



United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)

Media & Spokesperson Unit
Communications & Public Information Office

MEDIA MONITORING REPORT

WEDNESDAY, 29 MAY 2013

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Highlights

Agreements hold despite pipeline threat: Minister

Radio Miraya Juba, 28/05/13 - South Sudan is committed to implementing the cooperation agreements it has signed with Sudan despite threats of shutting down the oil pipeline, Information and Broadcasting, Minister Dr. Barnaba Marial Benjamin said.

Dr. Benjamin said Sudan and South Sudan are signatories to the nine cooperation agreements signed in September, including security and oil flow, and that the two countries have to respect them.

Sudan President Omar al-Bashir on Tuesday threatened to shut down the oil pipeline if South Sudan does not end an alleged support to rebels fighting his government.

“The Republic of South Sudan is not supporting these rebels,” Dr. Marial said.

“Oil is for the economic benefit of both countries. The dollars go to enhance the economic viability of the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan and what we want to say is: It is part of the cooperation agreement and we would expect the Republic of Sudan to respect the agreements they are signatories on, we see no reason for threats” he told **Radio Miraya**. [\(Back to top\)](#)

Kiir, Bashir fail to break Abyei deadlock

Radio Miraya Juba, 28/05/13 - Presidents Kiir and Bashir have failed to reach a compromise on Abyei and have referred the matter to the African Union High Implementation Panel (AUHIP).

The Minister in the Office of the President, Emmanuel Lowila, said the two leaders’ failure to agree on Abyei prompted the call for AU to mediate.

“The difficult part was on Abyei which President Bashir found it difficult to accept but after several discussions there is hope,” the minister said.

“We hope that there will be an agreeable compromise which will enable the people of Abyei to decide their destiny as agreed in the protocol.”

The United States’ Secretary of State John Kerry had earlier offered to work with the AU to help resolve the issues when call upon.

The President had returned home after participating in the Summit which marked the 50th anniversary of the African Union. [\(Back to top\)](#)

Juba and Khartoum in “delicate place” over Abyei, US warns

Sudantribune.com Juba, 28/05/13 - The US government has warned Sudan and South over the contested region of Abyei, saying the two countries were in a “delicate place” regarding the status of the oil-producing region.

Secretary of State, John Kerry, said Abyei remains one of the significant challenges, which the two Sudan’s will have to settle, alongside the other outstanding post-session issues.

“I think North and South [Sudan] are in a very delicate place right now. It is important to build on the peace process, the comprehensive peace agreement, to build on the new independence of the young state, and to put the focus and energy on the people and on developing the future, not on fighting the issues of the past,” said Kerry, in a statement extended to *Sudan Tribune*.

That’s our challenge, all of us, and we are certainly going to continue to work at it, he added.

The senior US official further pledged his government’s support for conduct of a referendum in the contested region, which he said was the only way to resolve the conflict. He however

stressed that the voting should exclude the nomadic Arab members of the Misseriya tribe allied to Sudan.

“Abyei presents a special challenge, obviously. And I think we agreed that it was critical that Abyei be able to have a referendum with the appropriate Misseriya – that is the Misseriya who actually live in Abyei and have residence there year round, not the migrant Misseriya – that they be able to vote together with residents and then to decide the future”, Kerry’s statement reads in part. [\(Back to top\)](#)

Presidential guard commander denies accusation of assassination attempt

Sudantribune.com Juba, 28/05/13 - The commander of the presidential guard unit, Major General Marial Chanuonng Yol, has categorically denied accusation of alleged assassination attempt against a senior police officer in the nation’s capital, Juba.

The presidential guard unit commander was accused by the police Major General William Deng Garang of organising the attempted assassination on his life, as the victim claimed that he was ambushed in the outskirts of Juba town while on his way to Eastern Equatoria state on duty.

Juba Monitor newspaper on Thursday and Monday published the dramatic stories of accusations and counter-accusations as the two senior police and army officers took the matter to the public.

Garang, who is the Director of Prisons and in charge of the police force in Eastern Equatoria state, told the media that he narrowly escaped the assassination at Nesitu checkpoint outside Juba town.

He also accused the presidential guard unit of searching his home and falsely accusing him of joining the rebels of David Yau Yau in Jonglei state.

The police general who was travelling to Torit with a convoy of 12 bodyguards said he was stopped at the checkpoint by a big force and was humiliated and brought back to Juba.

Yol however denied the accusations but acknowledged that the forces at the checkpoint and those of Garang exchanged unpleasant drama.

He said the police general refused to abide by the rules while the presidential guards were conducting a weapons search in the town where nobody was allowed to move with guns.

He further explained that Garang refused to comply and instead went ahead with his force and knocked down the Nesitu checkpoint pole, prompting the forces at the checkpoint to react against the violation, without giving the details.

The presidential guard unit commander counter-accused Garang of political motivation by trying to incite conflict between his community of Dinka Bor and that of Dinka Bahr el Ghazal.

Yol further explained that Garang’s community members were responsible in the past for falsely accusing another Major General Marial Nuor Jok in order to lose his job.

"I am reliably informed that he [Garang] has sat with his community members including those in uniform and stated that Major General Marial Chanuonng has ambushed and humiliated him. This is a pathetic lie. What is my interest in ambushing a comrade and a man in service like me? This gross negative accusation has not gone well with me," he was quoted as saying.

Yol went further to express the doubt whether Garang was given the permission to travel to Eastern Equatoria state by his police boss.

He said he phoned the Director General of Prisons in Juba, Lt. Gen. Abel Makoi, who told him that he was not aware of Garang’s mission. [\(Back to top\)](#)

Juba Airport to receive Diplomatic Protection Unit Police

Gurtong Juba, 28/05/13 - About 50 South Sudanese Police officers from the Diplomatic Protection Unit will be deployed at Juba International Airport in a bid to improve the security at the airport, an official said.

The European Union Aviation Security Mission in South Sudan (EUAVSEC) in joint cooperation with United Nations Police (UNPOL)/UNMISS launch a project to deploy 50 South Sudanese Police Officers from the Diplomatic Protection Unit (DPU) to Juba International Airport to improve the airport security according to a statement from the European Union (EU).

The police officers are reported to have been given specialized training by UNPOL/UNMISS and the EUAVSEC has started to train them in airport related security at the EUAVSEC training facilities at the airport “Upon successful completion of training, the 50 DPU officers would be deployed at Juba international Airport (JIA) to improve airport security. EUAVSEC will mentor the DPU officers when they are on duty at the airport,” the statement partly reads.

The EUAVSEC mission in country assists the Government of South Sudan to raise the security at Juba International Airport to internationally accepted standards. Improving airport security will enable the increased flow of people and goods, as well as boosting trade.

“The responsibility for aviation security is in the hand of Government of South Sudan while EUAVSEC will assist South Sudan to build-up adequate capacities,” the statement adds.

EUAVSEC is responding to South Sudan's request for an EU support to strengthen security at Juba International Airport to assist South Sudan in becoming a viable, stable and prosperous state. [\(Back to top\)](#)

UN Peacekeepers’ Day marked in Torit

Gurtong Toir, 29/05/13 - The United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) yesterday joined the UN family in marking the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers.

The celebrations in the Eastern Equatoria State capital Torit were preceded by a series of activities.

A four-team volleyball tournament was held at Torit Freedom Square on Monday which culminated into the grand celebrations held yesterday at the same venue.

A parade by the Police Band began its marching in front of the Old Torit County Office and ended at the Square where government and UNMISS officials made speeches.

Traditional dancers added pomp and colour to the celebrations attended by thousands of state residents who had been mobilised through mass media including the state-owned 97.5 FM and Catholic-owned 89 FM *Radio Emmanuel*.

The UNMISS coordinator in Eastern Equatoria State Ms Hiroko Mosko told Gurtong that the annual celebrations are held to salute and pay tribute to peacekeepers and those who have served in peacekeeping around the world.

“It is also a time to pay respect to and remember those who have lost their lives in the course of bringing peace to nations”, she said.

Others who spoke at the event were the Torit County Commissioner German Charles Ojok and the keynote address delivered by the Eastern Equatoria State Governor Louis Lobong Lojore.

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More than 75,000 receive food aid in Panyijar

Radio Miraya Juba, 28/05/13 - Humanitarian agencies have started distributing food to more than 75,000 hungry people at risk of starvation in Panyijar County, Unity State.

The relief aid included food and medical items, said William Kuol Geng, the state's Relief and Rehabilitation's Director.

He told Radio Miraya that support for tens of thousands of people was mobilized last week and that mobilization was continuing.

"We have distributed a good quantity of food to the people. We have assisted 1,200 households, which is something to do with 75,000 individuals," said Kuol.

"We have sent food and also health equipment, we are assisting them already," he said. 20 people were reported to have died of hunger in Panyijar County last month. [\(Back to top\)](#)

Calm returns to Maiwut after clashes – Commissioner

Radio Miraya Juba, 28/05/13 – The Commissioner of Maiwut County, Upper Nile State, Gadet Bol Baguang, has said that calm has returned to the county after the weekend clashes which left four people dead and thousands displaced.

The fighting erupted on Saturday between the Cieng Waw Nuer clan from Maiwut County and the Cieng Nyajani Nuer clan from Makuei Woreda in Ethiopia.

The commissioner added that the situation is under control with the deployment of additional police in the area. [\(Back to top\)](#)

GIZ to supply Yambio with safe water

Sudan Catholic Radio Network Yambio, 29/05/13 - A German delegation said their government gave funds to carry out water projects in Yambio and Yei River Counties.

This was disclosed in a meeting between Yambio County commissioner Kuzee John Elia and GIZ team leader, Winstone Maluka, *Anisa Radio* reported.

Mr Maluka said GIZ is ready to install facilities in Yambio to supply the town with safe water.

Commissioner Kuzee requested GIZ to form a body to monitor closely all the activities of the project.

He urged the German organization to be transparent to meet the needs of all the citizens and render services without discrimination or favour. [\(Back to top\)](#)

Arman says Bashir's statements demonstrate his determination to kill civilians

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 28/5/13 - SPLM-N secretary general Yasir Arman denounced Bashir remarks where he announced the suspension of talks with the rebel Sudanese Revolutionary Front (SRF) and termed it as a "genocidal statement".

"The declaration yesterday(Monday) by General Bashir that he is not going to negotiate and that he is going to continue to fight and annihilate the SRF is a genocidal statement whose price has always been paid by the civilian population during the long dictatorship of Bashir", Arman said in a statement extended to Sudan Tribune.

Arman further called to form an international committee to investigate human rights violations by both sides in Southern and Northern Kordofan.

"Whoever is found committing crimes and war crimes should be held responsible and accountable", he challenged.

SRF rebels were accused by the government of committing war crimes and violating human rights during their recent attacks in South Kordofan particularly in Abu Kershola. They are also accused of destroying a power station in Um Ruwaba, North Kordfoan.

But Arman refuted the attack on the power station saying it was bombed by Sudanese warplanes.

The rebel leader also commented on Bashir's statement where he warned Juba that his government would stop the oil flow through the Sudanese pipeline if they continue their alleged support to the rebel groups.

Bashir's statement against the South Sudan "proves again that General Bashir is not for a peaceful settlement within Sudan and neither for peaceful co-existence with South Sudan. This needs to be noted seriously", stated Arman who is also SRF foreign secretary.

On Monday evening SRF spokesperson, Abu El-Gassim Al-Haj, announced the "tactical withdrawal" of their combatants from Abu Kershola, saying it was decided for humanitarian reasons, as some 16,000 people remained in the town deprived from food after the blockade imposed by the army.

"The SRF Forces, after they completed their first phase of their operation - Plan A, they decided on a tactical withdrawal from Abu Karshula sector in preparation for executing Plan B", Arman said.

He said that political and armed struggles are entering a new phase, pointing out that the SRF is extending its message to all sectors of Sudanese society to work together for democratisation and to build a new state based on equal citizenship and rule of law.

The SRF always prefers a peaceful transformation that will bring about a change and a paradigm shift towards equal citizenship and ending discrimination, but we have not found a counterpart who is ready to go through this task, he further said. [\(Back to top\)](#)

MDTF for South Sudan: Improving life for South Sudan's 8.3 mln people

The World Bank Juba, 28/05/13 - As South Sudan heads toward the second anniversary of its Independence this July, the country is beginning to see the results of more than seven years of development efforts aimed at improving the lives of its 8.3 million citizens.

Across the country, 87 hospitals, clinics and other health facilities have been built to improve access to basic health services for more than one million people. The Juba Teaching Hospital, built in 2006-7, is attracting medical students from across the country and already is bringing much-needed health care to the residents of the country's capital city and areas surrounding it. Mobile health clinics are bringing health care to rural communities and medical supplies are reaching more families in rural and urban areas than ever before.

In education, some 336 primary school rooms have been built, 2.2 million textbooks distributed to students in South Sudan's 10 states and about 1000 teachers have been trained. More than 7000 students have received vocational training in a country where unemployment remains high.

"Before, children studied under trees, and now they have proper classrooms," said Joseph Amule, who teaches at Loa Primary School in Central Equatoria, recalling how logs and rocks served as desks and chairs before furniture arrived.

Led by the Government of the Republic of South Sudan (GRSS), the US\$718 million Multi-donor Trust Fund for South Sudan or MDTF-SS, was created by the Government and 14 international partners to support reconstruction, poverty reduction, governance and human development. Launched in 2005, it was the single largest source of funding for the newly independent nation.

The MDTF-SS has financed over 300 public buildings such as hostels, hospitals, classrooms and government offices, including a complex of 18 ministries, and funded the repair of almost 2,500 kilometers of road linking Juba to state capitals throughout the country.

"Working through a difficult period of transition, the MDTF-SS has delivered substantial results," says Bella Bird, World Bank Country Director for South Sudan, Sudan and Somalia. "Among the more satisfying, is the citing by an independent evaluation that the way in which

the MDTF-SS projects were implemented helped build government capacity to deliver services, build infrastructure and design programs for poverty reduction.”

According to the Director General of the Water Resources Ministry, the Fund has helped more than one million people get better and easier access to basic health and sanitation services. It has also helped empower women, to participate in the economic growth of the country.

“The women of South Sudan have emerged from conflict strong and determined to rebuild their lives and the nation,” said Mary Jervas, Deputy Minister for Finance for South Sudan. “Through the MDTF-SS, over 108 women’s groups have been provided with funds for economic activities like tailoring, food processing and running retail stores.”

Going forward

Despite the successes, South Sudan still faces many challenges. Youth unemployment remains high, a concern in a country with a large and restive youth demographic; agricultural production is low; one in seven women still dies in child birth—one of the world’s highest maternal mortality rates—and access to education, particularly for girls, is limited. A woman in South Sudan has a greater chance of dying in childbirth than completing school.

Though the MDTF-SS closes officially on May 28, 2013, the country will continue to benefit from international donor support for development through several sources, including a US\$130 million grant from the World Bank Group’s Fund for the poorest countries, the International Development Association.

In a message at the closing ceremony of the MDTF-SS on Monday, President Salva Kir thanked the international community for its financial support.

“The World Bank and donors have provided assistance as part of the Multi-donor Trust Fund,” said Jervaz. “And we plan to continue working together to realize our mission of a peaceful and prosperous South Sudan.” [\(Back to top\)](#)

UN Peacekeepers Day: Resilience in the Face of Adversity

*Op-ed by SRSJ Hilde Johnson on **The Huffington Post** (this piece first appeared on **The Citizen** of 24/05/13), 28/05/13* - The people of South Sudan have taught us a powerful lesson: never surrender to pessimism. Their resilience, which brought them an independent country, has also helped South Sudan overcome the daunting challenges of going through eighteen long months virtually without government revenues. I doubt that any other nation would have avoided a meltdown from that situation. The time has come to make decisive strides to consolidate peace and stability throughout the country, focus on state building and nation building, and deliver on the peace dividends that the South Sudanese people have waited for so long.

Following the inspiring example of the people that it serves, the United Nations Mission in South Sudan, UNMISS, has also remained resilient in the face of adversity. As we observe the International Day of the United Nations Peacekeepers on 29 May, we pay tribute to sixteen of our bravest colleagues who died in two senseless tragedies: the downing of an UNMISS helicopter on 21 December 2012 and an ambush on a UN convoy on 9 April. Among the dead were four Russian crew members, five Indian soldiers--who died while fighting to protect their colleagues--, and two South Sudanese civilians.

Both tragedies happened in Jonglei, a state most afflicted by insecurity and instability and which is the focus of the UNMISS mandate to protect civilians. Last year, UNMISS received threats by anti-government armed elements against one of our bases in Pibor County. Our response was to increase our military presence in the county.

UNMISS has conducted well over a thousand military patrols of long and short duration across Jonglei State since last August to reach out to and protect all communities. We have recently increased our military presence throughout the state to six companies, equally present in the areas of Jonglei's three main communities (Bor Dinka, Lou Nuer and Murle). We are not the peacekeepers of one community; we are the peacekeepers for all of them.

But even if we were to deploy up to our last pair of boots and all our assets to Jonglei or to any other state, we could never replace the Government, the police or the military in that part of the country. The primary responsibility to protect the population rests with the Government of the Republic of South Sudan. Like all UN Peacekeeping missions, UNMISS can only support the country's institutions to help them fulfill their responsibilities as a sovereign State. We put at their service the resources that UN member states so generously give us to achieve the goal that they and the Government of South Sudan have set for us: to help consolidate peace and security, to help extend and consolidate the authority of the Republic throughout the entire territory of South Sudan, and to help establish the conditions for development.

Together, the Government and the UN family in South Sudan are doing a great deal to achieve this goal. I will highlight three areas where significant progress is being made amidst daunting challenges.

Firstly, protection of civilians, which has been the driving force of UNMISS since it was established less than two years ago. UNMISS has consistently provided physical protection to civilians fleeing from violence. The gates of our base in Wau, the state capital of Western Bahr el Ghazal, were opened to over 5,000 civilians who sought refuge from clashes for several days in December last year. Similar scenes have occurred in Pibor and Gumuruk, Jonglei State, where groups of civilians numbering from a few hundred to as many as 3,000 have taken shelter in UNMISS bases on several occasions since the start of this year.

The second area where steady progress is taking place is the transformation of the South Sudan National Police Service (SSNPS) into a professional and effective police force. The Government and the SSNPS, with the support of UNMISS and other partners, have completed the registration of 46,000 police officers, and those "ghost" officers who exist on the payroll but perform no policing functions will be weeded out. At the same time, UN Police are training police at all levels to improve the conduct and capacity of the SSNPS and help transform the whole police service.

A third area where progress is moving forward is the rule of law. The Government, with the support of UNMISS and other UN partners, has addressed more than a thousand cases of prolonged and arbitrary detention. Mobile courts are also being established by the Government with our support to address prolonged and arbitrary detention, and to improve access to justice.

Much bigger strides are needed in the coming months to consolidate the still fragile institutions of South Sudan. UNMISS will help the Government make headway in pursuing further political reforms, improve the human rights situation throughout the country, and conduct a population census and democratic elections.

There is no single recipe to achieve these milestones. But there are two ingredients that must be present in any of them: transparency and accountability - of the Government, the public administration, the police, the SPLA, the communities, grass-root organizations, the oil companies, the media and, of course, the international organizations and the UN Mission in South Sudan. Personal accountability and responsibility should guide all of us- the Government and all its institutions, and international partners- to prove the nay-sayers wrong and help South Sudan fulfill its promise of a better life for all.

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