



# United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)

Media & Spokesperson Unit  
Communications & Public Information Office

## MEDIA MONITORING REPORT

WEDNESDAY, 11 DECEMBER 2013

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# Highlights

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## **SPLM rift deepens as S. Sudan VP denies deviation from vision**

*Sudantribune.com Juba, 10/12/13* - South Sudan's vice president James Wani Igga has denied that there is a crisis within the leadership of the ruling Sudan People's Liberation Movement, following a highly critical press conference last week by disaffected senior members.

The leadership of South Sudan's ruling SPLM remains sharply divided, with key figures coming out to trade accusations over the failure to deliver basic services to people in accordance with vision and objectives of the former rebel group.

In their first media appearance as a group, the officials accused President Salva Kiir of exhibiting dictatorial tendencies and pursuing a misguided leadership which has paralysed the functions of the party.

Igga, in his capacity as a deputy chairperson of the SPLM, dismissed the allegations as an attempt to "mislead those not following events in the leadership" and said that individuals who had been removed from their positions had decided to discredit and distort facts about the leadership.

"It is ludicrous for the group, especially the suspended secretary general to claim that it has been difficult to translate SPLM resolutions into plans of action", said Igga in a press statement.

The internal rift, which initially grabbed the public attention after the group failed to reach a consensus on the final status of the party's basic documents, surfaced in March but deepened in July, when President Salva Kiir Mayardit, the SPLM chairperson, dissolved the entire cabinet.

As part of a major shakeup, he removed his long-time deputy Riek Machar from the position he held for eight years and replaced him with James Wani Igga, formerly, the speaker of the National Legislative Assembly.

Machar welcomed the changes and moved to assume his roles as the first deputy chairperson in the ruling party. Kiir, in his capacity as the party leader, also issued an order suspending Pagan Amum from his position as SPLM secretary general, and assembling a team to investigate his conduct and barring him from travelling abroad.

In November, Kiir said all the structures of the party have "dissolved themselves" with the exception of his office, arguing that their "legitimacy of continuity" had expired after failing to hold a national convention in accordance with the 2008 constitution, which permits a five year term.

Two other senior SPLM members, Chol Tong Mayay of Lakes state and Taban Deng Gai of Unity state were removed from their elected positions as governors.

The SPLM members also said that the party had abandoned collective leadership and had demobilising knowledgeable armed officers, making them redundant after retiring from active service.

The group at the press conference was led by the first deputy, Riek Machar, suspended secretary general, Pagan Amum, former deputy defense minister, Majak D' Agoot and transport and bridges minister, Gier Chuang Aluong.

Other senior figures who attended the event, included the widow of the former SPLM leader John Garang de Mabior, Rebecca Nyandeng de Mabior, former minister of Justice John Luk Jok, former cabinet minister Deng Alor Kuol, former environment minister; Alfred Lado Gore, the two dismissed governors of Lakes and Unite state.

Several other government officials, some of whom are serving cabinet ministers and members of the party, came out in support of the vice president and claimed that the officials who criticised the conduct of the government planned to form a separate party.

"There is no way members of the same party can come out in the open to publicly accuse their own leader and discredit the same institution. I have never found anywhere. I think they have already formed a party which they would launch soon, otherwise they would not behave like that", Lual Bol Kuan, spokesperson of South Sudan business community and SPLM member, told Sudan Tribune on Tuesday.

Kuan further claimed that the activities of the group would also discourage investors from coming into the country on the grounds that their properties would not be safe.

"The press conference was called at the time [last weeks] investment conference was convened. It was a deliberate ploy devised to back track [on] the assurances made by the government at the investment conference with serious allegations but they will not succeed. We will not keep quiet because we are stakeholders in this country. We fought for it. My whole youth was in the bush and I cannot accept some people with individual interests to return us to square one", Kuan told Sudan Tribune on Tuesday.

The business leader also denied that president Kiir avoids collective leadership when making decisions on matters of national importance, citing numerous consultative meetings.

The "president consulted all the institutions to seek their views before the new cabinet was formed. The entire SPLM leadership except few who did not want to accept the change approved the changes the general public wanted to be introduced", Kuan explained.

The official wondered what new things the officials would do that they could not do while serving in senior government and party positions for eight years.

"We are only the country in the whole world where a minister can negotiate and sign a contractor without witness and request release of funds before verifying whether or not the contractor had actually has business that the contractor is based upon, let ensuring that services are provided first. We have seen happened when these people were in the government, some things happened in the ministries and institutions they were in complete control", he explained.

Peter Adwok Nyaba, a former minister of higher education, denied there is any plan to form a different a separate party among the disenfranchised SPLM members but that they were fighting for internal reform.

"The changes of the necessity must come from within the SPLM leadership whether or not the drivers are devils or angels", said Nyaba in comments.

"Revolutions are started and driven by those who have been involved in the oppressive regime by the virtue of their intimidate knowledge and interaction with it they kick start the process. Neither the passive nor absentees can alter what is going on in South Sudan," argued the veteran politician.

"I disagree with those who seem to suggest in the barrage of negative adjectives that anybody who participated in the SPLM government is incapable of initiating process leading to transformation of the oppressive condition", he said. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

### **VP: Government will finance rights institutions**

*Radio Miraya Juba, 10/12/13* - South Sudan's Vice President, James Wani Igg, Tuesday reiterated the government's financial commitment to supporting human rights institutions in the country.

The vice president's statement came as the country commemorates International Human Rights day.

He said the government will continue to promote and protect human rights in the country.

“The government will ensure financial support to our Human Rights Commission. The government shall ensure legitimacy, trust and authority of the state. The government shall uphold a strong political will power, transparency and accountability.”

The deputy chairperson of South Sudan Human Rights Commission, Biel Jock Thich, commended the government for taking steps to uphold human rights.

“These steps include the inclusion of a bill of rights in the constitution, establishment of the South Sudan grievance chambers, establishment of the Human Rights Commission, formation of a human rights forum, adoption of the national agenda for human rights, and the ongoing process of incorporating human rights in the school curriculum,” he said.

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### **MPs address ‘loopholes’ in CDF Act 2007**

*Eye Radio Juba, 11/12/13* - Members of the National Parliament will address loopholes in the Constituency Development Fund act of 2007.

According to the Committee for the CDF, amendments will address current weaknesses in the implementation of the Fund.

The CDF is available to members of parliament to fund projects within their communities.

According to a recent committee report, 99 million pounds from the CDF was embezzled last year, and only one 1% of the fund was implemented.

Speaking to *Eye Radio*, the Chairperson of the CDF Committee, Beatrice Aber Samson said that the review of the Act will mean improved service delivery in the counties.

“It gives more say to the citizens at grassroots level because they will identify their projects and they will pick the categories that will manage the projects.”

Beatrice Aber said that bureaucracy manage the CDF have often paralyzed the implementation of constituency projects.

She said the body charged with the monitoring and implementation of the funds will now be the Constituency Development Committee at the national parliament. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

### **UNHCR pledges 300 thousand dollars to support WES schools**

*Anisa Radio Yambio, 11/12/13* - The United Nations High Commission for Refugees or UNHCR on Tuesday promised 300 thousand dollars to upgrade schools in Western Equatoria State.

Senior Integration Officer Kate Makanga and Community Service Associate Jackline John met State Education Minister to discuss the grant for education, Anisa Radio reported.

Ms Makanga disclosed that her aim of visiting the state was to integrate refugees and set strategic plans for their livelihoods in Makpandu Refugee camp.

She added that her third mission was to support schools in critical conditions in Western Equatoria as requested by Education Minister Pia Philip Michael.

Ms Makanga pointed out that the money would be available in the UNHCR coming year’s budget 2014.

Education Minister Pia Philip Michael said Mundri and Ezo Secondary Schools, Namaiku and Yabua Primary Schools in Nzara County and were in critical conditions. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

### **Improve on the judicial system to reduce violations of individual rights: HRC tells gov’t**

*Eye Radio Juba, 11/12/13* - The government must improve on the judicial system to reduce violations of individual rights in South Sudan, says the Deputy Chairperson of the Human Rights Commission.

Biel Jock said effective service delivery can contribute to sustained peace in the country.

“The government should work to solve continuous inter-tribal conflicts and cattle rustling in South Sudan.”

“If there is no service delivery, there is room for these criminal activities, and then it will result in violation of human rights.

“And also around the cities, the security organs should really have this training in mind that they are there to protect the civilians.”

According to the UN and many other rights groups, human rights violation is prevalent in South Sudan. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

### **Senior SPLM leaders to hold public rally on Saturday**

*Sudantribune.com* Juba, 10/12/13 - Senior leaders of South Sudan’s governing Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (SPLM), have announced a plan to hold a public rally on the current internal party affairs, come 14 December.

The event, which will take place at Dr. John Garang’s memorial ground from 2:00pm, "aims to educate the public about the intended process of transforming the SPLM into a viable, democratic political party".

It will be conducted by the senior party leaders, including the first deputy chairman, Riek Machar, who on 06 December, voiced their concerns about the internal democratic transformational processes in the south-ruling party.

"The office of the first deputy chairman has therefore urged the public to turn up in big numbers at the memorial ground on Saturday, at 2pm, to hear from the leaders”, partly reads the statement.

Last Friday, leading members of the party opposed to president Salva Kiir’s policies organised a press conference denouncing the latter’s leadership style, giving him ultimatum to put things right or else they resort to the party constitution and act accordingly.

Madam Rebecca Nyandeng, Pagan Amum and Deng Alor were among the other senior SPLM members who appeared besides Machar at the press conference. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

### **Mayor cautions Jonglei youth against tribalism**

*Sudantribune.com* Bor, 11/12/13 - The mayor of Bor town in South Sudan’s Jonglei state has advised youth to put aside their tribal differences and collectively contribute to the constitutional review process.

Nhial Majak Nhial made these remarks Tuesday while officially opening a two-day grass root consultative workshop on constitution building process, held in the state capital, Bor.

“As you deliberate here, let us work protect South Sudan from a country that has tribal marks and this can only be realised if you [youth] contribute to the constitutional process as one”, said the mayor.

About 100 youth drawn from all parts of the state are currently attending the consultative workshop organised by South Sudan Youth Participation Agency (SSYPA) in partnership with the National Constitutional Review Commission (NCRC).

The constitution, Nhial said, should not only make the people of South Sudan cautious of their rights as citizens, but also protect them.

“A constitution that does not protect its citizens ceases to be called one,” he said, adding [therefore] “Your contribution to this process will provide a robust meaning to the people of Jonglei state”.

David William, a member of the NCRC described the constitution as a “social contract between people and the government”.

“The main mandate of the NCRC is to review the transitional constitution, collect views from citizens and carry out nationwide civic education campaign”, William said.

Angelo Diing, the board chairman of SSYPA said for the country’s constitution to be relevant, it should be a people-centered document that encompasses views of the population.

“The constitution should belong to all people, regardless of their political affiliations, tribes, cultures and other aspect,” he said.

Meanwhile, land, women rights and national resource allocation were the key issues that dominated discussions from youth attending the consultative workshop.

For instance, while female participants advocated that their right to own properties be included in the country’s constitution, their male counterparts opposed it.

Adieny Chuol, said the issue of women right required a “bottom-top” approach, expressing fears that this could conflict with the different cultural settings.

“It is important for us as youth to know their rights, but some of these issues need careful consideration”, the 29-year old told Sudan Tribune in an interview.

Women right issues, much we debate now, need to be looked at from the grass roots to avoid complications that may arise, he added.

There were also strong arguments as to why a woman, widowed with children, cannot be allowed to own properties, yet she has to care of these children.

The Swedish-based International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) is supporting the two-day workshop, which has also attracted attended state lawmakers, civil society activists, youth leaders and women groups. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

### **Leaders urged to promote people’s rights, dignity**

*Gurtong Torit, 11/12/13* - South Sudanese leaders at all levels have been advised to step up more efforts toward fulfilling their collective responsibility of promoting and protecting human rights and people’s dignity irrespective of their gender, political, socio-economic backgrounds.

The call came on Tuesday as the Council of Traditional Authority (COTAL), Government officials, citizens, United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) and other UN Agencies operating in Eastern Equatoria State (EES) commemorated the International Human Rights Day in the state capital, Torit. The day also marked the end of the 16 days of activism.

Speaking at the function, UNMISS’ State Coordinator Hiroko Hirahara Mosko pledged continuous support to the state authorities in promoting Human Rights issues in the region and beyond.

She noted that the fight against human rights abuses is not easy because it takes time, patience and commitment to disseminate designed messages to all people in the country.

The State Deputy Governor Jerome Gama Surur thanked partners and also pledged commitment to help in reducing any violations of human rights in the state.

At the same function, the State Local Government, Law Enforcement and Wildlife Conservation Minister’s Charles Ambrose Lokonoi hailed the UN for bringing down the rate of human rights abuses through its monitoring of issues of violations and abuses.

Acting Gender, Culture and Social Development Minister Michael Lopuke Lotyam cited blood compensation of girl-child as a serious violation which practice he said has put victims to slavery for the rest of their lives.

Civil Society representatives, heads of organized forces, NGOs also attended the global Human rights Day which serves yearly to celebrate human rights and to call for the full enjoyment of all human rights by everyone everywhere.

Leaders used the day as opportunity to encourage citizens to come out to boldly speak on human rights abuses they have been subjected to.

The UN General Assembly proclaimed 10 December as Human Rights Day in 1950 to bring to the attention 'of the people of the world' the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as the common standard for all people and all nations. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

### **UNMISS calls for human rights protection**

*Voice of Hope Wau, 11/12/13* - United Nations Mission in South Sudan or UNMISS called for protection of human rights in the state.

UNMISS State Coordinator Winny Babihuga expressed her gratitude to the state government for its continuous prevention of violence against women, Voice of Hope reported.

State Information Minister Derick Alfred Uya stressed the need to eliminate all kinds of violence against women and girls.

State Health Minister Isaac Cleto Hassan called on citizens to contribute positively to realization of human rights, transparency and a free corruption society.

The celebration at Isaac Stadium in Wau marking the conclusion of 16 days of activism brought together state government officials, NGOs and citizens. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

### **EU donates seven vehicles to improve security at Juba Airport**

*Catholic Radio Network Juba, 11/12/13* - European Union Aviation Security Mission or EUAVSEC on Tuesday donated seven vehicles to South Sudan to strengthen security at Juba International Airport.

The Mission said the vehicles would be handed over to Juba International Airport Aviation Security Unit and Diplomatic Protection Unit of the South Sudanese National Police Service on Thursday at a ceremony.

The Mission assists the government of South Sudan to raise the security at Juba International Airport to the internationally accepted standards.

The Mission earlier trained more than 700 South Sudanese airport staff to improve the aviation security. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

### **CES Governor's delegation visits Tore Payam**

*Easter Radio Yei, 11/12/13* - Central Equatoria Governor's delegation visited Tore Payam of Yei River County to explore possibilities of electrifying the area to attract investors.

Tore Payam Director Azariah Khamis Noah said the delegation wanted to identify sources of water for electricity plant, Easter Radio reported.

He revealed that work would start once the payam was demarcated.

Mr Khamis said demarcating Tore payam was very important because many people would want to return home to build on their plots.

He called on the residents to return home to participate in the development of their area because development needs human resources.

The payam director advised that those who would not acquire plots in January not to complain because the payam needs to attract investors. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

### **Thousands affected by food scarcity in Ulang**

*Eye Radio Juba*, 10/12/13 - Nearly ninety thousand people in Ulang County of Upper Nile state will likely face starvation by early next year, an official has said.

Ulang County Executive Director Akot Kak Deng told Eye Radio that flooding has been a major cause of the poor harvest in the area.

“These people are dependent on the relief from NGOs.

“The total population is not known because there has been no recent census done, but approximately 89 thousand people need assistance.

“These days, the water level in the river is reducing and if there is no food brought by speedboats, up to January or February, it will be difficult because road transport starts only in March.”

Mr. Kak urged traders to supply the area with food. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

### **Upper Nile information minister bans public mobile announcement**

*Gurtong Malakal*, 11/12/13 - The State Minister of Information in Upper Nile State Hon. Philip Jiben Ogal has issued a ministerial order banning public mobile announcement in the state capital, Malakal.

The ministerial order partly reads: “In compliance to the power conferred upon me by article 24 (3) of the transitional constitution of Upper Nile State for the year 2012, I Philip Jiben Ogal, Minister of Information and Communications, Upper Nile State issue a ministerial order banning public mobile announcements in the state.”

Jiben in the decree urged the concerned authorities to take necessary actions.

The ministerial order read on South Sudan Radio in Malakal, the state capital did not state why such mobile public announcements have had to be banned. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

### **Government holds negotiations with Total Oil**

*Eye Radio Juba*, 11/12/13 - The government says it is in negotiations with the French Total Oil Company to resume oil explorations in the country.

Total Oil Company stopped its exploration work during the civil war.

The company have held a majority interest in Block B since the early 1980s — exploring the over one hundred thousand square kilometers concession in Jonglei state.

Last week, President Salva Kiir met with the company boss during his visit to France, and discussed possibilities of resuming explorations in Jonglei state.

The Minister of Petroleum and Mining, Stephen Dhieu said the new exploration deals will be signed between the government and Total.

“The block has been dormant for over 30 years, and now we are talking with the company to finalize the agreement with them,” said Mr. Dhieu.

“In addition to that, we are working to put in place exploration promotions.”

It’s still not clear when Total will resume oil exploration in South Sudan. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

### **Foreign businesses complain of illegal customs charges**

*Sudantribune.com Bentiu*, 10/12/13 - East African foreigners trading in Unity state claim they are being taxed three times higher than local businesses when the goods enter Bentiu and Rubkotna county.

Because of the poor road network and regular flooding, most traders, including foreigners, in Unity state import goods from the capital, Juba, through the White Niles river, a journey that can take more than two weeks.



Mercy Mayawun, a Uganda business woman in Bentiu town, says that Unity state officials overcharge her and that her concerns raised at the state and county levels have not been acted upon.

She said that "taxation is a big problem" because, despite assurances, their goods are being taxed multiple times; on the border with Uganda; the Unity state border; and between counties.

Mayawun says the taxes are causing traders to lose profits and urged local officials to cut unnecessary taxation for both foreign and South Sudanese business owners.

Monday Edward, a business man from Kenya, says he has faced intimidation from officials after refusing to pay unnecessary taxes after goods have already arrived in the country.

"There is no limitation for money, they just charge it and if you refuse they put you inside", said Edward.

According to South Sudan's 2009 taxation act, which was amended in 2012, taxes on international borders are to be collected by the custom staffs. The custom services are supposed to collect excise tax, sale tax and income tax on behalf of the National Directorate of Taxation.

South Sudan's acting Director for national taxation, Zechariah Par Gew, says that some taxes are supposed to be collected a state-level but customs on imported goods should only be collected on international borders.

Custom officers who demand customs taxes in markets were violating the law, he said.

"The right people that are supposed to collect are national taxation office and the state revenue authority because there are some taxes that belong to the state. But in case of the custom they are supposed to be at the border point not inside the state, when they are collecting inside the state they are against the law", added Gew.

Gew said tax payers had the right to raise concerns in order to correct mistakes committed by both the national taxation office and the customs office.

Simon Guot Maper an officer from the national taxation office in Rubkotna County admitted that the customs office should be on the border not within the state. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

### **Former US special envoy to Sudan dies age 64**

*Sudantribune.com* Washington, 09/12/13 - The United States special envoy to Sudan Richard Williamson under former President George W. Bush died on Sunday from complications resulting from a cerebral hemorrhage, according to media reports.

Williamson took over as Sudan's special envoy in late 2007 after the resignation of his predecessor Andrew Natsios.

Khartoum viewed Williamson as a hardliner and often noted a piece he wrote in 2005 in which he described Sudanese officials as "thugs" who will "act like thugs as long as they are allowed to do so".

Nonetheless the ex-envoy attempted to lure Khartoum into making concessions in return for lifting the decade-long economic sanctions and normalizing ties.

In April 2008, Williamson met with in Rome for rare direct talks on normalization with a Sudanese delegation headed by then presidential assistant Sudan Nafie Ali Nafie and included Sudan's spy chief Salah Gosh as well as foreign minister Deng Alor.

The discussions focused on having Khartoum agree to facilitating deployment of United Nations peacekeepers in Darfur.

But the talks fell through and Williamson declared them suspended the following month over lack of progress in the north-south talks regarding the disputed region of Abyei.

In June 2008, he fiercely lambasted UN peacekeepers in Abyei for failing to protect residents during clashes that erupted the month before.

In unusual remarks by a US official, he publicly accused the UN force there of hiding in their barracks during the fighting instead of protecting Sudanese civilians in line with their mandate.

The UN initially rejected the charge but the world body later issued a report stating that “lessons” were learned from the way peacekeepers acted during the incident.

In December 2008, it was revealed that Williamson sent a memo to president Bush asking him to take coercive measures against Khartoum to halt killings in Darfur.

Among the steps is to temporarily jam all communications in the Sudanese capital which would sever telephone communications, cell phones as well as internet access.

Furthermore the US navy would hinder access to Port Sudan by searching or turning away some ships. At a later stage a full blown embargo could be enforced to prevent Sudan from selling its oil.

The last stage would be to shoot down all Sudanese fighters that violate ban over Darfur and to use the threat of destroying air force if Khartoum does not comply with other demands such as handing over two suspects to the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Williamson also suggested providing surface-to-air missiles to the government of South Sudan (GoSS) to protect the semi-autonomous South from retaliation by Khartoum.

But his proposal was shot down by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and National Security adviser Stephen Hadley.

The former envoy was critical of Obama saying that he betrayed his pre-presidency pledges of being tough on Khartoum.

He also rapped his successor William Gration for downplaying the situation in Darfur after his first visit to the country.

Prior to his Sudan’s post, he held several government posts since the 1980’s that included presidential assistant on intergovernmental affairs; US envoy at the UN offices in Vienna; UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva and an assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs.

In 2008 and 2012 he was picked to be a foreign policy adviser to Republican presidential candidates John McCain and Mitt Romney respectively.

He also held several positions in think tank groups and universities. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

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