



United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)

Media & Spokesperson Unit
Communications & Public Information Office

MEDIA MONITORING REPORT

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Highlights

Kiir's remarks on SPLM "misinterpreted, says minister

Sudantribune.com Juba, 17/11/ 2013 – South Sudan's information minister, Michael Makuei Lueth, has said earlier media reports that the country's president has dissolved structures of the ruling party (SPLM) were misinterpreted and taken out of context.

On Friday, Sudan Tribune reported that Salva Kiir, also the SPLM chairperson had dissolved the party's highest executive organ, Political Bureau (PB) as well as the National Liberation Council (NLC), when he argued that the structures were "illegitimate" and "outdated" by May this year.

The president made these remarks during Friday's opening of the SPLM leadership house in the capital, Juba on Friday, at which he verbally announced that only his office and the party secretariat would be the only ones to continue functioning.

A committee, he added, would be formed a start reorganising the historical party from grass roots.

"I want to say something about our structures. SPLM structures are not functioning. And we must accept that. We were supposed to hold the convention in May this year. Was it not the end of the 5 years? Do you think that today the structures still have the legitimacy to continue functioning? No, SPLM has dissolved itself alone", Kiir said.

"Only office of the chairman is the one not dissolved, nobody can dissolve it. Now I have all the powers to set up a committee to start reorganization from the grass root. When we talk about the National Liberation Council, or we talk about the Political Bureau, all these things are outdated. Even you in the secretariat; but now you the secretariat are caretakers to continue the duty of SPLM until when you are replaced or until when you are reappointed," he added.

However, in a statement he issued on the state-run SSTV on Sunday, Makuei had his own version of interpretation, implying the president's message was simply misunderstood.

"The chairman of the SPLM stated that yes last May we were supposed to have our convention. And since we have not done our convention up to now, so all the institutions of the party which should have been elected by now are operational outside their official period. So, he said ultimately we will dissolve these institutions", the minister said.

And we will only continue to operate with the secretariat general until that time when we set up a body; a secretariat that will actually begin the preparation for the third national convention, he added.

The president, Makuei stressed, never said the dissolved the party's institutions, contrary to what the media reported.

"So, it is premature for us to conclude that he has dissolved them. But he will dissolve them not just like that but by an order which he will issue as the chairman of the party", explained the minister.

He, however, made it clear that the action to dissolve the party structures or institutions was imminent only that the chairman had not yet effected it, pending re-organizational activities.

Makuei, who is the government spokesperson, urged journalists to "respect journalistic code of conduct and understand media ethics".

Observers wonder why it was the government's spokesperson, and not that of the party who reacted to the statement attributed to the SPLM chairman, when he did not speak as the president of the country.

Reacting on the same matter, Daniel Awet Akot, a member of the party's Political Bureau told Sudan Tribune that the president was only "making a reference", but not that all [SPLM] structures were dissolved.

The delay to convene the party's national convention, he said, was due "to lack of funds and other pressing national commitments", which he did not specify.

"Calling [a] convention involves a lot of things. It needs resources and the members, but you know that the leadership has never had time. Most of the members including our chairman, comrade Salva Kiir Mayardit, have been busy all this time", Akot said Saturday.

He [Kiir] has been frequently traveling to foreign countries to engage them to support peaceful resolution of the issues we have not resolved with Sudan after secession, he added.

Speaking to Sudan Tribune on condition of anonymity, a senior member of the secretariat said the core issue was not whether the chairman had already dissolved the structures or wants to dissolve them, but rather is about his violation of the party constitution which does not give him such a power to dissolve the structures single-handedly.

"From where would the chairman derive his legitimacy to remain in office if the structures he chaired were illegitimate as he alleged?" he asked, saying Kiir's term in office as party chairman became illegitimate in May.

Kiir's statement on dissolution of structures also prompted criticisms from his senior colleagues, including the former vice-president, Riek Machar, who described the president's action as a "violation" of the party constitution.

Machar, also the SPLM deputy chairperson said Kiir had no constitutional power to dissolve the party structures, adding that structures should continue to operate until the National Liberation Council, scheduled for 23 November, is held. . [\(Back To Top\)](#)

Elections must take place in 2015: Kiir

Gurtong Juba, 18/11/2013 - South Sudan President Salva Kiir has wiped out the unanswered question asked by many citizens over prevailing dilemma as to whether the first South Sudan national elections will take place in 2015 as constituted.

Addressing his senior comrades during the inauguration of SPLM party office on Friday, Kiir said the 2015 general elections will take place as required.

"Elections must take place in 2015," Kiir said.

"There are some of us who are telling whites that elections will not take place because there are some of us who want to dictate the country," Kiir said while blasting politicians who accuse that, his leadership has no will to make sure the 2015 elections are held.

The Transitional Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan has articulated for the conduct of the first South Sudan general elections in 2015 following the country's independence declaration in 2015.

Months ago media outlets have quoted President Kiir saying conducting elections in 2015 is not possible due to the prevailing socio-economic and political situation in the country. [\(Back To Top\)](#)

President Kiir appoints new Justice Minister

Gurtong Juba, 18/11/2013 - South Sudan President Salva Kiir has appointed a new Minister for Justice after the office stayed vacant for months.

Paulino Wanawilla who has been the Deputy Minister of Justice was elevated to the position after his boss John Luk Jok was sacked from the position during the July cabinet sacking.

Kiir also appointed SPLM's Peter Bashir Bandi from Western Equatoria State, Maridi County and Dr. Salwe Jibril as the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and Cabinet Affairs respectively.

John Kong, former Minister of Defense was also appointed as the Caretaker Governor of the troubled State of Jonglei.

The SPLM Chairperson, Kiir also sacked the Chief Whip at the National Parliament Hon. Atem Garang and replaced him with Hon. Tulio Odongi Ayahu. ([Back To Top](#))

Ban hits at South Sudan for harassing UN staff

The Korea Times 18/11/2013-United Nations leader Ban Ki-moon has condemned South Sudan soldiers for allegedly harassing UN staff stationed there, news outlet Zee Media Corp reported on Sunday. Ban reported to the UN Security Council that the South Sudan army and police were responsible for 67 cases of harassment, threats, assaults, arrests and detention of UN staffs between May 7 and Nov. 5

U.S. Government representatives met South Sudan diplomats in New York on Friday to inform them of Ban's report. The UN Security Council was to take up the matter officially today (Monday).

According to Ban's report, most of the cases involved the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

In one case, the army is accused of shooting down of a UN helicopter

In another case, a female UN staff member was severely beaten and detained for an hour in Juba on Oct. 19

She had been involved in a traffic mix-up with a convoy escorting South Sudan President Salva Kiir.

On Oct. 26, 50 SPLA soldiers in the troubled Jonglei state forced a helicopter belonging to the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) to evacuate 16 soldiers to Juba

"Continuing violations of the status of forces agreement between the United Nations and South Sudan by elements of the security sector remain a serious concern," Ban said in his report.

"I call upon the government to take steps urgently to prevent any recurrences and bring to account those responsible for violations, including the incident in Juba on Oct. 19." ([Back To Top](#))

WBG investment forum calls for conducive environment

Voice Hope 18/11/2013-Western Bahr el Ghazal State Finance Ministry Investment Forum on Saturday called for creation of a right economic environment to attract international and local investors.

State Governor Rizik Zachariah Hassan urged investors to strength the state financially, Voice of Hope reported.

He said job creation and hard work were the only ways to resolve numerous problems in the state.

State Finance and Trade Minister Lillian Valentino Rizik highlighted infrastructure, tourism, agriculture and forestry, education, health, trade and industry, animal resources and fisheries as priority investment areas to improve citizens' livelihood.

She described cooperation as a mutual benefit for both investors and the state.

The forum attracted international and local investors. ([Back To Top](#))

Catholic Bishops urge leaders to prioritize service delivery

Gurtong Malakal, 18/11/2013– South Sudan Catholic Bishops have urged the government to prioritize some areas for quick development and service delivery but not generalize.

The Catholic Bishops said they are conscious of the conflicting priorities which the leaders are forced to deal with.

The Bishops wrote in their “pastoral message of hope and encouragement” to the people of South Sudan and the government after a four-day meeting from 12 – 15 November in Juba.

According to clerics there are so many pressing needs when building a nation from scratch, and all of them are indeed priorities however, they asked the government to choose small number of priorities and begin with them.

“We advise our government to choose a small number of priorities and then ensure that they are actually implemented, rather than trying to do everything at once and running the risk of doing nothing effectively,” reads the message partly.

The church leaders also welcome the leaner government which came about as a result of the July 2013 reshuffle but took concerns of corruption and nepotism which is said to be widespread in the Country and urged the government to be transparent.

“We remain concerned about governance issues, including corruption and nepotism. Only an open and transparent government in which the people have a chance to participate can bring lasting peace and justice to our nation,” the Bishops said.

They advised the government to redirect the international community, NGOs and the UN to shift their aid towards long-term development and sustainability.

“Now is the time to recognise that South Sudan is no longer a nation at war. While there are still emergencies which need a humanitarian response, the main thrust of aid should shift towards long-term development and sustainability, including education. The funding should reflect that shift,” they said.

The leaders said there is much to celebrate in the new Republic of South Sudan and building a new nation is neither a quick nor an easy task.

“Most of our people are living in peace and democracy for the first time in decades. There is religious freedom, with Muslims, Christians and followers of African traditional religion able to practice their faith without obstacles. The ecumenical spirit which led the churches through the war is still strong,” concluded the message. ([*Back To Top*](#))

Community activities “shake” Northern Bahr el Ghazal governor

Sudantribune.com Juba, 17/11/2013 – Northern Bahr el Ghazal governor Paul Malong Awan has blasted his critics over a series of community activities based around forging unity between political and traditional leadership in the South Sudanese border state.

Awan’s almost unprecedented move is indicative of the level of political frustration in the lead up to the 2015 general elections.

Awan was speaking at an occasion organised by Aweil graduates at Nyakuron Culture Centre on Saturday, during which he criticised the community’s activities.

“I will leave only through elections. Those talking about community leadership should go home. This is not home”, Awan told the audience, mainly comprising of members of his administration and a handful of supporters with invited guests from other communities.

Awan was the zonal commander fighting for the former rebel-turned ruling party, the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (SPLM), which surfaced after the Sudanese government abrogated the 1972 peace agreement in 1983 which it signed to end the first civil war in the southern region.

Awan was reportedly constantly at odds with the late founding leader John Garang, and other senior members in the leadership over the way he conducts himself, resulting in his arrest in 1991. He was released the following year.

He accused high profile community members of holding regular meetings, calling for the reinstatement of all civil servants claiming to have contested the 2010 elections. These included Aguer Wol Aguer, speaker of the state legislative assembly whom he unilaterally removed in 2012, as well as six members of state parliament whom he also dismissed on unsubstantiated allegations they were acting against the SPLM in collaboration with members of other political parties in the house.

A release dated 11 November bearing Awan's signature, along with 47 other members in his administration, named Aldo Ajou Deng Akuei, a former deputy prime minister during the Sudanese government under the leadership of Sadig Al Mahdi in the 1980s, as well as the former finance minister in the regional government, Kuol Athian Mawien.

Other former state governors that also stand accused include Madut Biar Yel, Garang Deng Aguer, Ajuong Manyuel Kuel and a highly respected elderly politician, General Kawac Makuei Kawac.

Among those Awan identified as working for his removal from both gubernatorial and community leadership positions were Dhieu Mathok Diing Wol, chairperson of the employees' chamber at the national government, General Dau Aturjong Nyuol, former national minister of trade and investment, and Garang Diing Akuong.

"Some of the members of Aweil community in Juba who have unlawfully and illegally been speaking on behalf of [the] Aweil community and SPLM are in fact non-members of [the] SPLM and have in the past failed and betrayed [the] Aweil community [and] in particular South Sudan in general", the release read in part.

"In fact, [the] majority of them, during the April general elections [in] 2010, were contesting as independent candidates and [with the] National Congress Party (NCP) against the SPLM visions and missions and the will of the people", the release adds.

It further claims that the majority of the politicians he identified as "agitators" remain "bedfellows with Sudan's ruling National Congress Party" despite secession.

"We wish to remind that they should not be so forgetful of the past misdeeds, records and political affiliations. We would like to make it clear that their betrayal and misdeeds might be forgiven but not forgotten. The recent backstabbing of the people's cause by majority of people mentioned are vividly still fresh in the minds and hearts of the people of South Sudan", the release said.

Awan boasted that his administration had done more for the people since he took up the leadership than his predecessors.

He said he should be kept in office so he can continue with his reforms.

"People used buckets as toilets during the period of those who were the governors but now people use latrines. These things do not happen by themselves alone. I have done a lot and I cannot bring these developments and then [be] expected to go", he said, sparking murmurs among the audience.

"Why does the governor talk like this? He needs advice to use polished language. He is talking to people and as a leader he needs to be more diplomatic and polite", one of the invited guests from Western Bahr el Ghazal remarked while sitting next to a Sudan Tribune reporter.

"RHYMES OF A DYING ANIMAL"

However, his critics quickly downplayed the significance of the accusations, equating them to the "rhymes of [a] dying animal".

“That is all he knows. He has no single quality of a good leader. Can you imagine that he smokes in the state council of ministers and make rants [and] when asked why he does that? I personally served in his administration because I thought he had [the] heart to serve our people, to work with the people who would help him achieve his development plans but I realised that he has nothing in mind apart from threats, so I quietly quit, although he claimed later [that] he dismissed me”, a former cabinet minister who resigned his position before secession from Sudan told Sudan Tribune.

Sameyo Adut, a former state advisor for peace and reconciliation, said the continued presence of Awan in the state would impact on the relations between the people of Aweil and the central government, particularly during the upcoming 2015 general elections.

Adut said the governor was fooling some people about support the people of Mading Aweil would give the central government if he remains in the state as the governor. Adut claims Awan has poor relationships with politicians in all the five counties of the state.

Awan contested the 2010 elections as a caretaker governor but has been dogged by consistent accusations of arbitrary actions, constitutional violations, including intimidation tactics, as well the use of government agents to arrest his critics. ([Back To Top](#))

Petroleum scarcity hits Eastern Equatoria State

Gurtong Torit, 17/11/ 2013- The entire Eastern Equatoria State has been hit by fuel scarcity with leading filling stations remaining closed due to lack of the precious commodity

It could clearly be seen as a number fuel stations visited by Gurtong have totally been left closed but each of their respective station attendants have confirmed that fuel is on the way from Juba and others via Nimule.

Some Torit residents have lamented on the suffering related to transport by Boda-Bodas, the main transport facility within Torit town.

Earlier last week, most motorists had in keenness been witnessed queuing up at petrol most of the Torit stations yearning to restock their smaller tanks but were unable.

On Sunday, the South Sudan Electricity Corporation said that the power shortage has been experienced in Juba due to lack of fuel in addition to money to maintain electricity supply.

The Electricity Corporation Manager’s Engineer Beck Awan said the company needs money to repair faulty generators that supply power to much of Juba but remains hopeful they were also waiting for a fuel consignment expected to be delivered by Nile Petroleum Oil Company.

Meanwhile, the government plans to finish two power projects worth \$350 million by 2015.

Electricity and Dams Minister David Deng Athorbei was quoted by the Reuters news agency as saying the projects include the Fula dam in Nimule worth one hundred million dollars to generate 40 megawatts and a 300 megawatt thermal plant in Unity state, which is expected to cost about \$250 million.

The Minister said the projects will be undertaken with foreign support from the Norwegian government in addition to a loan from India. ([Back To Top](#))

Laziness cannot bring national development

Catholic Radio Network Juba, 18/11/2013-South Sudanese need to work hard because laziness cannot realize national development.

This was the message of Archbishop of Juba Paolino Lukudu Loro on Sunday while closing the Year of Faith at Sacred Heart Kwörjijik-Luri Parish.

The Archbishop said some people sit without doing anything and later when they reach home want to eat what he or she did not contribute.

He quoted St Paul as saying whoever does not work should not eat because he or she did not produce.

The Catholic prelate said the end of the Year of Faith does not mean the end of faith, but means faith's renewal.

Archbishop Lukudu warned Christians against false prophets who prophecies about the end of the world.

He announced that all priests including the bishops of the Archdiocese were on Sunday going to Rejaf for a week long retreat.

Archbishop Lukudu called on Christians to pray for the priests during their retreat. ([Back To Top](#))

Aweil community stands behind president Kiir over Abyei conflict

Sudantribune.com Juba, 17/11/2013 - Community leaders from South Sudan's border state of Northern Bahr el Ghazal said they unanimously supported efforts by the South Sudanese government, including president Salva Kiir Mayardit, to peacefully resolve the conflict with Sudan over the final status of the oil-producing Abyei region.

"We know Abyei is an area of Dinka Ngok. Our government knows and the president knows this. The issue of Abyei is not a community matter. It is the issue between the leadership of the two countries. It is already at the level of two presidents", said Deng Akuei Ajou, a traditional leader from Baac payam in Aweil East county.

Lual Magok, another chief from Wunlang payam, said his community also supports efforts aimed at returning the area of the nine Ngok Dinka to South Sudan peacefully.

"Abyei, as you know, was part of South Sudan until it was transferred to Kordofan in 1905 for administrative purposes during colonial rule. So we are standing behind our leadership and we follow what they tell us about the area", Magok said on Saturday.

Deng Aliel, a senior member of South Sudan's ruling Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) from Aweil South county, said his community's allegiance remained with the government and not with individuals who have used the Abyei issue to advance their own special interests.

"We are a system and must therefore stand with our leadership. We need to understand what the leadership says and what individuals who have their own interests to advance through Abyei issue are saying. As a community we must be careful", Aliel warned in an exclusive interview with Sudan Tribune on Saturday in Juba.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Spokesperson of the business community in South Sudan Lual Bol Kuan said the government was handling the Abyei situation well.

Kuan and other community leaders were reacting to a demonstration reportedly held in the capital of Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Aweil town, to support the outcome of a unilateral referendum results recently held on the Abyei issue, but which was not supported by the South Sudanese government.

"That demonstration was wrong. It was not meant to support the issue of Abyei. It was organised to draw [the] attention of the central government by individuals with special interest", Kuan told Sudan Tribune on Saturday.

He criticised protest organisers for acting against the SPLM even though they are members of the same government.

"The people who were behind this move need to be identified and oriented properly. They need [to attend a] workshop so that they are taught about policies of the government", he added. ([Back To Top](#))

Sudan: Darfur Mediator Meets South Sudan's Vice-President and Key Ministers to Discuss Ongoing Peace and Reconciliation Efforts in the Region

Allafrica.com Juba, 16/11/2013 — The AU- UN Joint Special Representative/ Joint Chief Mediator (JSR/JCM) for Darfur, Mohamed Ibn Chambas, visited Juba, South Sudan, from 13 to 16 November where he met with the Vice President of South Sudan, H.E. James Wani Igga, and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and National Security.

He also briefed members of the diplomatic corps and held consultations with the sister mission, UNMISS, aimed at exploring ways of collaboration to enhance the achievement of their respective mandates.

The visit is part of a larger tour that will include a number of Sudan's neighbours with a view to underscore the importance of inter-regional cooperation to resolve the Darfur conflict not only for its people but also for the peace and stability of the entire region.

During the visit, Dr. Chambas stated that lasting peace in Darfur is necessary for the realization of regional stability. It also opens new horizons for future development and economic growth that would benefit the entire sub-region. "We congratulate Khartoum and Juba for the goodwill and cordial relations they have generated and maintained over the past few months. UNAMID will seek to foster this bonhomie among the two countries to achieve inclusive peace and security in Darfur," he said.

Vice President Igga welcomed Dr. Chambas' efforts in widening the opportunities for enhanced partnership among Sudan's neighbours, particularly South Sudan. He further assured his country's full and continued support in advancing the JSR/JCM's mediation efforts. ([Back To Top](#))

Over 3500 people sign anti-LRA petition

Sudantribune.com Kampala, 17/11/ 2013 - At least 3,515 people from the Great Lakes region affected by activities of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels have signed a petition that will on Wednesday this week be handed over to the Ugandan parliament, says the American advocacy group, Invisible Children.

A statement from Invisible Children released on Saturday said the petition "seeks to revive debate in Uganda and amongst Ugandan authorities about the continued LRA threat to regional stability with a view of permanently ending the LRA and addressing its immediate and long-term effects."

According to the statement, the petition is signed by communities from Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the Central African Republic (CAR).

"The petition will be handed to the Speaker of Uganda's parliament, Rebecca Kadaga.

The advocacy group says it expects the number of petitioners to increase by the time it is handed over.

The LRA is originally a Ugandan rebel group. For two decades the rebels were involved in a vicious fight with the Ugandan government. Most of the fighting took place in northern Uganda.

At the peak of the conflict nearly two million people in the region, Joseph Kony's home area, and where most of his fighters also come from, were forced from their homes and villages into internally displaced persons camp.

The rebel group has been accused of mass murder and forceful abduction of civilian population to swell their ranks.

In 2005, the International Criminal Court indicted the top LRA leaders including its leader Joseph Kony for crimes against humanity.

The LRA was flushed out of Uganda in 2006. The rebel group then moved to South Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo and Central African Republic (CAR) where it continues to remain active.

In 2011, US President Barrack Obama sent to the Great Lakes region 100 military advisers to help the armies of Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan and Central Africa Republic to fight the rebels.

The regional effort against the LRA was disrupted in March this year when rebel forces took over power from President Francois Bozize Bozize. The rebels then ordered Ugandan troops and other foreign armies hunting for Kony to get out of CAR.

Consequently the Ugandan army suspended the fight against the rebels raising concern it would provide the brutal rebel group with a vital opportunity to re-group.

Invisible Children says the petition also wants the Uganda parliament to take bold steps ensuring the return of children still in LRA activity.

“The petitioners also want Parliament to lobby and take practical measures in favour of the return of all children and people still in LRA captivity including engaging the international community and regional governments.” ([Back To Top](#))

Umma party will not participate in Sudan’s new government - minister

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 17/11/ 2013 - The National Umma Party (NUP) will not participate in the upcoming new government that president Omer Al-Bashir intends to form, said Mustafa Osman Ismail the head of ruling National Congress Party (NCP) committee for dialogue with the opposition party on Sunday.

Ismail who is also the minister of investment told reporters that the dialogue with the Umma party over its participation in the government reached an impasse. He added that the previous understanding reached with the opposition party is not related to this matter.

"We are currently discussing with the National Umma Party , issues of peace, constitution and economic problems and the Two Areas , and we reached some understandings", he added.

The Umma party tries to find out a third way, breaking the increasing political polarisation in Sudan between the government and rebel groups.

The party of Sadiq Al-Mahdi which is against the use of arms to topple the regime calls for democratic transition in the country. It further says the president has to dissolve the current institutions, form a national unity government and call for political round table conference gathering all the political forces including the rebels.

The ruling NCP declines this proposition and offers to the largest opposition party a big share in the federal government, inviting it to work together with the Democratic Unionist Party to discuss peace with the rebels and agree on a new constitution.

The opposition parties agreed several days ago to engage serious dialogue with the rebel groups of the Sudanese Revolutionary Front (SRF) and distanced themselves from the Umma party, as they accuse its leader of working to control their alliance because of a structural reform it proposed.

Ismail revealed the existence of divergences on the date of the forthcoming new government among the ruling party.

He said that some call to announce it following the end of the current meeting of the NCP Shura consultative council, while another group believes the need to make it public after the adoption of next year budget by the parliament in December.

He further said he wishes that president Omer Al-Bashir appoints a prime minister, stressing the latter should be enabled to manage the economic situation in the country while the presidency deals with the files of peace, defence, security and foreign relations. ([Back To Top](#))

JEM rebels attack North Kordofan town

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 17/11/ 2013 - The Sudanese rebel group Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) has struck the town of Abu Zabad in North Kordofan state, the rebels and the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) said on Sunday.

Abu Zabad, about 150 kilometres (90 miles) southwest of the North Kordofan capital El Obeid, is alongside the country's main east-west railway line.

While SAF's spokesperson, Al-Sawarmi Khaled Saad, accused the attackers of targeting civilians and looting properties, a spokesperson for JEM, Badawi Musa Al-Sakin, accused SAF of bombing civilians.

Al-Sawarmi announced the killing of the commander of the attacking force amid reports that 5 people were killed including two police officers and 35 others wounded.

Al-Sakin, for his part, said that dozens of SAF's soldiers were killed in the attack including Captain Adam Mohamed Mahoula and First Lieutenant, Ali Bashar Isawi, adding that the deputy commander of SAF Colonel Ahmed Barakt Allah was seriously injured.

The leader of JEM, Jibreel Ibrahim Mohamed, has mourned in a statement he issued on Sunday the second deputy to JEM'S Commander-in-Chief, Mohamed Rahouma, affirming his killing during the attack on Abu Zabad.

Rahouma was known for his skilled military tactics. His death is a big loss for the rebel group, rebel sources say.

Al-Sakin said that their troops attacked Abu Zabad following SAF's mobilization of forces in the town, stressing that they seized a large number of government vehicles, heavy and light weapons, and ammunition and military supplies.

He added that their troops withdrew from the town after 8 hours, accusing the government of deliberate aerial targeting of civilians.

Al-Sawarmi on Sunday described JEM's attack on Abu Zabad as "suicidal", saying that their aim was "to loot fuel and food materials from the market".

He added that SAF destroyed 18 armed vehicles and seized several weapons and pointed that SAF is still pursuing attackers who fled the town in different directions, stressing that the situation in the town is under control.

He further said that attackers targeted innocent civilians and looted their properties, stressing SAF's readiness to deal with those who dare to tamper with the destiny of the Sudanese people.

The National Uma Party, in a statement issued about the attack on Sunday said that JEM forces attacked the town at 7:00 am on Sunday and asked residents to stay at their homes while they set the police headquarters and the locality building on fire and looted the market.

Abu Zabad is about 60 kilometres from Dilling town in South Kordofan state, where JEM rebels and fighters from the Sudan People's Liberation Army-North (SPLM-N) last Tuesday claimed their first major attack of the summer season.

In the same context, the ruling National Congress Party (NCP) media secretary, Yasser Youssef, described the attack on Abu Zabad as a failed attempt and announced in press statements on Sunday their support for SAF and its plans to end rebellion during the summer season.

He called upon the Sudanese people to continue their support for SAF in order to achieve the national program, defeat the rebels, and liberate the land.

Last week, the Sudanese defence minister, Abdel-Rahim Mohamed Hussein, announced the beginning of the summer military operations which aims to end rebellion in Darfur, South Kordofan, and Blue Nile.

Hussein said that troops are heading towards the military operations zones, asserting that this offensive shall witness the end of rebellion.

He affirmed the completion of preparations, plans and the simultaneous mechanical movement in the various battlefronts.

“We made huge and excellent preparations and our troops are moving to end the rebellion once and for good”, Hussein said. ([Back To Top](#))

Sudan army says it repulsed Darfur rebel attack on southern town and killed deputy leader

AP Khartoum, 17/11/2013- Sudan’s army says it has repulsed an attack by Darfur rebels on a strategic town near the border with South Sudan and killed the group’s deputy leader.

Darfur’s Justice and Equality rebel group confirmed Sunday on its website that the group’s deputy leader Fidail Rahoooma was killed in clashes with government forces in Abu Zabad town in the Kordofan region, which falls along the borders of South Sudan and Sudan’s troubled Darfur region. Clashes hit Abu Zabad in recent days, and rebels claimed they had taken it under control. The move signals the growing confidence of the civilian government but could upset military officials.

On Sunday, Sudan’s army spokesman Col. Sawarmy Khaled said his forces have inflicted heavy losses on the rebels and chased them out of the area. Sudan’s government vowed to crush rebels in Darfur and its borders with South Sudan. ([Back To Top](#))

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