



United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)

Media & Spokesperson Unit
Communications & Public Information Office

MEDIA MONITORING REPORT

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Highlights

S. Sudan VP promises "fair investigation" into murder of Nimule chief

Sudantribune.com Nimule, 14/11/ 2013 – South Sudan’s vice-president, James Wani Igga, said on Wednesday that the government is investigating a number of suspects currently being held in connection to the killing of Nimule’s traditional head chief.

“There is nobody who is above the law”, Igga told a public rally at Nimule’s St Patrick Primary School.

The vice-president Igga was responding to accusations levelled against the government during the rally by Ma’adi tribal representatives, including women, youths and elders.

Head chief George Ajogo Levia was shot dead on September 8 while returning to his home east of Nimule town.

His death came at a time Nimule was upgraded to a town council by the government of Eastern Equatoria state.

Some members of the community had resisted the state assembly’s decision which had also been backed by Eastern Equatoria governor Luis Lobong Lojore. Torit and Kapeata were also made into town councils.

The suspects detained in connection to the death of chief reportedly include Ma’adi traditional leader Angelo Vuga Morgan, known locally as Lopirigo, as well as six others.

Igga stressed that those found to be involved in the chief’s death would face the full force of the law.

“If they are found to be innocent, they will be released but if they are found to have contributed to the death of the chief, then there is something called [the] ‘rule of law’ in English and that means nobody is above the law,” Igga said, causing murmurs amongst the crowd that listened to his speech as dusk approached.

South Sudan’s interior minister Aleu Ayieny Aleu and cabinet affairs minister Martin Elia Lomoro accompanied the vice-president on the visit. The team from Juba was also joined by governor Lojore.

Igga return to Juba on Thursday after encouraging Eastern Equatoria’s many ethnic embrace peace, love and unity in order to promote the overall developmental of South Sudan.

South Sudanese children, he said while addressing thousands of members of the Madi community in Magwi county, will not be able to receive a good education and health services if there is insecurity.

Wani cautioned South Sudanese citizens from becoming dependent on imported food from neighbouring countries and advised people to embrace food production to avert any food shortages.

The vice president urged all of South Sudan’s communities to respect cultural diversity.

Eastern Equatoria’s governor, Louis Lobong Lojore, was forced to respond to a complaint raised by the Madi community about insecurity situation in Nimule town.

In his response he told the crowd that the two decade civil war between the Khartoum government at the SPLM - the former rebel group who now govern the nascent nation - was fought to bring peace, development and unity to South Sudan.

At the same occasion, South Sudan’s minister for cabinet affairs Martin Elias Lomoro said that nationalism is the only way to build the country - which only became independent from Sudan in

July 2011 - was for the young republic's citizens to become ambassadors of peace in their respective areas.

He encourages all South Sudanese to live in peace with their neighbours and respect South Sudan's diverse cultures.

Rebellions, cattle raiding and disputes over land have soured relations between communities in some areas of South Sudan since independence as the country battles to create a new national identity.

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Malaysia grants scholarships to South Sudanese students

Gurtong Malakal, 14/11/2013 - The Ministry of Education Science and Technology in Upper Nile State has announced that sponsorship chances to study in Malaysia are available to the best performing South Sudan secondary school leavers.

The chances according to Director General are granted by the Malaysian PETRONAS oil company that works in the oil fields in South Sudan through its education programs.

Director General, Ustaz Leau Kueth Nhial said, "The ministry is pleased to inform all the students who sat for South Sudan School certificates that the Government of Malaysia has sponsorship programs through PETRONAS Education department."

Mr. Kueth said that only science students who have passed with percentage of 80% are allowed to compete.

"Students with South Sudan School Certificates are welcomed to apply, especially science students. They should have passed mathematics, physics, chemistry and other relevant subjects," Kueth said.

However, people have already shown a lot of frustrations in the ways sponsorships are awarded to students since the current government came to power.

Deng Gatbel said, "Our officials do not give chances to citizens in a better way. Many have applied for sponsorships announce by the same government but they take nobody but their sons and their cousins to study those courses abroad. Our leaders like good things only for themselves these are golden chances but they can be easily corrupted."

Peter James who dropped out from the university after South Sudan's separation leaving his learning place in Khartoum complained that children of the poor are left loitering in the streets without education pointing his fingers to the leaders that they should share the cake equally with the poor.

"Can you image that the children of the poor are the ones without good schools. And surely they are the ones without jobs. They are always left out in any competitions. There are no fair competitions in this country. Students will apply but sons and daughters our leaders are always the qualified ones," Peter said.

The applicants according to the official should be South Sudanese in the age bracket of 17 – 23 years.

The Director General added that only students who sat in 2011, 2012 and 2013 with good command of written and spoken English language should come to the ministry of education to fill the admission forms that would allow them to study in Malaysia.

The admission will end on November 20 and needs applicants that are not married and should bring with them copies of their documents.

Ustaz Kueth revealed that seven areas of specialization that South Sudanese will study in while in Malaysia include chemistry engineering, civil engineering, Tech- Petroleum geosciences, Tech-information and communications technology and others. [\(Back To Top\)](#)

South Sudan seeks US\$1.1 billion in humanitarian Aid

Bernama.com United Nations,15/11/2013 - South Sudan and aid agencies launched a three-year humanitarian appeal on Thursday seeking US\$1.1 billion to meet the needs of over 3 million people, Xinhua news agency reported.

The appeal launched in South Sudan capital Juba is aimed to assist communities affected by hostilities, displacement, natural disasters and poverty in the country, said United Nations (UN) spokesman Fahran Haq at the UN headquarters in New York.

The 2014-2016 appeal also seeks to build community resilience and strengthen national capacity to deliver basic services.

South Sudan became an independent country in July 2011 and is one of the world's poorest countries.

Tribal conflicts, lack of economic resources, inter-ethnic disputes and the slow pace of development and rehabilitation of infrastructures constitute major difficulties facing South Sudan. ([Back To Top](#))

20,000 stranded returnees to be brought home by Dec 31 – IOM

Eyerradio.org Juba, 14/11/2013-The International Organization for Migration says about 20,000 South Sudanese refugees who are stranded in Khartoum will hopefully be transported to South Sudan by the end of the year.

"The return exercise is going on well," Matthew Graydon, I-O-M representative told Eye Radio.

"About 1,700 returnees have left Unity State for their final destination in Greater Bahr El-Ghazal," he added.

Mr. Graydon said there are still some returnees who are moving into Renk from Kosti.

Last month, the Ambassador of South Sudan in Khartoum, Mayen Dut, announced that the camps for South Sudanese refugees in Khartoum will be closed down by the end of the year, because the Government will have transported all the refugees to South Sudan. ([Back To Top](#))

Forest officer calls for 40 percent forests royalties' implementation

Easter Radio Yei, 15/11/2013-An officer in the department of Forestry in Yei River County is appealing to the authorities to implement a 40-percent levy on forest products to ensure effective management of the sector in the county.

Kennedy Alfred Swaka said Central Equatoria State Ministry of Forestry and Agriculture passed resolution 240/2013 on forestry's royalties to ensure sustainability and coordination of forests management.

The officer made the call while speaking to the media at his office on Thursday. ([Back To Top](#))

Illegal logging threatens South Sudan forests

Voice of America Torit, 14/11/2013 - South Sudanese officials are concerned that they might lose one of the country's treasures if locals in Eastern Equatoria state continue to cut down trees in the 14 forest reserves in the state.

But residents of the state, like Ohide Pios, insist they have no choice but to continue with their illegal activity. The wood, which Pios turns into charcoal or uses to build shelter for his family, is his only means of making a living, he said.

"I normally cut dry trees around the forest and I burn charcoal out of it," Pios, who is unemployed and has four children to support, told VOA News.

"This is my only source of money," he said.

South Sudanese Forestry Minister Ochan John Bongomin noted that it is illegal to cut down trees in Eastern Equatoria's 14 forest reserves without first registering with the authorities.

Without that rule in place, he said, deforestation would likely be extensive, and that would affect the state's rain patterns and make flooding worse. Eastern Equatoria could also run out of rare tree types, such as mahogany, he said.

To beat the problem, South Sudan needs more forestry guards, Bongomin said. The 42 that are currently on the books are not able to prevent illegal logging in thousands of acres of forest, not least

of all because the loggers tend to be armed.

"You find that people go there in big numbers. Unfortunately, currently most of these loggers who go to cut these trees, they have guns," he said.

South Sudan officials are also trying to combat the problem by educating communities about which trees they can cut down without damaging the forests' balance.

"We cannot stop them from building using local materials, but they should be selective when they are cutting the trees," Bongomin said.

"There are many trees around which can be cut for building, but the young ones which are not yet ripened should be allowed to ripen," he said.

Deputy Forestry Director Daniel Alau said steps are also being taken to plant saplings in affected reserves like Imilai, which has lost more than 10 of its 3,000 acres of tree cover to deforestation.

Forestry officials will plant thousands of saplings in Imilai in January and, if the effort is a success, they will duplicate it in other reserves like Kalishoni forest in Magwi county, where the Forestry Ministry estimates that at least two percent of the forest's 1,000 acres have been cut down in the last year alone. ([Back To Top](#))

Kakwa community summit kicks off

Gurtong Yei, 14/11/ 2013—Hundreds of Kakwa community members have gathered for a community dialogue conference in Yei Municipality under the theme 'restoration of Kakwa cultural values'.

The members from Yei, Morobo and Lainya counties, including Yei Members of Parliament at the State and National Assemblies, Church leaders, Government officials, Chiefs and media gathered at Evangelical Presbyterian Church conference hall for a three-day conference supported by the Government of Central Equatoria State and being facilitated by Kakwa intellectuals.

Thomas Wani Lo'ba' binya the chairman Kakwa Community in South Sudan told the press that the conference is as a result of the April 2013 arrest of the Kakwa chiefs, Chairperson and a former politician in Yei Town Payam who were alleged to be backing the M23 rebel fighting the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

He said the incident created disunity among the Kakwa community as some of the their members were said to be behind the arrest of the community leaders by the security.

Thomas said the main objective of the conference is to bring all the community members together to seek reconciliation and open up a new chapter in their socio-economic development and live in peaceful co-existence with the rest of the communities in Yei Municipality and Yei River County.

He added the conference is to allow the community to understand each other, respect one another, and stop lying, corruption and support the national government in developmental activities.

The meeting is expected to discuss factors that disunite or frustrate the communities; taboos that cause misfortunes for the community progress in education and history of the Kakwa cultural values.

Land administration in the Kakwa area is also one of the sensitive agenda to be discussed by the members.

At the end of the three days discussion, the conference is expected to come up with resolutions on how the land in the Kakwa areas is to be administered.

The community will also be introduced to the Governance, genesis of politics and the Kakwa pioneers.

Thomas added the conference will also discuss possible ways and strategies on how to restore the lost cultural values and history adding the community has future plans to open learning centers and a collage where the language and literature can be taught to the current and future generations.

Honorable Paul Yoane Bonju, the chairperson organizing committee for the conference said this phase one conference is to cement the unity of the Kakwa people which will give a way to the phase

two of the general conference which will involve all the communities living in Yei River County scheduled for the end of this month.

“Before you receive any visitors in your household, you need to clean your house,” he said.

Paul said the discussion will also focus on creating peaceful co-existence among the various communities living in Yei so as to avoid creating hotspots in Yei River County just like what is happening in other areas in the country.

He said the conference is also to put an end to the issues of ethnicity in the county and the country at large.

He added this conference is not a political conference but rather a community coming together to exercise their cultural rights mandated to them by article 33 of the Interim Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan.

Honorable Hellen Boro Mursali, the Advisor to the Central Equatoria State on conflict mitigation, who represented the Governor of Central Equatoria State, urged the Kakwa community to make the Kakwa constitution to be understood by everyone to avoid confusion and suspicions of the Kakwa activities in the country.

She added if possible it should be passed by the State or National Assembly or through the community conference.

Hon. Helen said the arrest of the chiefs and the community leaders have raised an alarming and the Kakwa need to seek reconciliation, adding reconciliation cannot be achieved in these three days community dialogue conference, but rather it is a process.

She urged the community in the house to discuss satisfactory and come up with productive resolutions that foster peace and development in the county and the nation.

The three days conference is being run in a single Kakwa language to enable the communities have broad understanding of the conference objectives and discuss freely as it is a home dancing lyrics.

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WES, DR Congo hold border security meeting

Anisa Radio Yambio, 15/11/2013-Western Equatoria and DR Congo officials held a security meeting to strengthen boarder security and check the movement of Ugandan rebels.

A delegation of Western Equatoria including security organs and government officials visited Ezo County to assess the recent Lord’s Resistance Army or LRA attack in the area.

Deputy Governor Sapan Abui told Anisa Radio that the delegating conducted an inter-government security meeting with Congolese security organs at the boarder to control the notorious LRA movements.

He stated that from the intensive assessment and security monitoring teams in Western Equatoria it was concluded that there were no LRA forces within the territory of South Sudan.

The assessment team reported that a group of five LRA rebels who appeared in Namutina, Nagero County, returned to Central African Republic and the six rebels that attacked Ezo County also returned to DR Congo.

Deputy Governor Abui warned citizens against spreading unreliable information that spread panic and displaced people.

He urged displaced people to return to their respective places as security organs are on the ground to protect residents.

The Deputy Governor urged the public to immediately report any LRA suspect movements in the area to security organs, Arrow Boys and headmen. [*\(Back To Top\)*](#)

Sudan ready to meet SPLM-N over vaccination campaign, negotiator

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 14/11/ 2013 - The Sudanese government is ready for discussions over polio vaccination with the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement North (SPLM-N), announced the chief negotiator Ibrahim Gandour who accused the rebel group of hindering the campaign in the Two Areas.

Gandour was speaking to the media on Thursday in reaction to the statements of the UN emergency coordinator John Ging who urged the UN Security Council, on Monday, to intervene and persuade the Sudanese government and the SPLM-N to ensure the conduct of the vaccination campaign in the rebel controlled areas in South Kordofan and Blue Nile states

The government, earlier this month, announced an unilateral cessation of hostilities discussed with the members of the tripartite initiative but declined to negotiate it with the rebels. But, the SPLM-N demanded a negotiated truce saying they do not trust unilateral decisions. The rebel also pointed that the AUHIP is the only body mandated to deal with these issues.

The African Union mediation, in order to facilitate the vaccination campaign, called on the two parties to meet in Addis Abba on 4 November, as the meeting had to deal only with the technical measures necessary to reach and immunise children in the rebel areas.

Gandour on Thursday said the government is ready to join the negotiating table and to negotiate with the SPLM-N over these technical plans needed for the campaign. However, he repeated that they did not receive an invitation to that meeting from the AU mediation.

The Sudanese chief negotiator went further to say the government is ready to discuss a negotiated settlement for the conflict in the Two Areas with the rebel group as it was announced recently by the president Omer Al-Bashir before the parliament.

He said they informed foreign diplomats based in Khartoum on the government's position for peace in Sudan.

He also rejected Ging's statements, adding it was the SPLM-N who impeded the conduct of the campaign.

The UN coordinator last Monday said the UN Security should reengage in a different and more effective way with the two parties, stressing that previous attempts did not bring tangible results.

On 10 October the UN Security Council issued a press statement expressing alarm and grave concern at the imminent threat of the spread of polio through South Kordofan. It further urged the two parties to resolve differences over the technical plans to allow this operation.

However, the president of the 15-member body for November announced on Monday 11 November that the Security Council is working to consider a way to enable the polio campaign in the Sudan to go ahead.

Speaking to reporters after closed-door consultations on Sudan and South Sudan, the Chinese Ambassador to the United Nations, Liu Jieyi said that the vaccination campaign is a concern for the UN body.

"It is an issue that bears on the well-being of children. Children are the future. So we do hope that the conditions will be there so that this polio vaccination campaign can go ahead immediately covering those children that need such a vaccination," Liu said.

NEW CAMPAIGN IN DECEMBER

Sudanese humanitarian commissioner Suleiman Abdel-Rahman, on the other hand, announced that a new polio vaccination campaign will be organised next December in the South Kordofan and Blue Nile states.

The commissioner told reporters on Thursday that the next campaign "will begin on the first day of December", expressing hope that SPLM-N softens its stance, otherwise the Security Council will be compelled to intervene to enforce the campaign, he further stressed.

Ging on Monday pointed out that the positions of the two sides obstruct the UN efforts to eradicate the Polio disease from the planet.

Abdel Rahman said the SPLM-N argues that civilians in the rebel held areas do not trust the government pointing out that the vaccination campaign is implemented by the UN agencies and the government is not party in it.

He also said the SPLM-N doubts the validity of vaccines, adding that UN officials reassured the rebel that it is fabricated outside Sudan under the supervision of the United Nations.

Previously the SPLM-N said the vaccines should be brought to South Kordofan directly from Ethiopia and Kenya. However, the rebel group changed its position and demanded that UN peacekeepers in Abyei region be tasked with the transportation of the vaccines to the rebel areas.

UN agencies say they target 165 children under five years in the Two Areas, over 147.000 are in the South Kordofan.

Different cases of polio, a highly infectious disease caused by a virus that invades the nervous system and can cause total paralysis in a matter of hours, reappeared first in Somalia, a war ravaged country, in Ethiopia, Kenya and South Sudan recently. ([Back To Top](#))

Protesters in north Sudan town agree end their sit-in

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 14/11/ 2013 - The residents of Abu-Hamad town in Nile River state who staged a four day sit-in this week to protest the deterioration of security have agreed to end it after seeing a positive response from the local government to their demands.

Anger erupted in Abu-Hamad last weekend after an unknown assailant entered a female high school dormitory and stabbed one of the students leaving her badly injured in what was reported to be a rape attempt.

Hundreds took the streets afterwards and clashed with the police leading to injuries on both sides as protesters attacked a market and a local government building.

The protests later turned into a sit-in that attracted thousands of residents who submitted a petition containing their demands which included relocating Gabrona market, where mining operations and related activities take place, to an area east of Abu-Hamad.

Nile River state government formed a committee to review the performance Abu Hamad local government and legislative bodies.

It also directed the police in Abu-Hamad to monitor the entry and exit points in the town and beef up their ability to preserve security.

The state government agreed to the demands of moving Gabrona market, addressing deficiencies in electricity power generation and impediments to agricultural production.

They also dispatched a delegation to Abu-Hamad to convey their decisions to the protesters and follow up on their implementation.

But the residents warned that while they ended their sit-in, they will give the government two weeks to fully discharge their promises. ([Back To Top](#))

Sudanese activists face flogging for ‘indecent behaviour’

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 14/11/ 2013 – Two Sudanese political activists charged last month with indecent behaviour after they were found travelling in the same car together remain at risk of flogging, Amnesty International (AI) said in a statement this week.

Najlaa Mohammed Ali and Amin Senada faced court on Wednesday following their arrest on 21 October in Port Sudan.

According to AI, Ali, a lawyer and human rights activist, had arranged to meet with Senada, also an activist, to discuss the planning of a workshop.

They were approached by police and security forces following the meeting after the driver of the amjad (private taxi) they were travelling in pulled over to answer a phone call.

The officers accused Senada of placing his hand on Ali's shoulder, ordering the pair to accompany them to the Police Public Order Department. The arresting officers later claimed they had found them kissing in the car, charging both with 'indecent behaviour' under Article 152 of Sudan's 1991 Criminal Code.

Both could face up to 40 lashes if convicted.

AI has called on the Sudanese government to drop the charges against the pair, also urging it to repeal Article 152.

Sudan's public order law (POL) governing morality has come under increased scrutiny recently following a high profile case against female activist Amira Osman Hamed, who is facing a flogging sentence after being charged with dressing indecently for not covering her hair with a headscarf.

Hamed has remained defiant and is refusing to cover her hair.

Last week, UN independent experts urged Sudan to end flogging punishments for women accused of so called moral crimes, stressing that the practice amounts to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment that goes against international law.

In a joint statement, special rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences Rashida Manjoo and Frances Raday, the chairperson of the working group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice, said women disproportionately face the punishment as a result of rampant gender discrimination.

Under the POL, premarital sex, adultery, failure to prove rape, dressing 'indecently' or other behaviour deemed immoral, are all grounds for flogging in Sudan. ([Back To Top](#))

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