back to Top/Headlines](#))

*The views expressed in this report do not necessarily reflect the positions or opinions of the publishers of [www.theniles.org](http://www.theniles.org).*

### **Voice of America Interview with David Yau Yau (Aired 7 August 2013)**

*Voice of America, 7/8/2013* – South Sudan rebel leader said the cabinet changes in Juba will not bring peace to Jonglei state. David Yau Yau (**DYY**) said the recent reshuffle by President Kiir is not enough to convince his group to negotiate a peace deal with Juba. He says his rebel group wants a separate state for the Murle community in Jonglei state.

Yau Yau is calling the African Union and United Nations to help mediate any talks with President Kiir.

**DYY:** Since President Kiir Mayardit has made some changes, still we are demanding our rights as Murle community to our own state and could be the only remedy; it could be the only solution that may put to an end this day today problem that has gone through the years of everyone in the whole world. And Jonglei state has been gotten a number of governors but none of these has brought remedies to our communities but it splitted and keep increasing the problem to our communities particularly the Murle community, it will be only when they are granted their own state they can be free and this problem will finish.

VOA: Let me get you right Mr Yau Yau, you are saying your movement or organization is fighting to protect the interest of the Murle community?

DYY: Yeah this is aah, we are not to refuse the government of South Sudan but we are demanding our own rights but within the government.

VOA: So what kind of rights are we talking about here?

DYY: Yeah the kind of rights there have been lot of things that might have come to your ears and everyone's ears and for us to receive our own rights is when we have gotten our own state. It is when we are given our own state to leave freely. If we are still living under the administration of Jonglei that means that we have not freed ourselves from the tragedy that has been faced by our community the whole world.

VOA: You had mentioned earlier that if you want to talk with the government of south Sudan, you would like the United Nations and African Union to be present. Now this condition that you are putting forward that you want the Murle to have their own state within Jonglei state, is this what you are going to present to the African Union and the United Nations?

DYY: That is a point that is a point that will sphere us or else finish us all. This is our standing point, it is to have our own state because all these problems has been happening and there is no way how this things could be tackled unless when the Murle are to be separated from Jonglei state and I believe it will put there problem into the hand, and everyone in south Sudan will be in peace.

VOA: The elders in Murle community have been communicating with you and asking you to talk peace, is this what you told them that you want from the government of South Sudan?

DYY: This is what we wanted but we have not had enough communication with them because this issue, it is not a County or state level, but it has reach international level of which this we prefer this has to be tackled internationally. We have not yet had any communication or any organization on how to tackle these issues up to now. But the leaders of South Sudan are there and everyone is there, but there was not any talking at all. However this time round we prefer this issue the international community to help us involve this, we as Southerners have failed to arrive to a solution of our own problem, then we need to be helped because the issue has really caused a lot of loss of human life, a lot of havoc and instability.

VOA: Where are you speaking from?

DYY: Right; I am speaking from the ground of Pibor County.

VOA: Where exactly in Pibor?

DYY: Well I am in the town side. ([Back to Top/Headlines](#))

### **Emmanuel Jal: 'Our freedom fighters have become dictators'**

*New Internationalist*, 13/8/2013 – 'Ask yourself, what can I do as a South Sudanese to make my country better?' asks Emmanuel Jal from the stage of Hackney's Round Chapel Auditorium, during a break from the delirious dancing, hand-clapping and flag-waving that greets the rest of his performance. It is a question that both the diaspora and those inside the world's newest nation have been asking for two years now, and one that Jal has been attempting to answer for quite some time.

Marking the country's second anniversary of independence in July, South Sudan Oyee Live brought together diasporans from across Britain for a night of celebration, fundraising and live performances, with Jal the stellar attraction. After the performance we sit down to chat in a small room in the church's underbelly, Jal evidently exhausted from his contortionist-like movements on stage and the physical and mental excursions of such an emotional evening:

'It's an event to remember the whole of Sudan,' he says. 'To remind ourselves that the freedom we have, the identity that we have now did not come easy. The women who were raped in the war, the women who gave up their children, the soldiers who died in the war – it is to remember them – and to celebrate that we are here.'

From child soldier to peace activist

An outspoken critic of the government, Jal has had a remarkable journey, from boy soldier to refugee to acclaimed hip-hop musician (his debut album *War Child* tells his harrowing tale) and prominent peace activist (he has set up the GUA Africa, Lose to Win and We Want Peace charities to help development in his homeland). Not surprisingly, the softly spoken artist has become something of a cultural icon for the new South Sudan.

Music is the only thing that speaks to your mind, your heart and your soul system, and influences you without you even knowing it

‘The very people who fought for our freedom now attempt to take our freedom away – they become dictators. Even though the government says they want money to build roads and invest in agriculture, that money is being pocketed for themselves.’

It was this fight for freedom that Jal took part in. A soldier in the Sudan People’s Liberation Army (SPLA) from the age of seven, Jal, like thousands of other ‘lost boys’ fighting in the rebel movement, was indoctrinated with the ways of war and an acute hatred of those in the North. By the age of 12 though, he had become disillusioned with the war effort and sought a way out.

What ensued was a treacherous three-month walk to eastern Sudan, being smuggled onto a Kenyan plane by British aid worker Emma McCune (the inspiration behind his song ‘Emma’) and finally reaching Nairobi where McCune looked after him and gave him an education. However, when McCune was killed in car crash only months later, Jal was forced to the streets and it was from there that he began to use music as a way to convey the extraordinary experiences of his young life.

‘Music is the only thing that speaks to your mind, your heart and your soul system, and influences you without you even knowing it. You can use music to reach out to the people and give a positive message and the unification of our people requires a lot of different things to move together. I have an opportunity to have a voice in my country and push my country forward, so I’m just trying to do the best I can.’

### **A common identity**

And his is a voice which is being heard the world over. Appearances at Live 8, Nelson Mandela’s 90th Birthday Concert and this year’s Glastonbury Festival among others have helped spread his message to millions. And his work for GUA Africa, the charity set up to build the Emma Academy – a school in the country’s Lear county in memory of Emma McCune – and We Want Peace – which aims to ‘raise awareness on the fundamental principles of justice, equality, unification and conflict prevention, through the power of music’ have provided Jal the platform to bring about change.

‘I use my music to inspire and educate the young people and to call the people to action. You just have to try to do whatever you can. No one man can change the entire world, but you can leave your philosophies and your ideas and try and inspire someone to carry them on.’

His efforts have come at a cost, though. During a trip to South Sudan last September to promote International Peace Day, Jal was beaten unconscious by police and National Security forces. Reports of police brutality against individuals across South Sudan are becoming alarmingly frequent and threaten indelibly to damage the fledgling government.

‘The police are terrorizing the citizens. There are many brave journalists in the country who have been attacked, too – some are kicked out, some remain and get beaten and one of the greatest, Isaiah Abraham, was actually killed.’ Abraham, a freelance journalist and persistent critic of the government, was shot dead by masked gunmen outside his home last December. Although the government promised a full investigation, it is widely believed the order was carried out by government officials and to date no arrests have been made.

With security of ordinary South Sudanese a major issue, confidence in the government plummeting and escalating ethnic violence, implementing stability and peace is becoming ever more difficult.

The police are terrorizing the citizens. There are many brave journalists in the country who have been attacked, too – some are kicked out, some remain and get beaten and one was actually killed

Jal talks of a ‘common identity’ that is being eroded by inadequate government policies and rising unrest among rival ethnic groups angered by the government’s lacklustre actions. One such policy was a nationwide disarmament programme that has been virtually impossible to implement. Vast numbers of weapons remain from the civil war and government efforts can barely begin to scratch the surface, given the sheer volume of arms in the country. Some of those carrying out the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration programme have also been accused of human rights abuses: accounts of torture, rape and killings are common in many communities.

‘One of the greatest pieces of advice I’ve heard was from the President of Uganda, who told me: “If your teeth have a gap, it means you can’t chew your meat properly”. If our politicians have those gaps and divisions in them and they’re not with the common identity then there will be a lot of tribal fights and then what will happen is, the resources that we have, we will not be able to enjoy,’ Jal explains.

However sombre Jal’s assessment of his homeland may be, the affable musician still remains hopeful that the country will one day prosper and its people unite. After all, it is his mission to help make South Sudan better. And if he can help inspire others in his country to do the same and come together as one, then South Sudan’s third birthday could be something very different.

‘Nobody can change our country but ourselves. It’s not the president that’s going to make our country move forward. The most important people, the biggest resource, is us – the people.’ ([Back to Top/Headlines](#))

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