



United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)

Media & Spokesperson Unit
Communications & Public Information Office

MEDIA MONITORING REPORT

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Highlights

South Sudan peace deal imminent: Kenya

SABC Addis Ababa, 15/01/14 - Kenya says a peace deal between the government of South Sudan and rebel forces could be concluded by Friday.

Talks aimed at securing a ceasefire in South Sudan are currently taking place in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa. The negotiations are overseen by the East African regional bloc, IGAD.

The Great Lakes region and other African leaders, including President Jacob Zuma, are meeting in the Angolan capital Luanda to discuss peace and security issues in Sudan and South Sudan. Kenya, as a southern neighbour, is playing a key role.

Kenya Foreign Minister Amina Mohamed says the Addis Ababa peace talks are at an advanced stage. Mohamed says: "We now have a draft agreement on cessation of hostilities that is ready. The fact that we insisted on face-to-face negotiations has helped break the ice. As soon as the draft is signed we might start to see the return to normalcy in South Sudan."

Former president Thabo Mbeki has said the violence in South Sudan can only be stopped if the ruling party, SPLM, stops its infighting. Fighting erupted in South Sudan on December 15 after President Salva Kiir accused his deputy, Riek Machar, of attempting a coup.

Machar in turn accused Kiir of using the coup accusation as an excuse to carry out a purge of his supporters. Since then, fighting has escalated. Mediation talks have been underway but the violence hasn't ceased.

Regional leaders and the broader region's heads of state must become involved in searching for a solution. ([Back to Top](#))

Government expects ceasefire deal soon

VoA News Juba, 15/01/14 - The South Sudanese government said Wednesday it is hopeful that the two sides at peace talks in Addis Ababa are close to reaching a ceasefire agreement, even as fighting continues to rake the world's newest nation.

"I want to tell you that it will not be very long until a cessation of hostilities agreement is signed," Ateny Wek Ateny, a spokesman for President Salva Kiir, told reporters in Juba.

He said only two items "are left to be discussed" at the talks, which nearly two weeks ago brought teams of negotiators for Kiir and his political rival, former Vice President Riek Machar -- whom Kiir has accused of starting the unrest in South Sudan by trying to overthrow him -- to the Ethiopian capital.

"Those two items may be exhausted today, and if they are exhausted today, there will be no problem to see the two sides signing the cessation of hostilities," Ateny said.

Even as he spoke, fighting raged in Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile states, including in the town of Malakal, which rebels said they recaptured on Tuesday.

Medical charity Doctors Without Borders said hundreds of people have been wounded over the past few days in fighting in the three states, where the capital cities have become key battlegrounds in the month-long conflict.

Malakal, Bentiu in Unity state and Bor in Jonglei were captured by rebels early on in the conflict. Government troops recaptured Malakal at the end of December and last week took Bentiu back from rebels, saying their next target would be Bor.

Ateny denied that rebels have retaken control of Malakal in oil-rich Upper Nile state, and army spokesman Philip Aguer said fighting was continuing in the town.

Although no precise death toll is available for the conflict, the U.N. Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) this week said it believes up to 10,000 people may have been killed.

More than 400,000 South Sudanese civilians have been driven from their homes by the fighting, with most believed to be internally displaced in the country and nearly 80,000 fleeing to neighboring countries.

The peace talks for South Sudan resumed Monday after bogging down, largely over the government's refusal to consider one of the demands posed by negotiators for the opposition side that 11 high-ranking political figures who were detained when fighting first erupted in Juba on Dec. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

President Kiir confident of military victory over rebels

Catholic Radio Network Juba, 15/01/14 - The President of the Republic expressed confidence to militarily defeat Machar's forces.

The Press Secretary in the Office of the President Ateny Wek Ateny told journalists in Juba on Wednesday that the government army was brave to crush the rebels inside and outside the country.

He recalled their victory over Machar's uprising against SPLM/SPLA in 1991.

Mr Ateny said President Kiir Salva Mayardit urged citizens to provide information to the government to combat imminent attacks.

The official said citizens should defeat psychological war and huge exodus in and across the country by having courage and confidence in their government's strength.

The Press Secretary said President Kiir sent condolences to the families of 200 people drowned on Sunday while fleeing fighting in Malakal.

He said the President promised to provide humanitarian assistance to the affected people, without giving details.

Mr Ateny dismissed rebels' claim of regaining control of Malakal.

He refuted media reports that Defence Minister Kuol Manyang Juuk was captured by rebels. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

Senior rebel commander says conflict should not be labelled as tribal war

Sudantribune.com Kampala, 15/01/14 - Unity state rebel commander Maj. Gen. James Koang Chuol said current conflict in South Sudan should not be viewed as a tribal war, describing it as a struggle against dictatorship.

He has strongly condemned those framing the violence as a war against the Nuer and Dinka tribes.

Chuol, who last month defected from the South Sudanese army (SPLA), accuses president Salva Kiir of intentionally inflaming tribal tensions, saying he lacked leadership skills.

The SPLA's former fourth division commander in Unity state blames the Kiir administration for the deaths of nearly 2,000 members of the Nuer tribe.

However, Chuol refutes suggestions the rebellion against the government was motivated by tribal loyalties, saying it had been instigated to restore democracy in the new nation.

"Our war has nothing to do with tribal line, but we are committed to eliminate Kiir out in order for South Sudan to become a free nation", Chuol said in a phone interview with Sudan Tribune.

Chuol further accused Kiir of betraying those who had fought for independence during the more than two-decade-long civil war with the north.

He has urged other tribes in South Sudan to participate in what he described as the struggle to bring change in the country.

Chuol has described the Ugandan government's decision to deploy troops to fight alongside government forces as "regrettable", but maintained rebel fighters would not be intimidated.

"[The] Ugandan UPDF is nothing to our forces ... we are ready to clear them out one by one. In some days to come you will hear [that] the government troops will [be] run out of Bentiu town", said Chuol.

Chuol has backed the preconditions set by former vice-president-turned rebel leader Riek Machar, who has insisted on the release of political prisoners and the withdrawal of foreign troops before negotiations on a ceasefire.

The rebel commander said government troops who attempted to mount an offensive in Guit County on Wednesday had been driven back to the capital, Bentiu.

Rumours have been circulating that rebel fighters are mobilising as part of a massive military campaign to recapture Bentiu from government forces.

However, Chuol denied any mobilisation of civilians, stressing that soldiers under his command would liberate the town soon. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

S. Sudan to shut down mobile phone network in Malakal

Sudantribune.com Juba, 15/01/14 - South Sudan said on Wednesday it plans to shut down the mobile phone network in the border state of Upper Nile, after heavy fighting erupted on Tuesday between rebels and troops loyal to President Salva Kiir.

It was not initially clear whether some communication facilities like mobile phone towers and generators may have been damaged in the fighting, with presidential spokesperson Ateny Wek Ateny confirming that the shutdown was for security purposes.

"It was for security purposes. Anywhere in the world governments have the power to do this, if there is insecurity it can shut the network. You cannot leave the network up in a place where there are rebels. You have to cut the network where they are", he said.

Ateny's statement, broadcast on state-owned radio and television networks, confirmed reports from multiple sources from oil-rich Upper Nile that mobile phone service had been cut in the entire state, with the exception of Renk and Paloch.

Speaking at a news conference, Ateny accused rebels of sparking widespread panic among the civilian population, which he said led to the deaths of more than 200 people, who died trying to flee the fighting after their boat capsized.

"People were drowned because of unnecessary panic caused by the enemies of the state. The town underwent several attacks before they were repulsed, explained Ateny.

Forces loyal to former vice-president-turned rebel leader Riek Machar claimed to have recaptured Malakal, where fighting has been raging since Sunday. The South Sudanese army (SPLA) denies the claims.

Malakal, which produces the bulk of South Sudan's oil, has already changed hands twice since violence erupted in South Sudan's capital, Juba, last month following clashes between rival factions of the presidential guards, with the conflict quickly spilling across other regions.

The latest round of fighting comes as peace talks aimed at ending hostilities continue in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, without result. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

South Sudan battles rage in key oil town

Agence France-Presse Juba, 15/01/14 - South Sudan's military battled rebels in the streets of the key northern oil town of Malakal Wednesday, the army said, as conflict in the world's newest nation entered its second month.

The battle for Malakal, the main town in Upper Nile state, is now turning into one of the most bitter in the conflict, with the United Nations reporting tank battles in the streets.

"There is heavy fighting in Malakal," army spokesman Philip Aguer said, dismissing rebel claims they had taken control of the town.

Rebel forces staged a fresh attack Tuesday to seize the town, which has already changed hands twice since the conflict began, with rebel spokesman Lul Ruai Kong, boasting the insurgents had "recaptured Malakal".

"This is not over yet," Aguer said. "The fighting is ongoing."

The East African regional bloc IGAD has been brokering peace talks in neighbouring Ethiopia, although with still little sign of a hoped-for ceasefire agreement.

Late Tuesday, Minister of Information Michael Makuei spoke optimistically that the two sides may soon "agree on the cessation of hostilities", but the rebel delegation said the key sticking point was still the release of political leaders arrested in Juba.

Signing a ceasefire and the release of the prisoners are "hooked together", rebel delegate Hussein Mar Nyout told *AFP*, adding that a truce would only be signed at the same time as a deal on the prisoners.

The army is also trying to recapture the town of Bor from the rebels, the capital of restive Jonglei state. Aguer, in a statement he has repeated for over a week, said that the army was "still marching on Bor".

"Frontlines there have so far been quiet this morning, but clashes can break out at any time," he said. ([Back to Top](#))

Gunfire at U.N. base kills one and wounds dozens

Reuters 15/01/14 - Gunfire into a United Nations compound in South Sudan on Tuesday wounded dozens and killed at least one civilian seeking refuge there, a spokesman said on Wednesday.

Peacekeepers fired warning shots to keep the gunmen out of the base, the United Nations said. Peacekeepers in the country have been protecting more than 65,000 civilians who have sought refuge at United Nations bases from the fighting in the world's youngest nation, the world body said. ([Back to Top](#))

Government forces, rebels clash in Upper Nile

VoA News 15/01/14 - South Sudan's military is battling rebels in the northern Upper Nile state region on Wednesday, amid international concerns that unrest in the world's newest country could spiral into a full-fledged civil war.

Army spokesman Philip Aguer told *VOA* fighting continues in the oil town of Malakal, the capital of Upper Nile state.

Forces loyal to President Salva Kiir are battling soldiers who back his former deputy, Riek Machar, who was dismissed in July.

On Tuesday, the rebels said they had captured Malakal -- a claim the government denied.

Doctors Without Borders says hundreds of people have been wounded over the past few days from fighting in Upper Nile, Unity and Jonglei states.

In a Wednesday statement, the relief group said it had treated 116 people for gunshot wounds in Malakal and the Upper Nile state community of Nasir.

Presidential spokesman Ateny Wek Ateny, on Wednesday, called for unity and said the government forces would prevail.

"The SPLA (Sudan People's Liberation Army) will fight courageously and will defeat the rebels within and outside South Sudan borders," Ateny said. "The government will defeat the rebels forever. His excellency Kiir Mayardit instructed the government to stand ready to defend the nation from internal aggression. He urged all South Sudanese to stand together and see this dark moment through."

Representatives of both sides have been meeting in Ethiopia for talks on a possible cease-fire.

The U.N. says the unrest has left at least 1,000 people dead and more than 400,000 displaced.

In Washington, Linda Thomas-Greenfield of the State Department's African Affairs Bureau urged South Sudan's leaders to seek reconciliation.

"Each day the the conflict continues, the risk of all-out civil war grows and tensions continue to rise," she commented during a congressional hearing. "Let me conclude by saying that I am gravely concerned that the crisis in South Sudan has the potential to escalate even further. South Sudan's leaders on both sides are breaking their promises to their own people."

On Tuesday, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon expressed alarm at the rising number of people who have been killed or forced from their homes by the conflict. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

UN Chief condemns hijacking of aid in South Sudan

Associated Press United Nations, 15/01/14 - U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Wednesday strongly condemned the commandeering of humanitarian vehicles and the theft of food and other desperately needed aid by government and anti-government forces in violence-torn South Sudan.

The U.N. chief expressed alarm at the rising number of deaths in the fighting in the world's newest nation, spokesman Martin Nesirky said.

Fighting between loyalist troops and renegade forces in oil-rich South Sudan since mid-December, largely along ethnic lines, has left nearly 10,000 people dead, according to one estimate by an International Crisis Group analyst.

The secretary-general singled out the reported deaths of 200 civilians fleeing violence in Malakal in Upper Nile state who drowned when their boat sank in the Nile on Saturday.

Nesirky said the U.N. mission reported Wednesday that fighting has stopped in Malakal but sporadic gunfire can be heard some distance from the U.N. peacekeeping base there, where some 20,000 civilians are being protected.

Nesirky said a teen who sought shelter at the base in Malakal was killed by gunfire that entered the compound Tuesday, and dozens of civilians and a U.N. military officer were wounded.

Doctors Without Borders, the medical humanitarian organization, said Wednesday its teams in Malakal and Nasir in Upper Nile have treated 116 people who suffered gunshot wounds, a sign of how intense the latest fighting has been.

The U.N. chief also expressed concern at the rising number of people displaced by the fighting, which surpassed 400,000 this week Nesirky said.

Ban called on all parties to stop the violence and engage in peace negotiations in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, led by a bloc of East African countries known as IGAD, the spokesman said.

In Addis Ababa, a signing ceremony between the two sides had been expected Wednesday evening, but it was postponed.

Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson told a U.N. meeting on genocide prevention that the U.N. decision to open its peacekeeping bases in South Sudan, where some 65,000 people have sought refuge, has saved thousands of lives. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

MSF treats 116 conflict victims

Catholic Radio Network Juba, 16/01/14 - Medicine Sans Frontiers or MSF treated 116 people with gunshot wounds following heavy fighting in Malakal and Nassir of Upper Nile state.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, MSF said heavy fighting in Upper Nile, Unity and Jonglei states left thousands of people newly displaced and hundreds wounded.

MSF Head of Mission in South Sudan Raphael Gorgeu said the fighting limited their ability to reach displaced people in refuge.

He added that the fighting was preventing victims from receiving medical and humanitarian assistance.

Mr Gorgeu said they continue treating more wounded patients in hospitals.

He expressed concerns with the conditions of hundreds of thousands of displaced people across the country with little food, water or access to healthcare.

MSF called on the warring parties to respect the integrity of medical facilities, allow aid organisations to access affected communities and allow patients to receive medical treatment. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

Conflict Resolution Centre calls for inclusive negotiations

Catholic Radio Network Juba, 16/01/14 - Shalom Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation Center called on the Intergovernmental Authority on Development or IGAD to consider a more inclusive and comprehensive negotiations to resolve the ongoing conflict in South Sudan.

The Centre chairperson Patrick Devine in a letter addressed to IGAD Executive Secretary Mahboub M Maalim on Tuesday encouraged involvement of civil society.

He recommended inclusion of “other key influential opinion shapers” to have a positive impact on the negotiations to achieve “deep-rooted and sustainable reconciliation.”

Fr Devine said “the future of South Sudan is best negotiated by its citizens in the broadest sense.”

He termed the situation in South Sudan “a cause of great concern and sadness”.

Fr Devine prayed that the talks would be successful and bring a swift conclusion to the current conflict. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

Women call for end to gunshots

Catholic Radio Network Juba, 15/01/14 - South Sudan Women Leaders for Peace on Wednesday urged both government and rebels to stop shooting guns.

A member of the organizing committee Betty Achan Ogwaro lamented that the guns were not differentiating between armed force and innocent civilians.

She urged the two parties to end hostilities and come to face to face discussions.

Ms Achan urged the warring sides to listen to the voice of women and involve them in the talks.

SPLM Secretary for Social Welfare and Services Nora Zangabeyo called on citizens to stop hate language to avoid continuous war.

She appreciated President Salva Kiir for accepting to discuss their differences through dialogue without preconditions.

The Secretary called upon IGAD and the international community to intervene to realize peace in South Sudan. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

Vice-President mobilizes army recruits

Anisa Radio Yambio, 16/01/14 - The Vice President of the Republic on Wednesday called on citizens of Western Equatoria State to join the national army.

James Wani Igga said the government needs five thousand recruits from each state to become national army, Anisa Radio reported.

The Vice President added that there was need to reform the army to become neutral in defending national interest.

He said the government wanted peace and that it would sign a cease-fire agreement soon.

Vice President Wani Igga told Yambio residents that the war was not tribal but political.

The Vice-President called on Nuer and Dinka soldiers to stop revenge and killing one another.

Vice President Wani Igga urged the Arrow Boys to be vigilant in the state to watch the Lord's Resistance Army from returning to South Sudan. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

National minister calls youths to donate blood

Bakhita Radio Juba, 15/01/14 - The national Youth, Culture and Sports Minister called upon youths to donate blood to help the current conflict affected people.

Nadia Arop Dudi on Wednesday said the ministry was organising a one-week campaign for the youth to donate blood, Bakhita Radio reported.

She urged South Sudanese to give whatever they have for helping the victims.

Ms Arop said the role of youths at the time was to call for peace and unity.

She made the statement on Wednesday during the conference of Women Leaders for Peace in Juba. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

Minority leader raises concern over failure to endorse state of emergency

Radio Miraya Juba, 15/01/14 - The leader of the minority in the National Legislative assembly, Onyoti Adigo Nyikwec is calling for a renewal of a State of emergency in Unity and Jonglei States.

President Salva Kiir issued a decree declaring state of emergency in the two States on the 1st of this month, after fighting broke out between government and anti-government forces.

In an exclusive interview with *Radio Miraya*, Onyoti Adigo Nyikwec has called on the National Parliament to endorse the state of emergency issued by President Salva Kiir in both Unity and Jonglei states.

According to the transitional constitution, the declaration of a state of emergency shall be submitted to the National Legislature within fifteen days of the issuance of the declaration. When the National Legislature is not in session, an emergency session shall be convened.

Onyoti says the lawful period of fifteen days is elapsing.

"Now is the end of fifteen days today which has become unlawful because it will be a violation of the constitution if that thing continues with approval by the parliament. What do you think it will happen afterward because it's not now endorsed? The state of emergency is supposed to relax because it is not endorsed by the parliament."

The leader of the minority says the President has the authority to renew the state of emergency if it is not endorsed by the assembly.

"we assumed that that state of emergency elapsed otherwise it should be renewed again the president should make another state of emergency because it is within his powers."

According to the transitional constitution, the duration of the state of emergency shall expire after thirty days from the date of issuance of the declaration if the National Legislature does not approve by a resolution the extension of its duration. During the State

of emergency, the president may suspend part of the Bill of Rights, but there must be no infringement on people's human rights. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

Bishop urges government to end ethnic cleansing

Anisa Radio Yambio, 16/01/14 - Tombura-Yambio Catholic Bishop urged the government to mobilize recruitment of neutral human resource in the national army to end eliminating one tribe.

Bishop Edward Hiiboro Kussala on Wednesday told Vice President James Wani Igga that the incident of December 15 in Juba was too much worrying for the people, Anisa Radio reported.

He expressed sincere sympathy of Western Equatorians with the rest of the country over the cruel tribal killing in the fight.

The Bishop commended citizens for being very good peacekeepers in families, communities and the state.

Yambio Episcopal Bishop Peter Munde said through prayers God can grant peace to the country if people were honestly seeking for it.

He recalled that God heard prayers of state citizens when they smarched humbly with bare feet asking God to remove the Lord's Resistance Army.

The two prelates called for peace and condemned war.

They appealed for cessation of hostilities, calling on everybody to collectively work for peace in South Sudan. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

MPs want ICC to take action on Dr. Riek Machar

Gurtong Wau, 15/01/14 - Western Bahr el Ghazal state Assembly members have called on the International Criminal Court (ICC) to take action and issue an arrest warrant against South Sudan's rebel leader Dr. Riek Machar.

"Dr. Riek Machar must face charges at the ICC court on crimes against humanity because the current humanitarian situation in the country where civilian casualties maintain multiplying every day as a result of his rebels military activities reflect him to face law," Hon. Justin Makuac said.

Makuac urges all member states of UN Security Council (UNSC) in the world to join their efforts to bring Riek Machar to international law of committing crimes against humanity in South Sudan.

He said recruiting child soldiers from Nuer ethnic tribe to fight the national government is unlawful.

"Dr. Riek Machar rebellion in South Sudan does not have value because he was a member of key leader as vice president of the country. If there were some obstacles in running the country by president [Salva] Kiir, [Riek] Machar at his time as vice president would have made progress he thinks was better for South Sudan," the MP said.

The MP blamed the UN mission in South Sudan of agreeing with preconditions given by Dr. Riek Machar in Addis Ababa before signing the ceasefire aimed at ending hostilities in the country.

The pre conditions include the release of 11 politicians detained in Juba.

Hon. James Giir Wol urged the international community to understand that Reik was attempting to over thrown the current leadership and resorted to rebellion where his forces are now destabilizing the whole nation.

"The international community should clearly understand that the problem in South Sudan is not a tribal conflict but the current crisis started as a matter of taking over power through

military coup by former vice president Dr. Riek Machar of which the international community should condemn it,” Wol said.

Wol warns the international media against instigating the failed coup attempt as a tribal conflict in South Sudan.

“We only need to see that there is a prevailing development in the country than fighting ourselves at this time, those who are behind this coup attempt must face law,” Hon. Peter Andal said. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

South Sudan closes universities amid security concerns

Sudantribune.com Juba, 15/01/14 - South Sudan has temporarily suspended university studies due to ongoing conflict in the country.

Lecturers were informed through an administrative circular issued by the higher education council.

“The higher education council sent an administrative circular informing all stakeholders that the government, given the current situation in the country, [has] decided to suspend regular classes at universities until this situation improves”, Daniel Opio Akau, acting director of the Catholic University in Western Bahr el Ghazal capital Wau, said on Wednesday.

The decision followed an emergency meeting in the capital, Juba, recently between the government and the top management of South Sudan’s various public and private universities.

Akau said the move was an important step in ensuring the safety of university students, lecturers and support staff.

The decision is expected to affect all universities across the country.

On our side as the private entity, the decision to close down was reached at the university administration meeting held recently in Juba under the leadership of university vice-chancellor, Mathew Pagan. The administration agreed and decided to close down activities so that it could monitor the current political and security situation in the country”, Akau said. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

CES traffic police orders commercial trucks, boda bodas to renew licenses

Radio Miraya Juba, 16/01/14 - Traffic police in Central Equatoria have directed all commercial trucks, buses and boda-boda owners to renew their licenses for 2014.

Director of traffic police, Kon John Akot says traffic police will inspect all unlicensed vehicles as well as vehicles that have had their windows tinted or the car painted a different colour without notifying the authorities.

Akot says owners of vehicles from Central Equatoria must also register if they plan to take their vehicle interstate.

He warns that motorists who violate these directives will face the rule of law. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

WHO: Cases of measles reported in Awerial

Radio Miraya Juba, 16/01/14 - The World Health Organization says cases of measles have been reported in Awerial county, Lakes state and within the UN camps.

Team leader for Disease prevention and control Abdinasir Abubakar says the WHO is preparing a second round of measles vaccinations.

He says measles cases have been diagnosed in IDP children living with the UN compound in Bor and forty five cases have been recorded in the UN base in Tomping, Juba

“In Tongping now we have quite number of measles cases so far as yesterday we have forty five children have been affected by measles, and now we have decided to repeat the vaccination again.

“...the other potential outbreak, the another measles cases have been reported in Awerial and also in Bor among the IDPs ,of course measles is one of the potential outbreak that is been expected in these IDPs unless through a good quality vaccination has been done .” Abdinasir Abubakar adds. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

South Sudanese from Diaspora employed

Gurtong Torit, 15/01/14 - The Eastern Equatoria state government has started re-integrating more than 60 experienced South Sudanese from the Diaspora to be deployed across the counties.

Through the state Ministries of Labour and Finance; South Sudanese mostly from Sudan’s Khartoum will be deployed.

The state Labour Minister Lorika Stella Brenda said that at first there were supposed to be 78 but only 62 have turned up.

As part of deployment, the ministry in collaboration with the state Ministry of Finance has already managed to send them to all state the Ministries where they are expected to be re-deployed further to the counties.

All the 10 states in the Republic of South Sudan equally did the similar exercise, revealed the Minister.

In September 2013, the State government announced to have finalized arrangements to absorb 75 South Sudanese from the Diaspora into the civil service.

The process to absorb the staff followed a move by the national government in 2012 when it was announced that there were more than 1,000 returning civil servants but delayed to be absorbed due to austerity measures.

The Ministry’s Acting Director General, Benjamin Okwahi Lauro clarified that the process took longer to implement as the country had shutdown oil production.

The registration commenced as from 5th to 12th September 2013 and would be consistent with approved list that had been sent from the national Ministry of Ministry of Labour, Public Service and Human Resource Development in Juba. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

Ugandan authorities allocate plots to South Sudanese refugees

Radio Miraya Juba, 16/01/14 - Jan. 16, 2014) Authorities in Uganda have started allocating plots of land to South Sudanese Refugees who have fled fighting in South Sudan.

The plots will be allocated in Rhino camp, in Uganda’s Arua district.

Speaking to **Radio Miraya**, the Government senior settlement Commandant in Rhino camp, Arinaitwe John says an estimated 7-thousand refugees are being registered at a transit base and will thereafter be allocated the plots.

Arinaitwe John says the move is in a bid to decongest the reception centers created for the refugees.

Meanwhile, Arinaitwe says health facilities have been restocked at the Ocea reception center where the refugees are arriving.

He says adequate water supply remains a challenge and added efforts are underway to address the issue.

“Current population where we are now at Ocea is about five thousand people and registration is continuing and also relocation to the plots is continuing and also relocation to the plots is also continuing actually we have so far demarcated about 500 plots we have

so far settled 224 families of about 1, 268 people we are trying our level best I can assure you that drugs we no longer have any problem with medicines we received consignment from UNHCR and we now have in our three health centers we have now medicines”.

Arinaitwe also says there has been a fall in the number of people being received at the transit center over the past few weeks.

He says Imvepi camp, which is another refugee settlement in Northern Uganda is also being prepared for any possible influx.

An estimated 20-thousand South Sudanese have crossed into Uganda since the conflict started mid-December. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

Third flight carrying 200 Somali citizens arrive Mogadishu from South Sudan

Dalsan Radio Mogadishu, 15/01/14 - Somali government chartered flight has departed at Mogadishu Airport on Tuesday carrying 200 Somali citizens from the troubled South Sudan.

The flight is the third one from South Sudan to Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia since civil wars broke out in the Africa's newest nation.

Somali Embassy in Juba said on Tuesday that the number of Somali citizens fleeing from South Sudan back to their country increased since December.

Foreign Affairs Ministry in Mogadishu has pledged to pay for the flights, hotel accommodations and local transportation costs for the citizens returning from South Sudan in order to help them resettle back in their home regions.

Mogadishu has received more than 500 Somali citizens from South Sudan since December. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

US issues stern warning on South Sudan conflict

The EastAfrican 16/01/14 - The United States may apply “appropriate pressure” on government officials and rebel leaders to end the conflict in South Sudan, the State Department's top Africa official has warned.

Assistant Secretary of State Linda Thomas-Greenfield did not specify what actions the US might take, but indicated “individuals on both sides who interfere with the peace and reconciliation process in South Sudan or are responsible for serious human rights abuses” as the target.

The implied sanctions amplify the Obama administration's response to the conflict.

She reiterated the US stance that "political detainees currently being held in Juba must be released” and allies of rebel leader Riek Machar be allowed to join the talks in Ethiopia.

A US House of Representatives panel was also told that those engaged in the violence are "breaking promises to their own people.”

The official reiterated support for the mediation process initiated by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, saying it “offers the best hope for South Sudan and the region.”

She cited an estimate by the International Crisis Group that over 10,000 South Sudanese may have lost their lives.

“Political rivalries have taken on ethnic dimensions, atrocities are being committed, and men, women, and children are caught in the crossfire,” the senior Africa official said.

According to her, efforts to oust President Salva Kiir by force are opposed and the US is urging the South Sudanese government to open political space to allow for greater inclusion. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

GSDF ammo provided to S. Korean forces in S. Sudan returned via U.N.

Kyodo Tokyo, 16/01/14 - Ammunition provided to South Korean troops involved in a U.N. peacekeeping mission in South Sudan has been returned to Japan's Ground Self-Defense Force through the United Nations, the Japanese Defense Ministry said Thursday.

The South Korean government decided to return the 10,000 bullets amid domestic criticism that the government of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe had used the ammunition supply to promote its political agenda.

In December, Tokyo authorized the GSDF to provide the ammunition to the South Korean military involved in the U.N. peacekeeping mission in South Sudan as an exception to its self-imposed ban on arms exports, citing humanitarian need as the country teetered on the verge of civil war.

The South Korean military said last Friday that it had returned the ammunition to the United Nations. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

FEATURE - South Sudanese seeking safety as fighting rages

Allafrica.com 15/01/14 - A month after a political power struggle erupted into ethnic violence, South Sudanese continue to flee the fighting that has divided the country.

As dawn breaks, hundreds of new arrivals land in the tiny village of Mingkamen on the banks of the White Nile River.

They are among more than 400,000 South Sudanese who have been displaced by fighting in the country.

In this case, they are running from the rebel-held town of Bor, the scene of fierce battles between the divided military and allied militias.

These boats have just arrived from Jonglei state around the area of Bor. People spent eight hours traveling in the dead of night just to escape the fighting in the area.

Now they're coming here with almost everything they own, including cattle in some cases.

If they have money, they might move on to transition to other places, or they'll stay here until it's safe enough to go home."

Among the new arrivals is the Reverend Daniel Garang - a priest with an assault rifle.

He has just helped guide about 100 people to safety after spending three weeks in hiding, narrowly escaping rebel attacks.

He says he has never fired a shot, and his only prayer is for peace.

"Well for me as a priest, to be peaceful is better than to be more violent. So I wish if there is a cease-fire to stop killing the civilians and the innocent people as I came with them now. You can see me as military because I'm military minded, but I'm a civilian," said Garang.

More than 84,000 people have fled across the river from Bor. The cattle just started arriving this week.

A major indication of wealth in South Sudan, the cows could not be left behind.

Those who can afford to have brought them over by the boatful, another sign that people are not expecting to go home any time soon.

Elijah Macnom, a local official from Duk county near Bor, says the people who have been left behind are suffering.

"People will be living in fear, like now, many people are hiding in the bushes, and when they went to the bushes, there's no food there in the bush. These are the challenges that I have witnessed there," said Macnom.

Almost all who have settled here in Mingkamen are Dinka, the tribe of President Salva Kiir.

They are victims of ethnic tensions that have been reignited by the president's fallout with his top rival Riek Machar, a Nuer.

Elizabeth Yar Garang sleeps under this tree with her mother. In the recent violence, she sees echoes of the massacre of Dinka in 1991, that many blamed on Machar when he led another rebel group.

"Why does this man Machar kill people? Old, young, women and children, and now he wants to be a leader. He has done this twice and we cannot forget," she said.

While Dinka have been displaced here, Nuer have been targeted with violence and displaced in other parts of the country including tens of thousands in the capital.

As cease-fire talks drag on, those uprooted by the conflict remain a long way from home.

OPINION - Civilian protection, independent inquiry needed

By Human Rights Watch Nairobi, 16/01/14 - Witnesses to the violence in South Sudan [2] since December 15, 2013, have described how targeted attacks against civilians on an ethnic basis have taken place in both government and opposition-controlled areas. South Sudan's government and opposition forces should both immediately end abuses against civilians.

South Sudan's leaders, the African Union (AU), and the United Nations should also support an independent, credible, international commission of inquiry to investigate all alleged crimes since the conflict erupted. The UN should also impose a travel ban and an asset freeze on anyone credibly identified as responsible for serious abuses and violations of international human rights and humanitarian law, Human Rights Watch said.

"Appalling crimes have been committed against civilians for no other reason than their ethnicity," said Daniel Bekele [3], Africa director at Human Rights Watch. "Both sides need to leave civilians out of their conflict, let aid groups reach people who need help and accept a credible, independent investigation into these crimes."

Between December 27 and January 12, 2014, a Human Rights Watch research team in South Sudan interviewed more than 200 victims and witnesses to abuses in Juba and Bor.

Researchers documented widespread killings of Nuer men by members of South Sudanese armed forces in Juba, especially between December 15 and 19, including a massacre of between 200 and 300 men in the Gudele neighborhood on December 16. Researchers also documented the targeting and killing of civilians of Dinka ethnicity by opposition forces in other parts of the country.

The targeted killings of civilians, looting, and destruction of civilian property by both parties to the conflict in locations across the country have contributed to the displacement of more than 400,000 people, according to UN estimates, in the past month. Many of the crimes committed after conflict broke out are serious violations of international humanitarian law and may constitute war crimes or crimes against humanity.

Fighting erupted in the headquarters of the South Sudan army's presidential guard at around 10:30 p.m. on December 15, hours after a meeting of South Sudan's leading political party, Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM). The meeting was marked by extremely high tensions between President Salva Kiir, who is of Dinka ethnicity, and former Vice President Riek Machar, who is of Nuer ethnicity. Kiir had dismissed Machar, a senior SPLM member, as vice president in July and fired his entire cabinet. Machar had earlier that year indicated his intention to run for president.

The government also arrested 11 prominent politicians and members of the SPLM's political bureau on December 16 and in the following days, alleging they were involved in planning a coup. The politicians have been detained for four weeks without formal charges or access to legal counsel, as far as Human Rights Watch has been able to determine.

Kiir has called the violence on December 15 an attempted coup by Machar and his allies, a charge Machar, who is now in an undisclosed location, has denied. However in the following days a number of senior army commanders from key locations in South Sudan rebelled against the government, leading to intensive fighting in Bor, the Jonglei State capital, and surrounding areas, the town of Bentiu and other locations in Unity State, and Malakal in Upper Nile State.

Delegates representing both Machar and the government are attending negotiations over a cessation of hostilities and other issues in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, under the auspices of the regional Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). They have yet to agree to a ceasefire.

On December 24, the UN Security Council agreed to temporarily increase the troop ceiling for the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) from 7,000 to 12,500 and to increase the mission's police force to up to 1,323, from 900. The UN should accelerate the deployment of these reinforcements and take other urgent steps to improve the protection of civilians, including better security around UNMISS compounds sheltering some 66,500 civilians displaced by conflict, Human Rights Watch said.

Peacekeepers should also ramp up independent patrols to all accessible locations in areas where they are operating and where civilians are in need. The location and timing of patrols should not be subject to government approval.

Human Rights Watch said it had received multiple reports of looting of medical and humanitarian facilities, and of some government denials of flight authorization to areas where people are in desperate need of aid. The South Sudanese government and leaders of opposition forces should ensure unhindered access by UN and independent humanitarian agencies to displaced and other civilians in need of assistance and protection. Both sides should respect medical and humanitarian facilities, material and staff, as required by international law. Anyone who blocks or otherwise doesn't cooperate with independent humanitarian activities should be held accountable.

The AU decided on December 30 to establish a commission of inquiry. The AU should avail itself of UN experience with commissions of inquiry by asking the UN to promptly provide staff and support a team of international investigators and experts to investigate serious crimes committed since December 15, Human Rights Watch said. The commission of inquiry should report to both the AU and the UN secretary-general. In addition, UNMISS should bolster the investigative capacity of its human rights section and report regularly and publicly on human rights and humanitarian law abuses by all sides.

"The South Sudanese and the international community should show that we have learned the lesson history has taught us that without justice and reconciliation, residual pain from gross violations and other crimes are all too easily abused by those seeking power at any cost," Bekele said.

Killings, Arrests in Juba

In Juba, clashes between members of the presidential guard of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) erupted during the night of December 15, 2013, and spread the following day into neighborhoods around the army headquarters, also triggering serious fighting in at least two other areas of the capital. However, much of the violence in the capital the following week was targeted attacks by Dinka members of South Sudan's armed forces, both the police and army, against Nuer males, including civilians, Human Rights Watch concluded after interviewing more than 150 victims and witnesses.

The witnesses and victims provided accounts of soldiers and policemen conducting house-to-house searches for Nuer men focusing on certain neighborhoods in northwest Juba, such as Gudele, Manga, Mangatain and New Site and around areas where fighting began in southwest Juba. Numerous witnesses described seeing male family members, neighbors, or others shot dead in or around their compounds or as they ran for safety to other

neighborhoods or to UN bases. In most cases reported to Human Rights Watch, witnesses described multiple killings.

“The soldiers shouted at my mum that if (the men) don’t come out of the house they will start shooting all of us,” a 21-year-old woman from the Mia Saba area said, describing one incident. “When they came out they started beating them, and shooting. They shot my brother in the leg. My uncle ran and fell in a shallow ditch. They shot him in the face.” A 42-year-old bricklayer from the New Site neighborhood described killings by security forces: “They brought out five of my neighbors and shot them in the street. We ran, the soldiers said ‘stop’, we refused and they shot at us. I stopped to pick my son but he was heavy and dead. When they reached him they shot him again.”

In the worst single incident documented by Human Rights Watch, soldiers and policemen from around the Gudele and other nearby neighborhoods gathered hundreds of Nuer men during the night of December 15 and the following day and detained them in a building used by the police, near the junction that divides Juba’s Gudele 1 and Gudele 2 neighborhoods. Survivors estimated that between 200 and 300 men were jammed into a room so crowded and hot that several people collapsed during the day on December 16. At around 8 p.m., gunmen alleged to be government forces began systematically shooting into the room through windows on one side of the building, killing almost all of the people in the room, a few survivors said.

“It was very dark,” one survivor said, adding that he survived because he was shot early in the massacre. “The windows were opened and then they shot through them. It was just light from the guns and the sound of the shooting. They shot me in the inner thigh, I fell and then dead people fell on top of me.”

About an hour later, armed men with torches entered the room and shot again several times at people, apparently anyone who appeared to have survived, leaving the door open after they left. At least two survivors escaped during the night. The following afternoon, members of South Sudan’s National Security Service freed 11 others who had been protected when bodies fell on them and who had spent the day with the corpses. Several of the survivors had severe gunshot wounds.

“I thought I would go mad ... for three days I could hear the screaming and the shooting in my head,” said one man who had been hiding near the site of the massacre. “I knew my brother was captured in there.”

Human Rights Watch talked to neighbors of various ethnicities who described with great distress the huge number of bodies they saw at the site on December 17 and their removal in large trucks on December 18.

Human Rights Watch also documented mass arrests during the week of December 16.

Former detainees said they were among scores of Nuer screened for their ethnicity and then held, usually for between three and seven days, most commonly in army buildings or in a national security building close to the Nile River in downtown Juba. Most were arrested in their houses or on main roads as they tried to reach family members or safe locations. Victims showed injuries from beatings and described overcrowding, extreme heat, and a lack of food and clean water in the detention sites. Almost all who had been held in Juba suffered from a similar skin ailment that may have been caused by the extreme heat and overcrowding.

Four Nuer men, interviewed separately, also described being tortured by members of security forces who demanded information about Riek Machar’s location. The men said security forces lashed them, beat them until they lost consciousness or smashed the victims’ faces into the ground with a boot to the back of their head. Security forces took the Nuer men’s cars, phones, and money in most cases, and house-to-house searches were often accompanied by extensive looting.

Many of the Nuer interviewed said they still do not know the location or fate of male family members and friends. More than 25,000 Nuer were displaced by the fighting and attacks in Juba; many fled to two UN bases in Juba and say they are still afraid to return home.

The Events in Bor

Human Rights Watch was not able to conduct an on-site investigation in the town of Bor because of the ongoing conflict, but in early January researchers interviewed more than 50 people in Awerial, to which 84,000 civilians from Bor and surrounding areas fled following successive waves of fighting in December and January.

Witnesses described clashes between government and defecting anti-government security forces, indiscriminate attacks on civilians in densely populated areas, targeted shootings and attacks on civilians, and widespread looting and destruction in Bor. The civilian death toll is unclear, but many witnesses who had returned to Bor in late December said the streets were littered with dead bodies.

The conflict in Bor erupted on December 18. Forces loyal to General Peter Gadet, a prominent Nuer commander, took control of the town following events in Juba, triggering clashes within the army, police and wildlife services and in certain areas of town. The fighting caused thousands of civilians to flee to the UN compound in Bor, as well as outside the town.

Since December 18, Bor has changed hands twice, with the government regaining control between December 25 and 31. Opposition forces and armed Nuer civilians, referred to as the “white army,” control Bor and surroundings now, witnesses told Human Rights Watch. Bor residents who fled the initial attack but returned soon after government forces retook the town on December 24 reported seeing bodies of both soldiers and civilians in several neighborhoods. Human Rights Watch viewed footage obtained by a local government official showing 28 dead bodies in various locations, including close to the UN base, and many witnesses interviewed in Awerial said relatives or neighbors were among the dead. At least two disabled war veterans were killed and their homes looted during the first attack.

A journalist named seven old or mentally ill people he had been told had been killed by Gadet’s forces in the initial attack. The journalist said he had seen the bodies of two of them, Majang Mach and Piel Mayen Deng, soon after the government recaptured the town. Government forces retreated as Gadet’s forces, augmented by thousands of armed Nuer, including women and children, retook the town on December 31, 2013. By some accounts looting and destruction of civilian property increased during the second attack by anti-government forces as they approached villages near Bor.

Many civilians received warnings of the approaching forces and fled into the bush and marsh areas surrounding the town, in some cases leaving behind elderly or ill relatives who could not run. “Those unable to run (from the rebels) were burned in their houses, including two elderly men, Achieng Mayen and Kuol Garang, and a paralyzed woman, Yanadet Garang,” a chief from an area just outside Bor told Human Rights Watch. One mother of four said that armed Nuer aligned with anti-government forces killed her 70-year-old mother. “We came outside (of the house) and the attackers shot at us,” she said.

Witnesses also told Human Rights Watch of attacks by armed Nuer groups and soldiers who followed fleeing civilians into marshland around Bor, possibly to steal cattle from the large cattle camps. Many of those interviewed reported attackers had looted all of their cattle during the first and second attacks on the area, effectively stealing their primary source of livelihood. A 55-year-old community leader who had fled to the marshland from a village outside Bor said that on January 7 a combined force of Nuer soldiers in uniform and armed civilians had attacked the cattle camp where he had taken shelter, killing at least seven people including a seven-year-old boy, and stealing thousands of cattle.

The attacks on Bor's Dinka community have reopened old wounds and revived ethnic divisions from atrocities during Sudan's long civil war. In what was known as the "Bor massacre," in 1991, largely Nuer forces loyal to Machar attacked Dinka communities in and around Bor, killing hundreds and displacing thousands. At the time, Machar had split from SPLA, then the South's rebel force, and fought against it with support from other factions.

Attacks on Civilians Elsewhere

Human Rights Watch received alarming reports of targeted attacks on Dinka civilians in other areas of South Sudan, as well as credible reports of indiscriminate attacks on civilians during fighting in Bentiu and Malakal, but was not able to visit these locations in the initial investigation. The impact of conflict on civilians in these areas requires further in-depth investigation.

On December 19, large numbers of armed youth together with unarmed women and children, and accompanied by uniformed security forces, attacked a UN mission base in the town of Akobo, in Jonglei state, where around 30 Dinka, including disarmed soldiers and civilians had taken shelter, witnesses said. In the stampede on the base, two peacekeepers and an estimated 20 civilians [4] and disarmed soldiers were killed. Armed men also issued serious threats against Dinka seeking shelter in UN bases in Yuai in Jonglei state, where a UN helicopter was shot at as Dinka were being evacuated, and in Nasir, Upper Nile state, UN officials said.

Two Dinka staff at a base owned by the *Greater Nile Petroleum Operating Company* oil consortium described to Human Rights Watch how Nuer day laborers turned on Dinka staff and killed at least six men using batons and machetes on the night of December 16. Both witnesses said Nuer police on the base saw the violence and did not intervene.

Government response

President Kiir has acknowledged that ethnic targeting and killings took place in Juba and said in a Christmas day speech [5] that those responsible would be punished. The chief of staff of South Sudan's army, General James Hoth Mai, issued an order on December 21 to arrest a number of members of various armed forces suspected of killing "innocent soldiers and civilians simply because they hail from different tribes." Some soldiers have been arrested but have not yet been charged.

On December 28, the inspector general of police for South Sudan, General Pieng Deng Kuol, established a five-member committee of policemen to investigate allegations of killings of civilians including media reports that "a great number of people were dragged into one of the police stations in Juba and murdered cold blooded inside the cells."

On December 30, the African Union's (AU) Peace and Security Council decided to establish a commission [6] to investigate "human rights violations and other abuses committed during the armed conflict in South Sudan" and submit a report within three months.

The AU's call for an international commission of inquiry is a positive step. Any such commission should be fully resourced and supported by United Nations and concerned governments. To be truly independent and credible, the commission should be mandated to report to more than one organization, for example to both the AU and the UN, and it should consist of international experts who have experience with South Sudan, forensic investigations, human rights and humanitarian law, and arms and munitions, Human Rights Watch said. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

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