



United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)

Media & Spokesperson Unit
Communications & Public Information Office

MEDIA MONITORING REPORT

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Highlights

Emergency chief alarmed by the South Sudanese crisis

Gurtong 29/01/14 - The United Nations Undersecretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Ms Valerie Amos has said the violence and abuses witnessed in just six weeks of political unrest threatens the future of the new nation.

She made the remark to press on Wednesday after visiting Malakal in Upper Nile on Tuesday. She said thousands of people in Malakal town are without food, water and medical care and are in dire need of assistance.

"The WFP, IOM and UNICEF warehouses have been looted and assets damaged. Tens of thousands of people in Malakal town are in need of help. Because of the looting, we cannot help as much as we would want to," she told the press in Juba today.

According to the USG, the Aid workers have been subjected to harsh situations with at least three of them killed and 106 others (aid workers) were prevented from relocating from Yirol in Lakes State to Juba.

Ms Amos said 3.7m people are now severely food insecure but according to her aid agencies have at least been able to assist over 300,000 people in need.

"Yesterday I went Malakal in Upper Nile State. I saw people in dire circumstances with no food, in conditions with proper sanitation and without water," said Ms Amos.

"Children don't go to school and health needs continue to arise. I met women who had walked for days looking for protection and assistance. People say they have been targeted and abused because of their ethnicity or political affiliation," Valerie Amos said.

The violence and abuses we have seen since the 15 of December threatens the future of this young county, Amos added.

According to Ms Amos 702, 000 people have been displaced since the violence started on 15 December and another 123,400 have fled the country into neighbouring countries mainly Uganda, Kenya, Sudan and Ethiopia.

Food, medical and protection of civilians from targeted killing according to Amos are the immediate needs of the displaced persons.

Ms Amos couldn't ascertain the number of people killed during the over month of hostilities in the new nation but said: "One person killed is one too many."

The UN has given a figure of over 1, 000 for those killed but some late figures show about the 10, 000 people have been killed since the armed political conflict pitting the loyalists of President Salva Kiir against those of his former deputy Riek Machar started mid-last month.

Despite the worrying humanitarian challenges, Ms Amos said she is encouraged by the signing of the Cessation of hostilities agreement between the government and anti-government forces last month. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

Amos calls on the government & the opposition to respect International law

Radio Miraya Juba, 30/01/14 - United Nations Humanitarian Chief, Valerie Amos is calling on the government and the opposition to respect International law and ensure the protection of civilians.

Speaking at the end of a 3 day visit to South Sudan, Ms Amos said the future of the country rests in the hands of South Sudanese.

The Humanitarian Chief also noted that over 300,000 people have been reached with humanitarian assistance over the past six weeks.

She says the condition of people displaced is of concern.

“So far 8 agencies have assisted over three hundred thousand displaced people while this has saved many lives we have not been able to provide assistance to many others due to continuing insecurity.”

“...tens of thousands of people in the town (Malakal) who need our help but because of the looting we cannot help as many as we would wish and the future of South Sudan rests on the people of South Sudan being able to work together”. Amos explains Amos says more than 700-thousand people have been displaced and another 123-thousand have fled to neighboring countries since the conflict started.

She says 3.7 million people are food insecure.

Humanitarian agencies say that all of their reserves of food and non-food items have been totally looted in Malakal city of Upper Nile state. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

Lam Akol says all political issues must be addressed.

Radio Miraya Juba, 29/01/14 - “The crisis is a reflection of some of those issues and therefore what we want is to handle the whole thing together, rather than have a piece-meal because if you solve this and leave the others, tomorrow the others will cause another problem, so it is better to deal with all of them together. What are the problems facing the country? The problem of governance, constitution etc, all these issues will be put on the table”.

The political leader was speaking at a symposium organized by Political parties in Juba to discuss ways to end the crisis. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

Machar slams Kiir’s judgement, welcomes release of political detainees

Sudantribune.com Addis Ababa, 30/01/14 - The former vice-president, Riek Machar, who now leads the rebel Sudan People’s Liberation in Opposition (SPLM-In-Opposition) welcomed the release of 7 political detainees and rejected the government’s decision to charge him and his six other colleagues of treason was "rubbish".

Machar was on Wednesday reacting to the announcement in Juba by the minister of Justice, Paulino WanaWilla, that Machar and his colleagues with him, namely Taban Deng Gai, former governor of Unity state and Alfred Lado Gore, former minister of environment plus the four still in detention must face trial for treason against the state.

The former deputy president who always criticised Kiir for dictatorial tendencies however responded by saying there was no genuine investigation done on the cause of the violence, adding that the decision was a "one man’s show".

“There is no difference between Salva Kiir and the decision made," he told Sudan Tribune, while directly referring to the result of the investigation by the justice minister.

Machar however welcomed the "overdue" release of the seven detainees but further demanded for the release of the four political leaders still in detention including former SPLM secretary-general Pagan Amum who was appointed chief negotiator of the SPLM-In-Opposition.

The released South Sudanese political leaders who remained in jail for more than a month arrived in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, on Wednesday and were hosted at the State House by the Kenyan president Uhuru Kenyatta.

Machar on the other hand dismissed the claim of the alleged coup, saying it was simply a ploy by Salva Kiir to try to silence his political opponents within the ruling party who were asking for political reforms.

The violence started when president Kiir allegedly ordered for the disarmament of the Nuer soldiers in his presidential guards division on Sunday, 15 December, prompting serious suspicions about his next move and the eruption of the fighting between the guards units along tribal lines at the military barrack.

The six-week conflict which quickly spread has led to the death of 10,000 and displacement of over 500,000 people across the country.

The two warring parties have signed a shaky ceasefire of which they accused each other of violating in less than 24 hours of its signing.

Machar's spokesperson, James Gatdet Dak, told Sudan Tribune that the released senior party leaders and former government officials are expected to participate during the resumption of the peace talks in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, from the 7th February "to represent the views of the SPLM/A In Opposition".

The two parties, he said, would now discuss the root causes of the conflict and how to resolve it. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

SPLM suspends membership registration & election of new a Leadership

Radio Miraya juba, 30/01/14 - The Sudan People Liberation Movement the (SPLM) has suspended membership registration and election of new a Leadership until further notice.

Speaking to Journalists in Juba, the acting secretary General Ann Itto says elections of the party leadership positions and registration will take place once the situation allows.

"We will also explained to people that the process that we started the registration the conferences and the national convention is not failed it has just been suspended once situation allows we will begin with registration of our members and we expect them to be ready". [\(Back to Top\)](#)

EE State humanitarian agencies ready to render aid to IDPs – minister

Gurtong Torit, 29/01/14 - The Chairperson of the state Humanitarian Sub-Committee under the Crisis Management committee Paska Hifta Oduho says humanitarian agencies have shown commitment and readiness to assist the IDPs in Eastern Equatoria State (EES).

Hon. Hifta, also the state Gender, Culture and Social Development Minister, thanked the state humanitarian agencies for their generosity and readiness to assist the IDPs.

She said the NGOs have helped in the areas of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), food and non-food assistance.

She said the Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) provides non-food items and the UN-World Food Programme (WFP) is responsible for food items while UNICEF is ensuring there is enough water for the IDPs' domestic use.

Plan International, CARITAS, AVSI and UNHCR among other organisations have also indicated commitment toward helping end the present scarcity of essential services for the IDPs.

She appealed to the host communities in the state to remain cooperative so to ensure essential services reach the IDP population. The minister also appealed for an urgent need for critical attention from both government and UN Agencies, to help reduce the suffering of the IDPs. IDPs are mostly in Torit and Magwi.

Since the political unrest broke out mid-last month, thousands of people have been displaced within and without. Those in camps and UN bases are in dire need of humanitarian aid. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

President Kiir not attending AU summit – minister

Gurtong Juba, 30/01/14 - South Sudan's President Salva Kiir is not attending the African Union Summit in the Ethiopian, Addis Ababa, the government Spokesperson has said.

The 22nd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union opened on Wednesday and the current crises in South Sudan and Central African Republic are expected to take centre-stages of the discussion on peace and stability in the African continent.

South Sudan has been represented to the African Union Assembly by the Vice President James Wani Igga.

“The President is not going for the African Union Summit. The Vice President James Wani Igga went for it yesterday,” said Michael Makuei, the south Sudanese government spokesperson.

Mr. Makuei said the president is not attending in person because “there are more important issues for the president to attend to than the AU conference.”

Commenting on the state of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement signed between the government and anti-government forces led by former vice president Riek Machar, Mr. Makuei said SPLA are in total compliance but the rebels are not.

"Our forces are abiding by the cessation of hostilities agreement but rebels are attacking our forces especially in Upper Nile and Jonglei states," he said.

“Our forces have been standing their grounds, they are defending themselves. IGAD should have set a mechanism for monitoring but they did not. This should have been the body to launch our complaints to. We suggested this to IGAD but unfortunately it did not happen.”

Mr. Makuei urged citizens who have remained in UN bases to return home and live their normal lives without fears, saying the situation is back to normalcy.

“I appeal to them to come and live their normal lives like the rest of the citizens. These people come out, go to banks, market and go cook in the UN compound. I don't know the type of insecurity they are talking about when they are allowed to do these things and go back safely. My advice to them is they should come and go to their homes. They will be safe there," Makuei appealed.

Ms. Valerie Amos, the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator on Wednesday said many of those seeking protection at the UN bases fear they may be targeted and some have already requested to be evacuated to the areas of origin or outside the country.

Makuei however urged the general public to know that "the government is determined to bring peace and stability to the country”.

“We are trying our level best to ensure peace prevails in South Sudan and those affected by this unfortunate crisis will be served and relief services will reach them wherever they are," he said. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

South Sudan rebels concerned over lack of representation at AU summit

Sudantribune.com Addis Ababa, 29/01/14 - Ethiopian officials on Wednesday assured South Sudan rebels not to be concerned for not being represented at the Africa Union leaders' summit at which the crisis in South Sudan is among top on agenda for discussion.

Addis Ababa made the assurances after rebel negotiators, who were alarmed at late hours, Wednesday made a request at the Ethiopian foreign ministry to take part at the Africa head of states and governments summit which is due to commence on Thursday.

The rebels were concerned that the South Sudan government delegation led by president kiir might at the summit make complaints and accusations against rebels taking their absence as an advantage.

South Sudan president Salva Kiir is slated to deliver a speech at the opening session tomorrow.

The rebels were trying to prevent the summit hears a one side story until they received guarantee from Ethiopian officials this afternoon.

"Ethiopian officials told me that it will not be the government of the republic of South Sudan to raise the issue though President Kiir is scheduled to have a speech," Bor Gatwech, an MP and Humanitarian Liaison Officer for SPLM/A In Opposition here in Addis Ababa told Sudan Tribune.

South Sudan Issue will be debated in the Summit as a report from the regional mediators.

"Technically, the Summit will be debating and eventually endorsing the report of the mediators. So they [Ethiopian officials] assure me that there is nothing to worry about even if not represented at the Summit," Gatwech added.

Despite a cease fire agreement signed last week between South Sudan government and rebel group led by former vice president, Riek Machar, fighting has continued in parts of South Sudan with both sides repeatedly trading accusation of violating the peace pact aimed to end weeks of violence.

South Sudan government information Minister, Michael Makuei, on Wednesday accused rebels of continuing to violate ceasefire agreement.

"The ceasefire agreement is defective" said Makuei.

He further accused regional mediators of failure to come up with a monitoring mechanism in time and as a result he said "rebels have used this opportunity to violate and attack government forces"

"They [rebels] have actually put our forces in a defensive position" he added.

As part of the broader peace pact signed in Addis Ababa last Thursday, the South Sudanese government has released 7 of the 11 political prisoners who had been detained with alleged accusation of having links with a "coup attempt".

The release of political detainees comes about two days ahead of the continental summit which the issue of political prisoners is expected to be touched by IGAD mediators. ([Back to Top](#))

Sudan to deploy truce monitors in Malakal

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 29/01/14 - Sudanese military team participating in the Monitoring and Verification Mechanism (MVM) set by the IGAD mediators will arrive to the capital of the Upper Nile state Malakal on Thursday.

A member of IGAD mediation team, Mohamed Ahmed Mustafa al-Dabi , on Wednesday, said that Sudanese monitors will arrive to Malakal on Thursday where they will start their duties .

He further said that the other IGAD members including Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda will participate in the monitoring. Each country will send four monitors.

The rebels contest the participation of Ugandan monitors saying they are part of the conflict.

Speaking from Addis Ababa, al-Dabi told the official Sudan news agency SUNA, that the monitoring teams will be deployed in Akobo, Bentiu, Bor, and Malakal. Juba will host the MVM headquarters which will be chaired by an Ethiopian general with a Sudanese counterpart who will second him.

The South Sudanese government chief negotiator Nhial Deng Nhial urged to deploy the monitoring teams, as Juba accuse the rebels of breaching the cessation of hostilities agreement reached on 23 January.

The rebel SPLM/A In Opposition also accuses the SPLA of violating the deal.

Regarding the resumption of peace negotiations, the Sudanese mediator said they will resume the preparation for the next round of talks after the deployment of the monitoring teams within the next two days. ([Back to Top](#))

Uganda not to withdraw troops from South Sudan soon: minister

Xinhua Kampala, 30/01/14 - The Ugandan government on Thursday said it will not heed to foreign pressure to withdraw its troops from neighboring South Sudan until both national and regional security is guaranteed.

Rose Namayanja, minister of information and national guidance, told reporters here that a call by Norway for Uganda to withdraw its troops in South Sudan is not feasible.

"These are matters of peace and security within the region and for us as country it is not the first time that we are having some of our development partners not looking at matters of security as priority," she said.

"For us as government, security is key and therefore we shall not heed the advice by the Norwegian government in as far as issues of security of our country and the neighborhood are concerned," she added.

Norway, a major donor to South Sudan, on Wednesday urged Uganda to start withdrawing troops to avoid worsening the crisis that has left thousands dead and hundreds of thousands made homeless.

Ugandan troops are backing the South Sudan army to fight rebels headed by former vice president Riek Machar.

Uganda's Minister of Defense Crispus Kiyonga on Wednesday said Uganda deployed its troops as a measure to prevent a possible genocide. The army also said it deployed the troops at the invitation of the government of South Sudan. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

South Sudan refugees sell relief items to Adjumani locals

Daily Monitor Adjumani, 30/01/14 - South Sudanese refugees in Adjumani District have begun selling off relief items provided to them by several humanitarian agencies.

A recent mini-survey by the *Daily Monitor* revealed that items bearing logos of humanitarian agencies are cheaply sold to communities. Some of the items include food, mats, blankets, delivery kits and detergents.

A refugee who declined to be named said she has decided to sell off part of the food items given to her family to enable her buy clothes for her children.

"It was not my wish to sell part of the relief aid but because we escaped without anything, I have decided to sell part of the food ration for buying clothes for my children."

Another woman, Ms Catherine Bol, said: "It's the only way for us to get some money to buy some personal items which UN does not provide. We are not given money here so we have to improvise."

When contacted, Mr Titus Jogo, a refugee desk officer, said he is not aware that some of the relief aid given to the refugees ends up in the hands of the host communities.

He said he had not received any complaint from the humanitarian agencies about refugees selling off the items, adding that it is difficult to eliminate such dealings between the asylum seekers and the host community.

The World Food Programme and other humanitarian agencies provide the food and other non food items to every refugee family head, depending on the number of dependants he or she has.

Mr Musa Ecweru, the Minister of State for Disaster Preparedness and Refugees, who visited Dzaipi Reception Centre recently, said in case the refugees stay long in the district, the government will avail them land for agriculture to enable them produce their own food.

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Military campaign in South Kordofan coming to end: SAF

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 29/01/14 - The Sudanese Armed Force (SAF) has declared that military operations in the border state of South Kordofan are coming to an end

SAF's inspector general, Mohamed Graham Omer, said in a meeting at South Kordofan's legislative council on Wednesday that the Sudanese army has largely achieved its objectives, calling on political forces to unify ranks in order to bring peace to the state.

Graham pointed that plans to secure the state were perfectly executed though he acknowledged that ongoing conflict in South Sudan has negative impacts on Sudan's bordering states, calling for taking the necessary precautionary measures to protect the borders and provide humanitarian assistance to the needy population.

The governor of South Kordofan state, Adam al-Faki, announced on his end that rebels control only three out of the state's seventeen localities.

Al-Faki pointed to his government's efforts to create an environment conducive for achieving peace and reconstruction, saying that large number of the state's sons in the rebel groups wish to join the peace process.

Meanwhile, the speaker of Sudan's parliament, Al-Fatih Izz Al-Deen, stressed that president Bashir called in his recent speech for forming an emergency committee to look into South Kordofan's issues and establishing development fund for the state while urging sons of the state to engage in institutional dialogue on the state's issues. **[\(Back to Top\)](#)**

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