



# United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)

Media & Spokesperson Unit  
Communications & Public Information Office

## MEDIA MONITORING REPORT

THURSDAY, 9 JANUARY 2014

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# Highlights

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## **South Sudan VP calls for mass military mobilisation**

*Sudantribune.com Torit, 8/1/2014* – South Sudan's Vice President James Wani Igga has called for a mass mobilisation and registration of youth and ex-combatants into the army to fight a rebellion against the government that began three weeks ago.

While visiting Eastern Equatoria, Igga said that the state needs to mobilise and register between 5,000 and 10,000 men to be trained to join the South Sudanese army (SPLA).

Following large scale mutinies over the last three weeks Igga said that the SPLA needed professional soldiers with a nationalistic heart to safeguard the country.

"If these peace talks is not successful let's defend our democracy" Igga said at a public rally in the Eastern Equatoria town of Torit, which was held to put across the government's perspective about the current crisis.

The Vice President said that Jonglei and Unity state would be back under government control in the coming days but added that he hoped negotiations in Addis Ababa would bring a ceasefire.

In meetings with intellectuals, religious leaders, leaders of political parties, state leaders among others Igga urges them to join hand with the government to realise peace in the world's youngest nation.

Governor Lobong welcomed Igga's first visit to Eastern Equatoria state since he was promoted from the position of speaker of the national parliament, which he held since 2005.

"We choose to be in peace simply because we believe in democracy and we believe in freedom" Lobong remarked in reference to the current conflict.

He warned that Eastern Equatoria was struggling to cope with the humanitarian situation caused by the internally displaced people (IDPs) fleeing the violence who are arriving in the southern state, which border troubled Jonglei state.

"We have limited resources in the hospitals; our markets are running out of food because of the influx of the IDPs. We ask our communities in Nimule and Nadapal to give a temporary camp not a permanent one for the displaced."

The Mayor of Torit municipal council, Stephen Osfaldo, said people in Torit were standing with the government and that the people of Eastern Equatoria condemned the alleged coup and those who have rebelled against the government.

Vice President Igga named some of the soldiers who had been killed in the last three weeks of fighting. He is questioned the validity of claims by some members of the ruling party (SPLM) who have lobbied against President Salva Kiir's administration.

After the fighting broke out on 15 December eleven senior SPLM figures were arrested accused of being connected to the alleged coup attempt.

Igga told the gathering in Torit that, the cabinet and other positions they had previously held were not permanent.

"Our country is labeled as corrupt country. We needed a lean government so that we can deliver services to the citizens and we need a reform in the civil servants", he added.

South Sudan needs transformation, the Vice President said.

Igga said that the government of South Sudan is committed to the peace negotiations in Addis Ababa but blamed Machar's demand that all political detainees be released for delaying the progress of the talks.

"We say they will be released if they are proved innocent in the court of law not by anyone's preconditions" Igga said. ([Back to Top](#))

### **South Sudan government ready to sign cease-fire 'soon'**

*Voice of America News, 8/1/2014* – Delegates for South Sudan's government said they are prepared to sign a cease-fire "soon," as negotiations continue with anti-government fighters on a proposal to end weeks of deadly violence.

Both sides made statements Wednesday in Ethiopia's capital, a day after regional mediators presented a draft peace agreement.

The rebels did not specify that pro-rebel officials held by the government must be released as part of a deal, but said their detention remains an obstacle.

The government has said it can release them only after "legal procedures" are carried out. ([Back to Top](#))

### **South Sudan rebels reject govt. plan to unblock peace talks**

*Reuters Addis Ababa/Juba, 8/1/2014* – South Sudanese rebels rejected a government plan on Wednesday to end a dispute over detainees and unblock peace talks aimed at halting violence that has killed at least 1,000 people in the world's youngest state.

Taban Deng Gai, the head of the opposition delegation at the Addis Ababa talks, said Juba was not a good venue. "I don't think that will be accepted from this side because Juba is a big prison," he said.

### **Garang Boys**

Both sides had been due to discuss their positions on Wednesday but this did not take place because the delegates were awaiting the return from Juba of envoys of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), a regional grouping of east African nations that initiated the talks.

In a statement, the envoys said both Kiir and the detained politicians had expressed their support for the talks on an unconditional cessation of hostilities.

The detainees "further stated that their status as detainees should not be an impediment to reaching an agreement on cessation of hostilities," the envoys said in their statement.

Peter Biar Ajak, Executive Director of the Juba-based Center for Strategic Analyses and Research, said most of the 11 detainees were not outright Machar supporters, but part of a group made up of ex-comrades of the late Sudanese liberation hero John Garang, known as the "Garang Boys".

"You are not going to have a lasting solution without this group being involved," Ajak told Reuters by phone, adding that Machar would need the backing of the group to have any hope of gaining wide support outside his own Nuer ethnic group.

The rebels had initially demanded the release of the detainees before the talks, but have since agreed to negotiate a ceasefire and the status of the detainees.

Asked whether Machar's representatives would quit the Addis talks if the detainees were not freed, Mabior Garang, spokesman for the delegation, said: "It is a decision that we will have to make as a group." ([Back to Top](#))

### **Former US special envoy says world needs to be deeply engaged in S. Sudan**

*Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 8/1/2014* – The United States former special envoy to Sudans, Princeton Lyman, has stressed that the international community must act more robustly to assist South Sudan in becoming a viable state.

Lyman acknowledged, in an article in the New York Times (NYT) on Tuesday, weakness and inability of the political institutions in the newborn state, wondering about the

responsibility of the U.S and other foreign entities towards South Sudan which stands on the verge of another civil war.

Lyman, who served as U.S special envoy to Sudan and South Sudan between March 2011 and March 2013, pointed that the U.S under both President George W. Bush and President Obama, has invested heavily in the birth of South Sudan, saying that Washington is the largest donor to South Sudan since it gained independence in 2011.

He said that neither the U.S. nor the international community can ignore the threat this current conflict in South Sudan represents, emphasizing that the crisis brings home the fact that the country's political institutions were much too weak and unable to manage the competing ambitions and other demands of a new state.

The former envoy added that the international community must participate directly in helping South Sudan develop the institutions of governance, democracy and human rights protection that are lacking today.

He pointed that the current crisis fragmented South Sudan's army which he described as "more a coalition of competing militias than a unified military", calling upon the international community, African countries and institutions, United Nations, and European countries to become more deeply engaged.

Lyman proposed a more robust role for the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), saying that UNMISS backed by the U.N. Security Council (UNSC), must no longer accept restrictions by the South Sudan government on its movements, investigations and role as protector.

He said that once a cessation of hostilities is agreed upon, the peacekeepers should be charged with monitoring the cease-fire, keeping the conflicting forces apart and reporting any violations of the agreement to the UNSC, pointing that the U.N. and donors should assist in creating a more unified and professional military for the country.

The former envoy pointed to the importance of drafting a permanent constitution under the supervision of an independent South Sudanese jurist with broad civic and political participation, asserting the need to assign international advisors to assist in the process.

He said that 2015 general elections should be timed to the completion of the new constitution; advising South Sudan's government to focus on the restoration of peace and the fostering of reconciliation and investments in education, health and infrastructure which are badly needed. ([Back to Top](#))

### **Fighting rages despite calls for cessation**

**Gurtong.net Juba, 9/1/2014** – Heavy fighting between government forces and rebels is ongoing in Bor, Jonglei State, officials said.

SPLA Spokesman Col. Philip Aguer told Gurtong that SPLA and the rebels are still locked into fighting in Jonglei State.

"There is fighting since two days ago," Aguer said yesterday. "Up to the time we are talking [now] there is fighting in Bor."

The fight is however, amid peace talks between the representatives of the two parties; government and the rebels which started since Saturday last week in the Ethiopian Capital, Addis Ababa.

On Tuesday government head of delegation on the peace talks with the rebels, Nhial Deng Nhial expressed optimism on break through on the talks with the rebels.

The international community had widely called the two sides to cease hostilities, a call though accepted by the government but has been denied by the rebels.

The rebels insist they want their political leaders detained by the government to be released if the talks are to yield any fruits. ([Back to Top](#))

## **Sydney father reportedly killed in South Sudan**

*SBS.com.au, 9/1/2014* – A Sydney father of five has reportedly been killed while working on an aid project in South Sudan.

Many Australians are said to be trying to get out of a region in South Sudan where an Australian father of five has been reported killed.

John Mach Achuek was working for a Sydney-based farming help group when he was caught up in ongoing violence between government and rebel forces in the Bor region.

The Foreign Affairs Department says any other Australians in South Sudan should make urgent plans to leave, as the violence shows no signs of abating.

### **Listen: Sydney father reportedly killed in South Sudan, Abby Dinham reports**

John Mach Achuek, who had been living in Australia, returned to the country of his birth in 2010, while his wife and five children remained behind in Sydney.

He was working for the not-for-profit organisation "Life through Livestock" which has been vaccinating cows from a fatal disease that had been decimating the region's cattle population.

But a brother in Sydney, Deng Adut, says he was also working independently to help civilians flee conflict areas.

"On the day in question he was in the process of trying to get some people who were supposed to cross the river to the other side of the river from a place called Malou where his body was found," Mr Adut says.

"He was told not to go there, but unfortunately he went there and that's when he was caught in the fire."

### **South Sudan and the Central African Republic: How you can help**

Mr Adut says because of ongoing violence in the area, his brother's body was left lying in a shallow grave, covered in a blanket.

Fighting erupted in the world's youngest state on December 15 after Riek Machar, who was sacked as South Sudan's vice president in July, was accused of attempting a coup against President Salva Kiir.

The United Nations says thousands of people have been killed and more than 120,000 forced to flee their homes in the conflict.

The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs says it has assisted in the evacuation of over 200 Australian people so far and says any Australians in the region to contact consular officials.

Deng Adut says his brother knew the risks of working in the Bor region, but he was determined to help.

"Anything he was doing he was trying to give back to give back to the community. His desire was to, for example, make a difference, make changes, give back to the community, try to import Australia's legal system and way of life back to the country."

Mr Adut says his brother's family in Sydney is traumatised by the news of John Mach Achuek's death.

He says other family members still in South Sudan will attempt to recover his body for proper burial, and honour the life he gave in service of his countrymen.

"He was using his money to take people, people were stranded in a place like Panpandia, take them outside to safety. If you don't have any money to get to the other side of the river you are stranded and you will be killed." ([Back to Top](#))

## **More than 200,000 people displaced in South Sudan: UN spokesman**

*Xinhua United Nations, 8/1/2014* – The ongoing conflict in South Sudan has already uprooted more than 200,000 people from their homes, a UN spokesman confirmed here Wednesday.

"The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) says that an estimated 201,000 people have been internally displaced by the current crisis in South Sudan since Dec. 15," Farhan Haq, UN acting deputy spokesperson, told reporters at the daily briefing.

"Some 85,000 people are estimated to be displaced in Mingkaman and surrounding areas in Awerial County, Lakes State," Haq added.

According to OCHA, food, healthcare, shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene remain the top priorities for humanitarian response, while humanitarian access continues to be constrained by active hostilities, attacks on aid workers and assets, interference with humanitarian activities and other obstacles.

Humanitarian flights into Bor, the capital of Jonglei State, have been severely disrupted as a result of the fighting in the area, said Haq.

"Aid agencies continue to engage with all parties to the hostilities to secure safe access to civilians in need," he added.

Aid agencies are also doing contingency planning for any potential additional displacement in the coming weeks and for the rainy season starting in May, Haq said.

### **Number of refugees from South Sudan fleeing to Uganda rises**

*BERNAMA-NNN-NEW VISION Kampala, 8/1/2014* – The number of refugees fleeing into Uganda from the unrest in neighbouring South Sudan has continued to swell.

By Tuesday evening, 3,249 South Sudanese had entered Uganda through Elegu in Adjumani district in northern Uganda, while the Dzaipi Transit Centre now has 19,866 displaced people. However, thousands of refugees still remain unregistered.

The Uganda Red Cross Society has deployed 51 volunteers to support the government and its humanitarian service partners in registration, reception, hygiene and sanitation promotion, restoration of family links (tracing), identification of unaccompanied minors and separated children, provision of first aid and psycho-social services at Dzaipi.

The volunteers are also supporting in the reception of South Sudan refugees at the Elegu border point.

In Arua, 6,000 refugees were registered on Tuesday. The Ugandan government on Wednesday opened a new refugee settlement at Imvepi in Arua because of the congestion in Rhino Camp. However, there are still many unregistered South Sudanese at the Keri Transit Camp.

### **UN in Sudan ready to welcome 10,000 S.Sudan refugees**

*Agence France Presse (AFP) Khartoum, 8/1/2014* – The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said Wednesday it was preparing for the arrival of some 10,000 South Sudanese refugees expected to enter Sudan's troubled Darfur region.

"Humanitarians in East Darfur are preparing to respond to a possible influx of an estimated 10,000 people from South Sudan," the weekly OCHA bulletin said. ([Back to Top](#))

### **IOM expands operations in S. Sudan, calls for more funding**

*Sudantribune.com Juba, 8/1/2014* – The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is expanding its operations in South Sudan, describing the crisis needs of people displaced by ongoing conflict in the country as "staggering".

The IOM has been leading the registration of displaced persons sheltering inside UN bases in Juba and distributing relief supplies in coordination with humanitarian partners on the ground.



It is coordinating the sanitation and hygiene services at the UN's Malakal base in Upper Nile state, which is hosting some 12,000 displaced persons.

IOM director general William Lacy Swing, who arrived in Juba on Sunday where he plans to meet with IOM staff and humanitarian partners, has expressed his concern for the crisis-affected population.

"The needs created by this crisis are staggering. I am deeply saddened by the violence that has affected so many South Sudanese who are simply trying to survive", Swing said on Tuesday.

The IOM has issued an appeal to the international community to contribute \$23.2 million in support of the organisation's humanitarian response to the South Sudan crisis.

It says the provision of adequate shelter and essential household items would make an enormous difference to improving the living conditions of those displaced by the current crisis.

"This work is vital, and we are calling upon our partners in the international community to provide additional funding support so that we can continue to meet the basic needs of South Sudan's most vulnerable people", Swing said.

Conflict broke out in the capital on 15 December after clashes between rival factions of the presidential guards, with violence spreading to other areas.

The IOM says the crisis has since forced nearly 200,000 people to flee their homes, with an estimated 62,000 people currently seeking shelter and protection on UN peacekeeping bases, while a further 22,600 people have crossed into neighbouring countries.

According to the IOM, the UN Tomping base in Juba, which is housing about 17,400 people, has exceeded its capacity and is now unable to accommodate any new arrivals.

The organisation says protection of civilians within the site remains a major concern, with reports of fighting within and the camp and surrounding areas. ([Back to Top](#))

### **South Sudan's FM to visit Khartoum on Thursday**

*Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 8/1/2014* – The Sudanese foreign ministry has said that South Sudan's minister of foreign affairs, Barnaba Marial Benjamin, will arrive in Khartoum on Thursday instead of Wednesday as previously announced.

Marial will be the first South Sudanese official to visit Khartoum since recent clashes erupted in South Sudan.

The visit comes three days after Sudan's president Omer Hassan al-Bashir visited Juba in the wake of ongoing political unrest in the new nation.

The foreign ministry spokesperson, Abu Bakr Al-Sideeg Mohamed Al-Amin, said the aim of the visit is to arrange for the meetings of the joint committee between the two countries, stressing that Marial would meet with president Bashir and ministers of interior, Abdel-Wahid Youssef, and foreign minister, Ali Karti.

He pointed out in a press conference held at the premises of the foreign ministry that implementation of cooperation agreements would top the agenda.

"There is a joint keenness to implement those agreements, including the demarcation of the border, and completion of the zero line which determines the baseline for the demilitarized security zone between the countries", added the spokesperson. ([Back to Top](#))

### **Sudan, S. Sudan Joint Ministerial Committee Meets Tomorrow**

*Sudanvisiondaily.com Khartoum, 8/1/2014* – South Sudan minister of foreign affairs, Barnaba Benjamin was scheduled to have arrived in Khartoum this morning as special South Sudan president envoy. Sudan's foreign ministry spokesperson said the visit was

planned a week ago on the request of Khartoum, and comes within the context of cooperation between the two countries.

He added that the foreign ministers in the two countries would co-chair the joint ministerial committee assigned the implementation of the joint agreement. The committee would submit a report to the vice presidents in the two countries.

Furthermore, he added, the visiting minister would brief the president on his visit to Kenya, in addition to furthering coordination within the framework of the IGAD initiative. ([Back to Top](#))

### **Sudanese pound loses 12% of its value against US dollar as Juba cuts oil exports**

*Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 8/1/2014* – The ongoing conflict in South Sudan took a toll on the Sudanese currency which witnessed a sharp drop in the black market against the US dollar.

Traders said that the dollar is now selling for 8.18 pounds compared to 7.30 prior to the outbreak of violence last month in the oil-rich state which can only transport its crude through the pipelines in Sudanese territory.

The official exchange rate is around 5.7 pounds to the dollar.

This is the second time since last June that the US dollar's exchange rate in the parallel market surpasses eight pounds. That was when president Omer Hassan al-Bashir announced that his government will not allow South Sudan to use its facilities to export oil to the international markets.

Khartoum gets a fixed fee from Juba for every barrel of oil exported through its pipelines which helps it cover a portion of its budget hole and more importantly provides a stable source of hard currency needed to import food.

So far oil production in South Sudan has not been significantly impacted by the fighting except production fields in Unity state which are now under the control of rebels loyal to former vice president Riek Machar.

Oil companies in Unity state from China and India evacuated their workers and made sure to shut down the oilfields there which are believed to have been producing around 45,000 bpd.

Yesterday, the Sudanese oil Minister Makkawi Mohammed Awad affirmed that flow of crude from Adar Yeil's oil field in Upper Nile state is normal adding that production there increased from 165,000 barrels per day (bpd) to 200,000.

But on Wednesday, Reuters quoted oil industry sources as saying that South Sudan's exports of heavy sweet Dar Blend will drop to 4.6 million barrels, or about 148,000 bpd, in January in a revised loading programme, one source said, down about 21 percent from 187,000 bpd originally planned.

Dar Blend is produced in the Upper Nile state, in Blocks 3 and 7 that are operated by the Petrodar Operating Company.

Two of the seven cargoes that had been scheduled for loading in January have been deferred to February, he told Reuters.

Exports of Nile Blend, Sudanese crude, have also dropped after production was shut in South Sudan's Unity state last month. The grade is also produced in Sudan where output is stable.

In a revised loading programme seen by Reuters, two Nile Blend cargoes will load in January, down from three originally, the sources said. These include a cargo that was scheduled to load in December.



Sudanese officials downplayed any adverse impact of complete oil shutdown in South Sudan despite transit fees forming an integral part of the 2014 budget.

The finance minister Badr al-Deen Mahmoud has recently said that they are to receive a loan which should help it cover purchases of basic goods. He gave no details on source or amount. ([Back to Top](#))

### **Khartoum says facing difficulties reaching some of its citizens in South Sudan**

*Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 8/1/2014* – The Sudanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs disclosed that it is coordinating with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to evacuate Sudanese citizens stranded in conflict areas of South Sudan.

The director of the Consulates and Expatriates Department at the ministry Ambassador Abdel-Aziz Hassan Saleh said in press statements on Wednesday that the embassy in Juba in coordination with a special ministry committee is working to determine the whereabouts of its citizens in preparation for including them in the upcoming evacuation operations.

Saleh pointed out that there are more than 1,200 citizens in Juba awaiting evacuation in the next stage. He noted that 6,608 including children were moved out of South Sudan's capital so far.

The diplomat stressed that an emergency room in the ministry is following the situation continuously to check on the situation of Sudanese citizens in all areas of South Sudan.

But Saleh said that the escalation of the situation in Upper Nile State and some other cities have impeded access to Sudanese nationals due to their presence in United Nations camps there. ([Back to Top](#))

### **Sudan ready to negotiate with northern sector**

*Sudanvisiondaily.com Khartoum, 8/1/2014* – Sudan's team member in the negotiations with SPLM/N, Abdul Rahman Abu Median affirmed the readiness of government to negotiate as soon as an invitation is received from the AUHIP Chief.

Abu Median told Sudan Vision that the Sudanese government announced earlier its readiness to sit with the other party round a negotiations table when 14th of last December was set as a start date for the talks, but the talks were postponed due to the death of late Nelson Mandela and the Xmas celebrations.

He affirmed that the talks will be in accordance to the Presidential directives to discuss the issue of the stakeholders and the armed groups, stressing that the talks will be limited to the two areas with any citizens belonging to the Blue Nile State.

He disclosed that the Presidential Assistant, Prof. Ibrahim Ghandour will lead the delegation, unless unforeseen circumstances occur to assign another official.

Abu Median concluded that the government remained keen in achieving peace during the past two decades. ([Back to Top](#))

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