



# United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)

Media & Spokesperson Unit  
Communications & Public Information Office

## MEDIA MONITORING REPORT

THURSDAY, 06 JUNE 2013

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# Highlights

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## **UN approves over 5 million to help Jonglei civilians\***

*Sudan Catholic Radio Network Juba, 06/06/13* - The United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund or CERF approved 5.4 million US dollars to strengthen emergency medical capacity to assist the people of Jonglei state.

In a press statement issued on Wednesday UN also approved two helicopters to access and treat injured civilians or evacuate them.

The fund will boost partners' capacity to treat patients injured in clashes by providing needed medical equipment, supplies and support staff.

UN Humanitarian Coordinator in South Sudan Toby Lanzer expressed deep concern about civilians safety in Jonglei.

He said the fund will help to access remote areas and people struck by violence. [\(Back to top\)](#)

*\* Text of the Press Statement attached separately*

## **Save the Children launches Child Rights Coalition**

*Sudan Catholic Radio Network Juba, 04/06/13* - Save the Children on Tuesday launched South Sudan Child Rights Coalition, a network of civil society organizations to ensure all children get their rights.

The coalition comprises 19 organizations from the ten states, Radio Bakhita reported.

Coalition chairperson Paulino Akuei said they decided to work together to realize children rights in the country.

He said the Coalition will work together with international NGOs, national and states governments.

Save the Children Deputy Programme Director Nadia Noor said the Coalition will bring huge impact on the life of children in South Sudan.

She called on the actors to listen to children and work according to children's best interests.

Child Welfare Director in the Ministry of Gender Celina Peter said the government would work closely with the actors to see positive impact in children's life.

She said the ministry would work closely with the policies makers and the law enforcement agencies to ensure that children's rights are protected.

The coalition was formed in November last year to assess issues that affect children. [\(Back to top\)](#)

## **Amnesty International calls for release of clergymen**

*Gurtong Torit, 06/06/13* - Amnesty International has expressed great concerns over the detention of Church leaders in South Sudan and is appealing to authorities to urgently release

According to a press release from the body two members of the Presbyterian Church in South Sudan, Reverend Idris Joshua Idris Nalos and Pastor Trainee David Gayin were picked from their homes by security forces on 19 May.

"They are being detained incommunicado, without access to a lawyer or their family, and are at risk of torture or other forms of ill-treatment", read part of the statement.

On 19 May at 8pm security forces entered Reverend Idris Joshua Idris Nalos' house in South Sudan's capital, Juba, and according to eyewitnesses, fired three shots in the air, before proceeding to beat the Reverend and take him away in a car belonging to the security forces.

They also searched and confiscated valuables belonging to him and his family members, including mobile phones, house keys, laptops and documents.

Amnesty International further says that on the same night, at around 10pm, security forces broke down the door and entered the house of Pastor Trainee David Gayin and arrested him.

“No reason was given to either of the clergymen’s families for their arrests, and their whereabouts remain unknown. They have not had access to a lawyer or their family members”, adds the statement.

Amnesty International maintains that “detaining someone for more than 24 hours without the permission of the court, as both men have been, is illegal in South Sudan. Article 19(4) of the Republic of South Sudan’s Transitional Constitution states that a suspect must be released on bail after 24 hours, unless a court decides they should be remanded in prison”. [\(Back to top\)](#)

### **Interior ministry orders closure of illegal check points**

*Radio Miraya Juba, 05/06/13* - The Ministry of Interior has issued an order on Wednesday banning all illegal check points used for levying multiple taxes on traders.

The order signed by Deputy Minister Salva Mathok Gengdit, directed all Police Commissioners to remove any illegal check points with immediately.

The order mentioned illegal collection points in Upper Nile and Northern Bahr el Ghazal State, where traders complained of heavy taxation and illegal levies on transit goods.

The Deputy Minister warned organized forces against collecting taxes, saying the fees should only be collected by authorized government agents.

The order further stated any person found taxing transit goods will be arrested and taken to court. [\(Back to top\)](#)

### **Presbyterian youth complain pastors arrest**

*Sudan Catholic Radio Network Juba, 05/06/13* - Presbyterian Church youth are complaining the arrest of their two pastors who went missing since May 19.

Simon Korok, a member of a youth group in the Church said their activities were running down due to the absence of the two pastors, *Radio Bakhita* reported.

He said Church and family members saw the two pastors at military prison in Giada on May 20 and were no more seen because they are in unknown location.

The national security denied presence of the two pastors under them. [\(Back to top\)](#)

### **Northern Bahr el Ghazal State most peaceful**

*Gurtong Aweil, 05/06/13* - Northern Bahr el Ghazal State remains one of the most peaceful states in South Sudan.

Participants at a peace building workshop in the State capital Aweil were told Wednesday that the State continues enjoying peace owing to the non-violent ways of solving differences.

“Northern Bahr el Ghazal has ranked the best and the most peaceful state among the 10 states of South Sudan due its calm and peaceful relationships within the residents and with neighbours. This does not mean that they don’t have internal problems but they have mature ways of handling them. I wish this could be applied to the rest of the ethnic groups in the new nation”, a representative of the South Sudan Peace and Reconciliation Commission Samuel Wel said.

The workshop organised by USAID-funded Winrock International aims at helping local government officials to spearhead peace initiatives as well as promote individuals rights.

It is also meant to help citizens understand their roles as peace builders and their interaction with local authorities.

The workshop brought together State Ministers of Parliamentary Affairs, Water Management and Irrigation and Local Government and Law enforcement Agency, County Commissioners, senior government officials and various state ministries representatives.

The Chief of Party for Winrock International of Sudan Bridge program Ms Lutfiyah Ahmed said her organisation is committed to help the local governments initiate peace initiatives.

“We are giving out these tools of peace building for your best practices and good governance amongst your people especially at the grassroots level. We are glad with the support we are receiving from the state government and local communities”, she said.

She urged the youth, traditional leaders and women to join hands in promoting peace in South Sudan. [\(Back to top\)](#)

### **Chinese firm to build power plant in Unity State**

*Radio Miraya Juba, 03/06/13* - Unity State government has contracted a private Chinese company (CNC) to build a power plant.

CNC won the contract because of its capital and experience in power installation, the state government said.

The plant will provide electricity to the state capitol, Bentiu, and the capitol of the neighboring Lakes State, Rumbek, CNC agent James Kuan said. [\(Back to top\)](#)

### **Terekeka urges government to stop intruding Jonglei, Lakes cattle keepers**

*Eye Radio 06/06/13* - The government must resolve the issue of cattle from other states destroying properties in Terekeka County in Central Equatoria State, says the County Commissioner.

Commissioner Jacob Gore told *Eye Radio* that the state government should demand that cattle keepers from Jonglei and Lakes states return animals to their respective states to avoid conflict:

“We want the State and the national government to intervene and solve this problem once and for all. If we go-slow on this matter, it is not good. We need a temporary solution, so that cattle keepers in different state are returned to their respective states so that we settle.”

Farmers in the area and state in general have been complaining of threats caused by presence of cattle keepers in their areas. The animals allegedly destroy crops.

Attempt by the host communities, who are predominantly farmers, to intervene is met with armed resistance from the cattlemen.

Last month, Jonglei Governor Kuol Manyang urged Central Equatoria authorities to drive back pastoralists by force.

However in response, the CES Information minister Jacob Aligo said it is difficult to use the state police or the army because he said “many cattle are owned by senior civil servants.”

CES minister of Animal Resources, Gerald Francis, said a bill on controlling movements of animals in different states will be tabled before the national parliament soon:

“We are coming up with a law that will be deliberated upon by the national assembly....if animals from here are moving into a different state, there will specific routes that must be used by the cattle keepers. If cattle are found moving randomly in the bush, the owners of these cattle will be fined.”

Meanwhile, Central Equatoria State Minister of Cabinet Affairs, Cecilia Oba urges cattle keepers from both States to conduct meetings on how to co-exist peacefully. [\(Back to top\)](#)

### **Torit County authorities seeking to end communal feuds**

*Gurtong Torit, 05/06/13* - Lack of funds has greatly hampered efforts to reconcile two warring villages in Torit County.

Torit County Commissioner German Charles Ojok is seeking support from the Conflict Mitigation Stabilization Initiative (CMSI) to resolve the persistent conflict in four villages in Bur Payam.

The official told Gurtong that Mutaram, Osito, Bar and Omorwo villages have continually been engaged in feuds over land.

Commissioner Ojok said that eight people were killed in April when Bari and Omorwo villages clashed over ownership of farming fields lying between Omorwo and Bari settlements at Loudo area in Bur Payam.

“It is regrettable that such a dispute which could have been resolved amicably deteriorated badly leading to the deaths”, he said while appealing for restraint.

A meeting between the County Commissioner and CMSI identified an urgent need for intervention.

“ A dialogue mechanism should be adopted for the intervention as using forceful means this time won't work anymore because of standing grudges amongst the two feuding communities”, he said.

“The possibility of revenge undoubtedly terrifies. Who knows? They might have even by now launched another deadly attack on the Bari clan. This is dangerous and I would not want this to happen. We must arrest the situation before it escalates further”, said Commissioner Ojok.

The State Advisor for Conflict Mitigation and Stabilization Initiative II in Eastern Equatoria Leopold Bhoroma welcomed the Commissioner's approach for peaceful solution to the conflict.

He however, clarified that CMSI only offers technical support as opposed to financial assistance as its intervention.

Bhoroma however, hinted at extending assistance saying his organization will develop a concept paper, including a working budget to address the issue. [\(Back to top\)](#)

### **Missionary warns Christians against tribal differences**

*Sudan Catholic Radio Network Yambio, 05/06/13* - A Comboni Missionary warned Christians of Tombura-Yambio Diocese against tribal differences.

Fr Petero Magalasi urged the Christians to avoid hatred and segregations between tribes or denominations, *Anisa Radio* reported.

He said people should not consider the identities of Zande, Balanda, Muru or any tribe because they are all Christians and believers.

The cleric said he was very excited to see how faith is growing in the country with many children enrolled in schools.

Fr Magalasi said he was also excited to find his former pupils hold big positions in the church and the governments.

He asked everybody to put God ahead of everything, urging the youth to practice sports, drama and other activities.

The 84-year old Fr Magalasi returned to Yambio on Monday after many years in services outside the diocese. [\(Back to top\)](#)

### **Pastor wounded in inter-communal violence in Kajokeji county of CES**

*Sudantribune.com Juba, 05/06/13* - At least four people were wounded, some in critical condition, when violence erupted between two sections of Kuku community in Kajokeji county of Central Equatoria state on Monday.

The violence was caused by a dispute over land between neighboring payams as youth took the law into their own hands to settle the dispute in Giri area, according to the UN-sponsored Miraya radio which broadcast the incidence.

The quarrel centred on a counter-claimed piece of land on which a church was built. A pastor was among those wounded in the clashes and the church was burnt to ashes by the angry youth.

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### **Ministry to initiate tree planting in schools**

*Sudan Catholic Radio Network Juba, 05/06/13* - Environment and Sustainable Development Ministry planned to initiate tree planting in schools to encourage children to make short and long term commitment to tree planting.

Deputy Minister Philip Palet made the announcement during World Environment Day celebration on Tuesday in Juba under a local theme: "Effective Waste Management".

He said the Day was significant for reducing waste and conserving resources.

Mr Palet said the ministry developed environmental policy framework and environmental regulations.

He said the ministry signed a number of agreements including Vienna Convention, and UN Framework on Climate Change among others.

Central Equatoria Environment Minister Latio Gambu Wani called for the need of sensitizing people on the importance of the environment.

United Nations Environmental Programme or UNEP Officer Arshad Khan said UNEP will continue to help South Sudan in protecting its environment.

The two national and state Ministers planted some trees at Juba One Boys Basic School to symbolize the importance of the World Environment Day. [\(Back to top\)](#)

### **Yei faces animal drugs shortage**

*Sudan Catholic Radio Network Yei, 05/06/13* - The veterinary unit in the department of Animal Resources and Fisheries in Yei River County faces animals' drugs shortage.

Stock officer Jackson Taban said lack of drugs forced the department to buy drugs from outside clinics to treat sick animals, *Radio Easter* reported.

Taban requested the National and state ministries of Animal Resources and Fisheries to supply more drugs to rescue the situation on the ground.

He said without drugs animals are at risk. [\(Back to top\)](#)

### **Adjumani Police arrest 2 over child trafficking**

*The New Vision 05/06/13* - Police in Adjumani district [northern Uganda] have arrested two people in connection with the trafficking of Ugandan children for sale in Juba, South Sudan.

Josephine Angucia, the West Nile Regional Police spokesperson identified the suspects as Bosco Ogemba, 31 and Charles Akomi, 18, all residents of Miriaye village in Ofua sub-county, who were arrested on May 26, 2013.

The suspects, who were to appear in court, are accused of kidnapping four children from Pakele sub-county and selling them to South Sudan at 2,000 Sudanese pounds.

Angucia identified the kidnap victims as Denis Opoka, 6, Harriet Dropia, 7, Gladys Angwa, 6 and Denis Amanzuru whose age was not readily established.

They were allegedly sold to two Sudanese women only identified as Nana and Dudu in May last year.

Police launched investigations that subsequently led to the suspects' arrest when the children's grandfather Anzebo Kopebo registered a complaint to Police last month.

"The suspects deceived the parents of the children that they were taking them to be enrolled at a school in Adjumani town. They instead sold them to Juba," Angucia said.

She said the Police were liaising with the Interpol to arrange to return the children home and also apprehend the women who bought them.

Angucia added that the incident should sound as a warning to parents not to allow people whose backgrounds they do not know well to take charge of their children. [\(Back to top\)](#)

### **South Sudan oil output target needs at least a year**

**Reuters** Khartoum/ Juba, 05/06/13 - South Sudan will restart oil exports this month but will need at least a year to restore output fully after fighting with Sudan damaged facilities and hit the performance of oilfields, industry sources say.

Production is unlikely to get much higher than 230,000 barrels per day this year after the restart in April, the sources say.

South Sudan had hoped to have an output of 200,000 bpd in place by mid-April but new tensions with Sudan led to delays.

"There is a possibility that by next year, June, we will have reached the levels we had before the shutdown," said Henry Odwar, head of the energy and mining committee at South Sudan's parliament.

The landlocked producer agreed in March with Sudan to resume exporting oil through two cross-border pipelines, ending a shutdown started in January 2012 in a row with Khartoum over pipeline fees. Oil is the lifeline for both nations, formally one country.

Fields in South Sudan's Unity state and a treatment plant in Heglig in Sudan were both damaged during border skirmishes between the two countries last year.

Two months after turning on wells, these fields near Bentiu produce only between 10,000 bpd and 20,000 bpd, said Odwar. An oil source said production there would not exceed 30,000 bpd in the next months, less than half of previous output.

Engineers have struggled to restart some wells, which were not closed properly when the government rushed operators to turn off the oil in January 2012.

Last month, the oil was briefly halted at Jebelain, a Sudanese processing facility at the border, where it has water removed before continuing through the eastern pipeline to Port Sudan, where it is loaded for shipment.

Sudan said the waxy Dar Blend oil had not yet reached the necessary quality to be sold abroad. But, oil sources say, while there might have been a technical issue, Khartoum also halted flows to warn South Sudan to sever ties with rebels on Sudanese soil.

"We came close to disaster because South Sudan almost had to shut down its output as it lacks storage," said an oil insider. South Sudan was forced to halve output to 105,000 barrels a day.

Oil officials in Juba were worried the pressure would blow a hole in the pipeline, or wreck oil facilities.

After two days of frantic phone calls between the African neighbours and international mediators the oil is back on its way to Port Sudan, but Southern officials are under no illusion that more disruptions might occur.

"Sudan has yet to prove that they are going to be a reliable partner in terms of the oil flow," Odwar said. "We don't know what the next surprise will be."

Sudan's President Omar Hassan al-Bashir warned last week he would shut down the pipes if Juba kept supporting insurgents operating across the shared border, claims denied by the South.

South Sudan used to put its pre-shutdown output at 350,000 bpd but recently officials have said it was closer to 300,000 bpd.

Both governments have made little effort to disclose accurate production figures, wary of corruption charges from critics, said Nhial Bol, editor of South Sudan's *Citizen TV*, the country's only private channel.

"There is no transparency about the capacity. This is a government-designed policy," he said.

South Sudan's oil sales are also suffering from surging costs for the operating companies, dominated by China National Petroleum Corp (CNPC), Malaysia's Petronas and India's ONGC Videsh.

Analysts say the foreign firms are entitled to a share of the oil production but have not been paid much during the shutdown, during which they maintained the fields. Costs have jumped particularly since September when Juba ordered them, after a first oil deal with Sudan, to prepare wells - only to wait another seven months.

"Sudan and South Sudan took their time with tactical games so now there is a nice bill to be paid," said an industry source.

Some light quality Nile Blend crude, produced from small fields in Unity state, is also not going to Port Sudan to be sold abroad, oil sources say. Instead it is flowing to a refinery in Khartoum which is co-owned by CNPC, which also dominates the oil sector in Sudan.

For transparency and to avoid disputes both sides should set up, as agreed, metering systems and phone links between oil facilities, said Endre Stiansen, Special Envoy of Norway which advises Khartoum and Juba on oil issues.

"Some of it has been done," he said. Both sides have finally agreed on a chairman for an oil monitoring body.

Diplomats hope that both Sudans, which fought one of Africa's longest civil war ending with a 2005 peace deal, understand they have to work together to avoid economic disaster.

Last week, South Sudan's President Salva Kiir was in Japan to discuss building an alternative pipeline through Kenya with Toyota Tsusho Corp. Germany's ILF Consulting is also conducting feasibility for a pipeline through Ethiopia and Djibouti.

But after years of planning some officials admit the project might not be financially viable given dwindling known reserves.

"Maybe in the next 20-30 years it is just finished and we're left with a hollow pipe," said Odwar, adding that other plans to export oil by train or trucks were completely unfeasible.

Analysts are equally sceptical about Sudan's plans to boost production to become an oil exporter itself again. Its output now barely covers domestic demand.

Sudan has signed new exploration deals but has trimmed forecasts. It had planned to pump 180,000 bpd by the end of last year but now official output stands at around 136,000 bpd - a figure diplomats say is up to 15,000 bpd too high.

"I don't think they will make big discoveries," said Harry Verhoeven, Sudan researcher at Oxford University. "Both sides always say they don't need each other, they can manage without oil but in the end it's a mutual dependency." [\(Back to top\)](#)

### **63.000 people are displaced by Abu Kershola's clashes - report**

*Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 05/06/13* - The number of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) affected by last month clashes in Abu Kershola has reached 63.000 people announced the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) on Wednesday.

Citing the Sudanese Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC), OCHA weekly bulletin said as of 30 May Abu Kershola's IDPs in North Kordofan state have increased to over 44.000 from 34.000 people.

In addition, the UN humanitarian body said that there are some 10.000 IDPs in three areas in South Korodfan, Um Berimbata, Tandik (Rashad locality) and Dibeakir (Al Qoz locality). It also mentioned that around 8.000 IDPs have reached Khartoum state.

"This brings the total number of IDPs displaced by the fighting in Abu Kershola and surrounding villages to around 63,000" concluded the report.

HAC said that that some 27,000 people may return Abu Kershola and its surrounding villages, as the joint team identified urgent needs in humanitarian assistance in the areas where IDPs may return. [\(Back to top\)](#)

### **‘Kony rebels poaching elephants in Central Africa’**

*The Daily Monitor Kampala, 06/06/13* - A report by two Washington-based human rights groups has accused the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) rebels of poaching elephants to fuel atrocities.

Groups, Enough Project and Satellite Sentinel Project in their report, titled ‘Kony’s Ivory’ notes that the rebels’ activity, said to be in the Central African Republic, is part of the loftier poaching crisis decimating elephant numbers in the region.

“The high price of ivory is increasingly incentivising the involvement of armed groups such as the LRA, sustaining their atrocities in the region,” the report, released by charity group Invisible Children, reads in part.

It also includes photos and satellite imagery of an abandoned LRA camp in Congo’s Garamba National Park with witness accounts stating that LRA fighters use helicopters to trade ivory for arms, ammunition and food. “African wildlife parks have become automated teller machines for armed groups that commit atrocities,” Mr Jonathan Hutson, author of the report, said.

More armed groups

However, Mr Hutson said the LRA was not the only group benefiting from the surging black market for ivory.

“Park rangers suspect that members of the Congolese, Sudanese, South Sudanese, and Ugandan armed forces, as well as janjaweed militias from Darfur, are killing elephants at an accelerating pace,” he stated.

Although the LRA left Uganda in 2006, they have continued to attack and displace civilians in neighbouring Congo and South Sudan.

Mr Kasper Agger, co-author of the report, called for greater investments to combat the LRA across central Africa. “Governments in Asia and elsewhere who fail to regulate the illegal ivory trade share responsibility for atrocities committed by the LRA and other armed groups engaged in poaching,” Mr Agger stated.

The report recommended expansion of programmes to increase LRA defections, improvement of intelligence gathering and additional support for the game parks, among others. [\(Back to top\)](#).

### **Sudan closes four newspapers**

*The Daily Monitor 06/06/13* - The government of Sudan has closed four newspapers, two weeks after a presidential decision to lift media censorship was issued.

The closed newspapers are Almidan owned by the Communist Party and Almijhar, an independent newspaper. Others are the Alintibaha, a pro- government newspaper and the Al-Mashad.

Mr Khalid Ahmed, a journalist attached to Al-Sudan, a privately-owned daily newspaper was arrested on Tuesday following a complaint against him by Sudan Armed Forces (SAF). The journalist is wanted over a report attributed to him detailing events during a visit by top military officials to Abu Karshola in South Kordofan. The area was recently recaptured by government forces from rebels.

The newspapers were closed over news reports and articles about the fighting between SAF and the Sudanese Revolutionary Front (SRF) last month.

Ms Madiha Abdallah the chief editor of (the Almidan) newspaper said the National Intelligence Security Services has ordered the media houses not to operate.

The country's first vice president on May 21 issued a decree to lift the censorship of the press in Sudan.

Reporters Without Borders, an international organisation that promotes media freedom in its 2013 Press Freedom Index black listed Sudan as one of the countries which do not respect the freedom of press. [\(Back to top\)](#)

### **FEATURE: Aid for South Sudan's Jonglei, but people scared to return home**

*Reuters Nairobi, 06/06/13* - The United Nations is preparing to deliver emergency medical care to tens of thousands of displaced people in South Sudan's troubled Jonglei state, almost a month after they fled into the bush to escape conflict.

The area's main towns of Pibor and Boma are still deserted, amid a heavy military presence, as civilians are too scared to seek food or medicines, military and aid officials said.

On Wednesday, the U.N. said it had received \$5.4 million from its Central Emergency Response Fund to buy two helicopters and medical equipment to treat or evacuate civilians injured in clashes in the eastern state of Jonglei, the largest in South Sudan.

"Civilians have been fleeing from hostilities, and some of them have been caught in crossfire," Toby Lanzer, the U.N.'s humanitarian coordinator in South Sudan, told Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Violence has escalated in Jonglei since March, when the army launched an offensive against rebels, led by David Yau Yau, who say they want to end corruption and the dominance of the ruling party.

No medical services are available for the 140,000 people living in Pibor county, Lanzer said. Hospitals run by medical charities Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) and Merlin in the towns of Pibor and Boma were looted last month.

"We're just working on the final details now to help the non-governmental organisations to get back on the ground," Lanzer said, adding that the helicopters were due to arrive in the next couple of days.

It is now the rainy season, when much of Jonglei becomes a swamp and small aircraft cannot land. Roads are only passable after several dry days.

On May 7, rebels captured and held Boma, on the southeastern tip of the state, for two weeks. Aid agencies and town residents fled.

On May 10, the town of Pibor, about 150 km northwest of Boma, was also deserted due to nearby fighting between the army and rebels. Security forces ransacked homes and compounds of aid agencies in Pibor.

The army said the damage was caused by officers who defected from a state wildlife force, and denied regular soldiers were behind the attack.

MSF's head of mission in South Sudan, Vikki Stienen, said the U.N. money would achieve little unless civilians were able to return to Pibor and Boma to receive help. He said the towns were virtually deserted.

"There are still some 120,000 people missing," he said. "They are trapped out in the swamps, and it is getting wetter and wetter without a way now for us to access them."

Stienen said people were scared to come to the towns because of rumours that some have been killed as suspected rebels.

"It's very difficult for them to explain to the government soldiers that they are not the rebels," he said.

Pibor is predominantly Murle, Yau Yau's ethnic group. They are a minority who have been marginalised and also embroiled in a long-running conflict over land and cattle with the Lou Nuer, which has a strong presence in the army.

Army spokesman Philip Aguer said that civilians are too scared to return to Pibor because Yau Yau had ordered them to leave. He called upon them to return to town.

Stienen said some of the displaced will already have died.

“There’s no food. There’s no access to safe water with diarrhoea, of course, becoming a problem, with malaria cropping up, with no access to health care, with trauma from being expelled,” he said. “That is, of course, the worst case scenario that we can look at.”

### **FEATURE: South Sudan kids say 'No' to cattle camps**

*VoA News Nimule, 04/06/13* - In South Sudan, some parents expect their children, including boys and girls as young as six, to help out with family chores before they go to school and after they get home, but now the kids are speaking out, and saying they've had enough.

George Machiek Deng, 16, used to be one of dozens of children who worked in the cattle camp in Nimule in Eastern Equatoria state. Every evening, he drove cattle from grazing areas back to their shelters along the Anyama River, where he lit fires to make sure the cattle stayed warm and checked their restraints to make sure they stayed in place.

Responsibilities like that can take hours to fulfill and left Deng with little time to do anything else, he said as he spoke out for other youngsters in the same situation.

“They come from school, they're tired. When they come to their parents, the parents tell them to go and look for firewood, look for calves in the forest... they forget easily to do an assignment," Deng told *VOA News*.

"Children who are learning here in South Sudan, who do so many activities, they fail even to express themselves. This creates failure for the kid.”

But some parents, like Joseph Anok, a father of three who has been a cattle herder all his life, says the education children receive in a cattle camp often turns out to be more important than the one they get in school. That's because, he says, most of the children grow up to be pastoralists like their parents.

“Living in a cattle camp can help to teach people how to work," he said, adding that kids don't need to spend every spare hour of their day working.

"A child could stay in school until noon and then from 5 to 6 p.m., he comes to work at the kraal. What is important is to tell your child to use his time very well," he said.

Many parents, including Anok, don't have much choice when they decide whether or not to get their kids to help out with the cattle outside of school hours: they don't make enough money to hire laborers.

But Nimule resident Abraham Mabior said parents have to give their children choices and allow the youngsters to balance their responsibilities to their family with their own aspirations.

Parents also need to limit the amount of work they give their children, so that the youngsters have more time to study, he said.

“During school time, the children have to be at school, and maybe during holidays, they can be at the cattle camp... Keeping cattle is not all there is in life,” he said.

And Mabior knows what he's talking about. He ran away from the cattle camp where he worked when he was 15, to pursue an education.

Now 30 years old, he is due to graduate later this year from St. Lawrence University in Kampala, Uganda, with a degree in public administration.

He regularly sends money back to his family so that they can hire laborers to help out with cattle rearing, which keeps his younger siblings out of the cattle camps and allows them to get an education and pursue the careers of their choice. [\(Back to top\)](#)

## **OPINION: Regionalism as set to replace party politics in South Sudan!**

*By Justin Ambago Ramba on SouthSudannation.com 05/06/13* - Talking about regionalism, insecurity, corruption, nepotism, cronyism and tribalism in the context of the nascent country of the Republic of South Sudan (RSS) should be a boring topic by now, yet here we are again. The dominance of the political debate on the above mentioned vices if anything, it only demonstrates how far away from perfection is this new country in managing its hard won independence throughout the nearly two years since it became a sovereign state.

What we can't brush aside is the one fact that at last the many regional conferences so far held in Juba and Wau seemed to have finally succeeded in giving a face to a political practice that is as old as the SPLM itself. Someone may argue that regionalism though never new to RSS wasn't an open political forum, but to tell the truth neither was it a closet forum.

Take it from this article, and you are safe, for regionalism and tribalism is what South Sudan was and went on to become officially so under the currently SPLM's totalitarian rule.

If you think that regionalism and tribalism are bad, then you are likely to be more frustrated should the very incumbent faces remain in office, for they can only make things worse.

On the other hand should you consider regionalism and tribalism as good things, and then you have nothing to worry about and just go on with you daily chores. Very soon everything will just be fine and your way – more regionalism and more tribalism, but you must remember to vote for a true tribalistic and a true regionalist politician. Read their manifesto and if it doesn't clearly mention tribalism and regionalism then you know that you are dealing with a scam politician who doesn't deserve your precious vote either.

### **Regional meetings on the sidelines of social gatherings.**

Read this quote from the Sudan Tribune as we are about to enter into this wonderful discussion of how South Sudanese tend to perceive and practice tribalism and its begotten child, regionalism:

“ June 2, 2013 (JUBA) – South Sudan's Vice President, Riek Machar, has warned against regional based politics, saying this can unfortunately take over the role of political parties and promote tribalism in the young nation”. <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article46795>.

The above is an extract from the incumbent Vice President and a likely contestant in the 2015 presidential election Dr. Machar's speech in an occasion organized in memory of the late veteran politician, Dr. Andrew Wiu. And not long ago before that the Vice President was also reported to have given another political speech in a thanksgiving gathering organized by the chairperson of the war disabled, widows and orphans commission, Deng Dau, which later also turned into a political forum as usually is the case with South Sudanese everywhere.

To an outsider this social gathering (Deng Dau's Thanksgiving) which without the least doubt was deliberately turned into a full blown political rally had all that it takes to deserve being called a mini regional conference, yet those involved chose not to refer to it that way.

But given the political backgrounds of all those who attended the thanksgiving occasion and went on to give political speeches, one can see that denying any regional connotation to this gathering of hundreds of top caliber politician's largely from a single region is more of a tactic than ideology.

Machar in his deliberations called upon South Sudanese not to be divided on tribal lines by the normal political issues in the country. He also stressed that the South Sudan army (SPLA) should distance itself from the ongoing political debates on transformation process.

Cdr. Pagan Amum, on his side warned any aspiring leadership candidate against the use of the army and money for electioneering. He further stressed that those who will be rejected by the people should just quit and go home.

The SPLM SG's statement is a living reminder of how his party not only abused the public funds in the 2010 general elections, but it also exploited the SPLA (army) personnel and other national security agents, not even sparing the military intelligence in its record breaking ordeal

of intimidating, harassing, and confiscations of campaign materials of those who were either running on non SPLM party tickets, their agents or their supporters.

Mme. Rebecca Nyandeng de Mabior was also reported to have stressed the need to bring about change in the country. The minister of Justice, John Luk Jok, minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Michael Makuei Lueth and deputy minister of Defense, Majak D'Agot all delivered their remarks during this wonderful pseudo-political thanksgiving.

In previous writings we had already shed light on the conferences held by the regions of greater Equatoria and greater Bhar el Ghazal. And it will not serve any purpose if we are to deny that these conferences were not meant for political maneuvering in the new dispensation which the SPLM party has finally navigated the country into.

Dr. Riek Machar has every right to say that regionally based politics which is also known to others as regionalism has gone very far and has practically taken over the role of political parties in the country. However regionalism which obviously is the legal child of tribalism shouldn't be held or viewed the other way round.

In other words in our case in South Sudan it is tribalism that begot regionalism and NOT the other way round. As tribalism existed before regionalism, the latter can only entrench the former but cannot beget it.

Taking the larger picture into consideration, it becomes more apparent how all these things got to do with the game of proximity and numerical size of communities, and how individuals and in some cases groups would want to use it in order to secure an interest.

There is this old adage which operates right in the centre of the so-called tribalism and regionalism, and it explains it all and so vividly:-

“My brother and I, we are against our cousin. We as brothers together with our cousin, we are against our relative, and we and our relatives; we are all against the stranger”.

When interests are strictly sought on blood lines while social and peer relationships take the back seat, as it is the situation of affairs in the SPLM governed RSS, it was a general expectation that it won't be long before the very architects of this “mess by design” come face to face with the fruits of their own work. And there's no any doubt in my mind that both the Vice President and you my fellow readers do understand what is being highlighted here.

### **No party politics without political parties.**

Per the transitional constitution, the Republic of South Sudan (RSS) is supposed to be a multi-party democratic state, and that was true until the Political Parties Act 2012 was enacted thus requiring new registrations for both the previously registered parties that existed in the United Sudan and thereafter and any others which were formed after the Independence.

The naked truth is that as you read these lines, South Sudan doesn't even have a single legally registered political party, even this big mouth ruling SPLM is not a registered party in the sovereign state of the Republic of South Sudan, per its own political party act 2012. Just imagine yourself being ruled by an illegal party which is completely unconstitutional!

The transitional constitution of RSS called for a Political Parties Act which has since come into existence and has been long ago signed by the President of RSS into law since March 2012, yet nobody is following that law and nobody also seems to bother.

You will wonder to know that the sole reason why political parties in South Sudan including the ruling SPLM are unable to register up till now is that the country's Political Parties Act 2012 is too ideal for our stage of development, leave alone whether it was ever meant to be implemented at all in our life time.

Follow this link: [allafrica.com/stories/201302010051.html](http://allafrica.com/stories/201302010051.html), to read an article written by the author earlier under the heading: A Gloomy Future for South Sudan Under the 2012 Political Parties Act!! By: Justin Ambago Ramba, 31 January 2013.

### **Regional bloc politics flourish in the absence of mature party politics.**

What we are failing to see here is that the much talked about “Regional Forums” are man-made political refuges that only flourished as a consequence of the intentional, calculated and categorical censorship that the SPLM and its police state system has all through exercised in the form of constant harassments, intimidations, and an all-out lack of tolerance towards the other.

Although succeeding in its totalitarian agenda, like the NCP next door, SPLM has further rendered other political parties and itself all impotent. The truth is that regional forums that act as political blocs have existed long even before the much talked about regional conferences, albeit at a low profile.

Now we are talking about Regional Forums which not only held conferences but also have regional parliaments manned by nominated members who are also members of the ruling SPLM party. The greater Equatoria has so far held three regional conferences and one by greater Bahr el Ghazel.

All these regional conferences were fully financed by the public treasury and attended by representatives of H.E. the President of RSS Salva Kiir Mayardit from day one to the closing. And although some people may still accuse these regional blocs for killing the role of the political parties and promoting tribalism, yet it is the very criteria that the SPLM/A has since set forth for itself right from the inception of the movement.

Undoubtedly the average South Sudanese nationalist had had respect for the SPLM in as far as its historical role in the second liberation war, the peace negotiations, the referendum then finally the declaration of independence are concerned and that is almost about it. Whatever followed after that is one long messing spree which is right in the centre of what the country is to day,

Unfortunately most SPLM leaders remain hypnotized by what is now history and instead of taking the expected step in a way of realistically and sincerely carrying out an audit on its performance, it has chosen to dose off in the so-called regional bloc politics. Believe me given what is characteristic of SPLM; even these so-called regional political blocs won't escape the fatal curse of “Splmaemia cadavarica” .....corruption, impunity and the list goes on.

Anybody out there can claim to be encouraging the so-called political parties to reflect the national unity of the country by securing membership from all the states and tribes. Theoretically that is fine, but given the lessons learned in the 2010 general elections, certain areas are no go zone for politicians hailing from tribes outside the region.

If you revisit the records of events that occurred during the campaigning period in those elections, nearly all the four states of Bahr el Ghazel took part in this kind of political savagery when government officials went on to compromise their neutrality towards one presidential candidate, in favour of the incumbent. .

And it is utterly brilliant for Dr. Machar to go on preaching that, in a political party politics, it is the individual candidates vision and program that matter, not tribe or region, and that a national party can identify a brilliant leader even from a small tribe to lead in order to direct and implement the party's vision country-wide.

Having read all the above and approved it, you can still agree with me that in today's South Sudan these idealistic statements are easily said than implemented. And of course no one is surprised to hear all these wider sense of nationalism coming from an incumbent Vice President under whose very eyes the nation can be seen drifting into an abyss.

Let us face it, for indeed the SPLM is a multi-ethnic political party and yet it is now an open secret that the top leadership are openly retreating into their comfort zones of tribalism and regionalism in order to gain foot in the national duty of leading the whole country.

Regionalism like any other ism has its cons and pros; however I don't buy Dr. Riek Machar's argument that with regionalism, it will be the voice of a dominant tribe in that particular region that will thrive. Why don't we just say what we are seeing?

Is it not the same thing with the second liberation war that we fought or the political party that guided it, in which it is always the dominant tribes that led the party and the army? Pitting region against region or dominant tribe against dominant tribe, well that is not what will happen.

### **Regionalism even existed in the bush during the liberation war.**

In fact it is what is happening not only now, but even before the new order of 'Regional Blocs' Politics' came to dominate the new political scene in the country. If it was because the same regionalism existed even during the liberation war period, then what did the party do to correct it? Obviously nothing and the proof is that everybody is still stuck in it!

As South Sudanese, records have proven that, tribalism and regionalism are what we do best whether we chose to declare it in clearly defined regional political blocs' conferences or we prefer to meet in the sidelines of "Thanksgiving" gatherings or even funerals for that matter. These regional conferences have only brought to the surface what was long being done behind the doors.

### **The way forward is outside the SPLM.**

Madame Rebecca Nyandeng did well to join the voices of the millions of South Sudanese now calling for change. She might still highly rate the SPLM party and hopes to see it reform, but given the "Redlines" she had once warned about, the possible demise of the party may as well be just a matter of time before its brought forward by the official resort taken by the different leaders to consolidate their regional power bases before a decisive victory.

The other thing is that talking about change from within the SPLM party is just like a fish which cannot survive outside the pond but yet complains of being wet. If you want a multi-party democracy in this country, then you have to quit SPLM because it never had democracy and will NEVER have it in a million years to come, because of an inherent defect that nobody can fix without sacrificing everything they have.

You have to quit and join others to form two or three national parties with true power bases in each and every village the country-wide. If indeed multi-party democracy is what you want, then you have to work to realize it. Anyone preaching against regionalism from the comfort of SPLM guaranteed positions are unlikely to win, for regionalism as it stands has found favour in the eyes of the most ruthless power hunters from within the ruling party itself.

Is it the fear of the unknown that's holding the people back when they know that as each day passes, SPLM is getting more tribalistic and regional in approach? For unless we all part ways with that fear we will talk and talk, in regional conferences, thanksgiving occasions, christening occasions, weddings, or even funerals – at the end South Sudan will gradually slip off our hands.

If what is set here in this article as the way forward threatens to force some people out of their comfort zones, then lie assured that regionalism is here to stay and replace any damn and unrealistic party politics. The bottom line is that hypocritical politicians will have to either sink or swim.

*Author: Dr. Justin Ambago Ramba. Secretary General United South Sudan Party (USSP). He can be reached at: [justinramba@doctors.net.uk](mailto:justinramba@doctors.net.uk) **(Back to top)***

### **OPINION: Dinka hegemony in S. Sudan is a mere propaganda for hatred and tribalism**

*Dhaal Mapuor Aterdit on [SouthSudannation.com](http://SouthSudannation.com), 05/06/13* - The advocates for abhorrence and tribalism have profoundly been making scores of grave campaigns against peace and harmony amongst the civil population across the country. This campaign was purely based on sowing seeds of hatred and tribalism by misinforming the country with falsehoods. One of the best known propaganda in South Sudan is a cock-and-bull story which is always paraphrased shortly as "Dinka domination in South Sudan" by quite a lot of campaigners for extreme dislike of the Dinka community.

This notion has pointlessly fashioned harsh and rigorous detestation against Dinka tribe by many tribes in South Sudan. The activists for such a typical needless perception are wittingly making it to damage the solid societal fabrics which bond the Dinka community to all the other tribes in South Sudan.

Just to make a bit of correction in the minds of my respectable readerships, I would outspokenly articulate that I have symbolically been acting as a campaigner against tribalism and hatred since my extreme formative years until now. It's not just a word to win your minds and hearts to accept what I am saying. It's shown by number of the articles I wrote and published by many news agencies in the country.

I LOVE peace, unity in diversity and prosperity; this is my standard dream and I want it happen sooner or later just like what has ensued in other parts of the world where diverse tribes stay in peace harmoniously and allow LOVE amongst ourselves to reign tremendously. Hello there, I don't mean that you go and find out those articles I wrote because am not sure whether you will have gracious ample time to make research and discover what I preached in there, but if you have time try your luck and you will get them.

It's at all times on the lips of several Dinka haters that South Sudan is being dominated by Dinka tribe. I personally consider this argument irrational and logically unscrupulous because South Sudan has adopted a Decentralized System of Governance which subsequently resulted into the establishment of ten states.

It's only the three states of Greater Equatoria wherein there is no any Dinka clannish setup as per ancestral genealogy. The Dinka's existence is without a shred of doubt in other seven states. Nevertheless, the country's ruling party, the SPLM has adopted the governing concept of drawing representatives from the diverse tribes in the States based on the Payams and counties.

Up to now there are some other Dinka sections which are freezing from an acidic cold of poverty without a fair representation in both states and national governments. These sections have fought war by the same token similar to those rich and luxurious Dinka tribesmen who are pleasantly enjoying the tasteful flavor of the national cake.

It's always an absurdity of heavy weight in the ears of the underprivileged Dinka sections to hear the conversation of 'Dinka being the dominant' going on around them. Such conversations are needless and shouldn't be called for, just because they lack substantial grounds.

Once back in 2010, there was a live televised SPLM/A program presented by Malaak Ayuen, the SPLA Spokesman by then which was executed by South Sudan Television (SSTV). The program was wholly about the historical milieu of the armed movement (SPLA) which encompassed the show of the SPLA heroic forces in full combat gears singing revolutionary songs. Those videos were shot early in '80s, '90s and around 2000 to 2002. This TV program was beautifully anchored and the presenter whom I couldn't remember his name, invited phone-calls from a few contributors anywhere in the world.

I was dismally dazed by a call from Canada in the voice of a man who questioned why the revolutionary songs are being sung in Dinka language. In his own words he asked, "Why are the SPLA songs being sang in Dinka Language alone? Does it mean other tribes in South Sudan didn't fight in Sudan civil war since 1983 – 2002?"

I really thanked the caller for having utilized his liberty and taking courage to enquire what he saw was deemed questionable. But if I happened to be in his shoes I would have asked Malaak Ayuen to verify to the world why the work of the Camera person by then was very inadequate to have not shot the scene where other 63 tribes where singing revolutionary songs.

Some other advocates of tribalism and unity of the Sudan like Dr. Wani Tombe, Jwothab Othow, and Gordon Buay were so tight with the business. They talked tough against Dinka tribe. Mostly in some articles of Dr. Wani Tombe in 2007 – 2011 he used to refer SPLM as

belonging to Dinka family and ascribe it to as a battering ram for the unity of the country, development and peaceful coexistence of the tribes in South Sudan.

It was a mere propaganda for hatred and tribalism to express displeasure about “Dinka being majority in South Sudan Defence Forces equally refers to as SPLA”. The complaint also goes out about the dominant of Dinka tribe in National Security Service, Police Service, Prison Service, Wildlife and other organized forces. Furthermore, there was much criticism about the formation of Executive, Legislature and Judiciary.

If one envisages determinedly and logically about where the slogan of the “Dinka domination in South Sudan” comes from he/she will end up blaming these advocates of tribalism and hatred based on tribal lines.

First, if we come to imagine how the personnel are enlisted into the SPLA, we must primarily assess whether there is a material prerequisite for joining the SPLA. Since the upsurge of SPLA revolt in 1983 until now, the military authorities have indiscriminately been recruiting soldiers into the system without prior terms and conditions. There has never been a procedure for even checking the physical fitness of the recruits.

The SPLA is an army characterized by a lot of sufferings and high illiteracy rate. They didn't choose to suffer nor did they choose to remain uneducated. They commonly say stylishly that their AK47s are their degrees. If some other tribes are not many in the army, this does not mean domination because the members of other tribes do not have active will of joining the army.

Up to now the gates at Bilpam SPLA General Command Center are always open to any willing South Sudanese citizen to join without even paying one South Sudanese pound. The same procedure also applies to the organized forces except National Security Service where a recruit is required to produce academic certificates.

There is no Dinka domination in South Sudan. This country belongs to all the peoples inhabiting it right from 1956 up to now. It's our country. We all sweated for it.

However, when we come to the point of Executive, Judiciary and Legislature being dominated by the Dinka tribe, we will have to see the spheres surrounding their formations. As far as executive formation is concerned, President Kiir use to appoint his cabinet members in a way that reflects the equal presence of peoples' representatives from the various ten states and mindful of the tribes that inhabit the states not unilaterally but in consultation with a few cliques in the states and latter on passed by National Legislative Assembly.

It's also a dream that does not have roots that all Dinka tribesmen will always be going for their tribe-mate when elections are at the door step. This is a lie and it has never been in the minds of countless Dinka-tribesmen. We must accept to follow. If we don't follow why do we accept to be followed? A good leader has to be followed and must accept to follow.

There is no Dinka hegemony in South Sudan and that's why Dr. Riak Machar is the Vice President and several other cabinet members. The slogan of the “Dinka Domination” was fashioned by the ex-oppressors, the Arabs in Khartoum with intention of denouncing the SPLM/A by describing it as a Dinka Organization. This deterred some people from other different ethnic groups to join the liberation combat.

This unenthusiastic sentiment was not even taken into account by a quantity of patriotic South Sudanese who are non-Dinka. When enemies of peace inherited this sentiment in South Sudan, they even forgot that Dinka tribe is not in one state so that they're represented equally like other tribes located differently in diverse localities in the country.

From a demographic standpoint, Dinka live in seven States and there is always a necessity for them to be represented by their own people since they happen to constitute permissible constituencies. What does one imagine if he/she thinks critically on this?

The slogan of Dinka domination in South Sudan is not reasonable because there has never been an empirical research conducted to examine this divisive and ruinous doctrine. This philosophy is a mere propaganda for disgust and tribalism.

It's our time now, all of us, from the smallest tribe to the largest tribe, from the most illiterate tribe to the most educated tribe, from the weakest tribe to the strongest tribe. It's our work as a people in unison of voice and strength to rebuild this nation. The act of remaking this nation rests upon our shoulders. We must stop beating drums against ourselves. This country belongs to all of us.

It's independence was brought by all of us. This is a land that has sunk the blood of our loving fathers, mothers, sons, daughters, brothers and sisters. We all feel BIG to have it as OUR OWN treasure. It's a blessing. It's a world of paradise, the world of milk and honey. I LOVE my country and I pledge to love it more than I do.

*The Author of this piece can be reached at [dhaal84@gmail.com](mailto:dhaal84@gmail.com) or alternatively on +211 (0) 956400257 for any comment. [\(Back to top\)](#)*

For further information or media enquiries please contact:  
UNMISS Spokesperson  
Tel.: +211 (0) 912 06 7149 or Mobile: +211 (0) 912 396 539

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