



United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)

Media & Spokesperson Unit
Communications & Public Information Office

MEDIA MONITORING REPORT

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Highlights

UN demands end to looting, other violations

Gurtong Juba, 10/-1/14 - The United Nations calls on all parties to facilitate the operations of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) and humanitarian actors to be able to respond to the significant challenges posed by the crisis in South Sudan.

“We call on the Government of the Republic of South Sudan to facilitate the work of UNMISS at this critical time, and fully respect the mutually agreed legal framework for the UN’s work in the country. This is of utmost importance for the operations of the Mission,” underlined SRSF Hilde F. Johnson in a statement from the mission.

The United Nations is reinforcing its peacekeeping Mission and scaling up its humanitarian response.

For the UN to help protect civilians and assist people in need, unimpeded access is essential.

This entails respecting the inviolability of UN facilities, installations and assets, and respecting humanitarian activities, staff and property at all times. Non-state actors are also legally accountable for facilitating and respecting the operations of the UN, national and international staff, as well as assets.

“In the past two weeks, UNMISS, UN humanitarian agencies and Non Governmental Organizations have experienced unacceptable acts that disrupt their operations and expose their personnel to serious security risks,” the mission said.

The statement said that some 20 vehicles owned by UN and humanitarian agencies have been commandeered or confiscated by anti-government forces in Bor and Bentiu adding that “several storage facilities and warehouses have been looted; offices and accommodation compounds have been occupied and subsequently ransacked. One UNMISS helicopter has been shot at.”

“This is unacceptable. I call on the leader of the anti-government forces, Riek Machar Teny, to instruct the forces under his command to stop this practice, to make sure that looted assets and goods, including vehicles, are immediately returned, and to respect the operations of the UN and our humanitarian partners,” said Ms. Hilde F. Johnson, Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSF) and Head of the Mission in South Sudan.

At the same time, UNMISS’ flights transporting critical supplies for peacekeepers, medical facilities and Internally Displaced Persons have been delayed and hampered by some authorities of the Government of the Republic of South Sudan.

Some members of the security forces have also stopped UNMISS patrols.

“These are clear violations of the agreement that regulates the UN’s presence in South Sudan, and is preventing UNMISS from implementing its mandate,” said the statement.

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South Sudan army urges civilians to leave Bentiu

BBC News 10/01/13 - The army in South Sudan has told all civilians to leave the city of Bentiu, saying it is about to recapture the oil hub from rebel forces.

Military spokesman Philip Aguer told the BBC government forces were on the edge of the city, with only a bridge separating them from the centre.

The rebels have not commented.

UN peacekeeping chief Herve Ladsous says the conflict has killed "very substantially in excess" of 1,000 people since 15 December.

Thousands of people have already fled Bentiu, one of two main cities seized by rebel forces. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

S. Sudan FM hands message from Kiir to Bashir

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 09/01/14 - The South Sudanese minister of Foreign Affairs Barnaba Marial Benjamin arrived in Khartoum on Thursday with a message from president Salva Kiir to his Sudanese counterpart Omer Hassan al-Bashir.

Benjamin told reporters afterwards that the letter he delivered is related to the implementation of cooperation agreements signed last year between the two countries in several economic and security areas.

He also conveyed his government's gratitude to Bashir for his interest in the stability of South Sudan as well as the assistance Khartoum provided.

Juba's top diplomat said that South Sudan will not allow for the interruption of oil production as a result of the ongoing violence in his country. He stressed that all oil production areas are under government control.

Benjamin said that the flow of crude oil from wells located in the Unity and Upper Nile states through Sudanese pipelines is proceeding normally. He called on Sudanese media not to be misled by rumors and lies that do not lead to peace and to get news from the right sources.

The visiting official noted that they are in control of the entire country except Bor and Bentiu which are the capitals of Jonglei and Unity states respectively.

Khartoum collects 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.

This week, 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, another 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.

In a related issue, South Sudan foreign minister underscored the determination of his government to prosecute all those involved in the events that broke out last month in Juba according to the law.

Fighting broke out in Juba on December 15 between rival factions of the presidential guards amid ongoing tensions between Kiir and Machar, who is accused of orchestrating an alleged coup attempt to overthrow the government along with other senior ruling party officials many of who are now detained.

Machar has denied the allegation and accused Kiir of seeking to get rid of his political opponents.

The United States today also appeared to agree with Machar saying it sees no evidence of an attempted coup.

"We have not seen any evidence of a coup attempt," Linda Thomas-Greenfield, assistant secretary of state for African affairs, told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. The violence "an armed rebellion" against the government, she said. ([Back to Top](#))

South Sudan says all oilfields under gov't control

Africareview.com Khartoum, Nimule, 09/01/14 - All South Sudan's oilfields are under the control of the government despite the fighting in the key oil region of Unity state, Foreign Affairs minister Barnaba Benjamin Maryal assured on Thursday.

Mr Maryal who arrived in Khartoum on Thursday said the fighting was mainly in Unity and Jonglei states.

"Crude oil is now flowing from Upper Nile and Unity states oilfields and the production level is at 200,000 barrels a day. Most of the staff have reported to work" the minister said.

"I came to hand a message to President [Omar] Bashir from his Southern counterpart President Salva Kiir and to thank him for standing beside the government of South Sudan.

"We are committed to implement our cooperation agreement between Khartoum and Juba" he pointed out.

He also insisted that the detained rebels who he called "coup propagators" will face trial. This has been the key sticking with the rebel supporters of Kiir's rival Reik Machar, who are demanding the detainees be released.

At the same time, Sudan's Foreign minister Ali Karti has restated his government's "full" support to the government of South Sudan and to the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development's (Igad) mediation role in seeking a peaceful solution to the crisis.

"We are ready to host the Southerners who are fleeing the fighting in their country and we will treat them as Sudanese citizens, not refugees" he said.

"We are also very keen to implement all the cooperation agreements between our two countries" he added.

Sudan has dismissed as false media reports saying that Khartoum and Juba struck a security deal to deploy joint forces to protect the oilfields in South Sudan.

Meanwhile, the South Sudanese army has gained control of key rebel in Unity and Jonglei states, military and local sources said.

The army seized areas of Mayom County and Rubkona and was headed to the capital Bentiu, which the rebels have controlled for several days since the military commander there defected to their side.

"SPLA is [now] very close to Bentiu," military spokesman Col Philip Aguer said in a text message to Africa Review.

Residents of Bentiu said there was heavy shelling as government forces launched the attack on the state capital.

“Sporadic gun shooting is being heard as of now in Bentiu town,” said a source who declined being named.

In Jonglei state, the army has taken control of Pariak, a strategic centre about 23 miles from the state capital Bor. It was not possible to reach the rebels there for comment at the time of filing this story.

The clashes have scaled up after ceasefire talks collapsed in Addis Ababa.

The rebels demanded political figures who were arrested when hostilities started on December 15 to be released before peace talks can begin.

The government insists the talks must go on without precondition. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

South Sudan army retakes rebel bases in oil-rich states

Daily Monitor Nimule, 10/01/14 - The South Sudan army has gained control over key bases of the rebel leader Dr Riek Machar Teny in the oil-rich Unity and vast Jonglei State, military and local sources said.

The army seized areas of Mayom County and Rubkona and was headed to the capital Bentiu, which the rebels have controlled for several days since the military commander there defected to the rebel group.

“SPLA is [now] very close to Bentiu,” military spokesman Col Philip Aguer said in a short message to this correspondent.

Residents around Bentiu said heavy shelling was being heard in and around Bentiu as government forces launched an attack on the state capital.

“Sporadic gun shooting is being heard as of now in Bentiu town,” said a source that declined being named for fear of getting victimised.

In Jonglei State, the army has taken control of Pariak, a strategic center about 23 miles from the state capital Bor. It was not possible to contact the rebels for comment by press time.

The clashes scaled up after cease fire talks collapsed in Addis Ababa. The rebels needed political detainees who were arrested after the December 15 failed coup attempt released before any serious talks could begin on ending the three-week long conflict.

The government insisted the talks must go on without preconditions. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

Awerial County hosts 85 thousand IDPs

Catholic Radio Network Juba, 09/01/14 - Mingkaman in Awerial County is hosting 85 thousand Internally Displaced People or IDPs from Bor of Jonglei State.

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs or UNOCHA said at least 32 thousand people sought refuge in neighbouring countries since 15 December.

It added that 75 per cent of the 32 thousand people crossed to Uganda.

The Office said the number of internally displaced people rose to 201 thousand since December 15 and including the 60 thousand in UN compounds across the country.

It added that 167 thousand people received some humanitarian assistance. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

Youths regret leaders forgot freedom struggle

Bakhita Radio Juba, 09/01/14 - Youth Empowerment and Advocacy Forum chairperson on Wednesday regretted that leaders forgot the long walk to freedom.

David Ali Tipu said South Sudan political leaders were returning the country to dark days, Bakhita Radio reported.

He said the December 15 incident in the nation violated the Constitution of the country.

The chairperson said youths do not want any more innocent bloodshed after the country lost 2.5 million lives during the liberation struggle.

He added that youths reject political violence in South Sudan.

The chairperson called for immediate cessation of hostilities in South Sudan. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

South Sudan rallies more troops for fight against rebels

Agence France-Presse Juba, 10/01/14 - South Sudan's government said Friday it was mobilising thousands of additional troops as it battled to recapture two rebel-held cities, although regional mediators insisted they were still hopeful for a ceasefire.

Heavy fighting continued to rage around Bentiu, where forces loyal to former vice president Riek Machar have been holding off the army of President Salva Kiir, leaving the northern oil hub ransacked and emptied of its civilian population.

UN deputy spokesman Farhan Haq said the outcome of the battle for Bentiu, capital of Unity state, was "unclear and fluid", and a resident contacted by AFP confirmed that heavy battles were raging close to the outskirts of the city.

Fierce battles have also continued around Bor, another rebel-held town in the centre that has already changed hands three times since the conflict began nearly a month ago.

The United Nations meanwhile said it believed that "very substantially in excess" of 1,000 people have been killed in the fighting, and that nearly a quarter of a million people have fled their homes -- many of them fleeing a wave of ethnic violence between Kiir's majority Dinka tribe and Machar's Nuer.

The United States, which was instrumental in helping South Sudan win independence from Khartoum in 2011, also said it feared the country risked imploding and urged the two sides to immediately agree to a truce.

In the capital Juba, government allies from several regions told reporters they were in the process of calling up thousands of former soldiers to beef up the government army -- a sign the fighting could still escalate.

"We have to mobilise all SPLA soldiers, all former soldiers who were in the Sudanese army," said Clement Wani Konga, governor of Central Equatoria State, adding 3,000 extra troops had been found in his region alone and a further 12,000 were expected to soon be armed and ready.

But in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa, where the East African regional bloc IGAD is trying to broker a truce, the chief mediator told AFP he was still optimistic.

"If you ask me on the possibilities of signing, I am very optimistic... because we have now come a long way in establishing understanding between the parties," Seyoum Mesfin said, adding that he expected a ceasefire in "the shortest possible time".

Diplomatic efforts

A main stumbling block in the talks has been the release of 11 of Machar's allies who were detained by the government after the unrest began.

Kiir has accused Machar of attempting a coup, and says the detainees will not be released without a legal process. Seyoum said mediators discussed other options, including transferring them to IGAD or United Nations custody or releasing them on bail.

"He's considering all the options," Seyoum said of Kiir, insisting that those jailed have a crucial role to play in peace talks.

"We cannot allow violence and killings to continue while the parties are sitting here and negotiating," he said.

The Security Council has approved sending an extra 5,500 troops to South Sudan who are only slowly arriving.

UN peacekeeping chief Herve Ladsous said the reinforcements would allow UN forces, who are sheltering some 60,000 terrified civilians at bases across the country, "to go into a more pro-active footing around the bases and beyond because the situation in terms of violations of human rights remains terribly critical."

A senior US official said she feared for the country's future.

"Today, tragically, the world's youngest country and undoubtedly one of its most fragile democracies is in danger of shattering," US Assistant Secretary for Africa Linda Thomas-Greenfield told lawmakers in Washington.

"Each day that the conflict continues, the risk of all-out civil war grows as ethnic tensions rise."

National Security Adviser Susan Rice in a statement also called on both sides to "immediately sign" a proposed ceasefire deal but she singled out Machar, saying he "must commit to a cessation of hostilities without precondition." ([Back to Top](#))

Senator calls for release of detainees

Catholic Radio Network Juba, 09/01/14 - A Senator on Thursday called for the release of political detainees to participate in the current peace talks in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Canon Clement Janda suggested that cessation of fighting should be unconditional but that the detainees be released not to be part of the military struggle.

He said it was not correct to release detainees to join the fight which claimed thousands lives and left many homeless.

Canon Janda said political discussions, party reform and restructure should continue.

The Senator urged the warring parties to stop hostilities and resolve their conflict through dialogue. ([Back to Top](#))

Lakes state violence kills 30 people in Rumbek

Sudantribune.com Rumbek, 09/01/14 - Inter-clan clashes erupted in Rumbek, the capital of Lakes State on Thursday at remote cattle camps in Manyiel and Jahla resulting into 37 deaths, according to South Sudanese police.

More than 30 people have been admitted to Rumbek hospital with a gunshot wounds after the attack which is believed to have been a cattle-raiding-related revenge attack carried out by the Kuei against the Rup section of the Dinka ethnic group.

An officer from the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of the police in Lakes state told Sudan Tribune that "37 people are killed from both sides and now 30 people are admitted in Rumbek hospital."

Police and army forces were jointly sent to intervene, he said. The violence comes after requests by local chiefs and youth for outstanding murder cases to be urgently solved were ignored by the government, the police source said.

"There are youth also who were being provoked by random arrests made by state government in Langcok without charges" placed against those who were captured.

After the cattle camp confrontation has spread fear through out Rumbek Central county. The Lakes state government has not declared a curfew.

Some families have not brought their relatives who have been shot to Rumbek hospital for fear that they will be arrested, a member of the security services told Sudan Tribune. The number of dead will increase, the source said.

Activist and traditional leaders have repeatedly questioned why there has been no election since Lakes state military caretaker Governor Maj-Gen Matur Chut Dhuol was appointed a year ago.

South Sudan's President Salva Kiir sacked Chol Tong Mayay in January 2013. Under the young nation's transitional constitution if the President removes a governor a by-election should be held within three months.

In the last year three governors have been removed - two sacked and one promoted - but there are no plans for any elections to be held before general elections scheduled for 2015.

Former governor Mayay is one of the politicians arrested last month accused of staging an attempted coup. The government is currently fighting a three- week-old rebellion which began in the capital but has spread to Jonglei and Unity state.

Mayay and the other political detainees deny staging a coup and claim Kiir is using the unrest to silence his critics. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

Government spends \$250 million to boost market supplies

Eye Radio Juba, 09/01/14 - The government is spending nearly two hundred and fifty million dollars to boost food imports from neighboring countries.

Markets across South Sudan have run out of commodities because of the conflict

In some parts of the country, food prices have doubled.

"We have allocated \$100 million to East Africa to transport food items, building materials and medicines and other needs for our citizens," said Simon Nyang Anei, Undersecretary for Investment at the Ministry of Commerce.

"We've also allocated \$150 million to import different items from the Republic of Sudan."

Essential food items such as bread are scarce in Juba. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

Uganda's Museveni, Nyandeng discuss S. Sudan crisis

Daily Monitor Kampala, 09/01/14 - Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni on Thursday held talks with Rebecca Nyandeng, widow of South Sudan's former leader John Garang, on the current crisis engulfing the new nation.

The duo, according to a state house statement, mainly discussed the security situation in South Sudan, especially the recent events that occurred after the conflict and uprising in country.

The meeting, which took place at president's country home in Rwakitura, reportedly explored matters of mutual interest between the two brotherly countries.

Nyandeng, an advisor to President Salva Kiir on gender and human rights, has lately been critical of the country's leadership, emerging among those advocating for change within the country's ruling Sudan Peoples Liberation Movement (SPLM).

Nine politicians currently remain in jail over their alleged involvement in what government says was a failed coup attempt on Kiir's regime. Also implicated was South Sudan former vice-president, Riek Machar, now commanding dissident force against the army.

Over 1,000 people have been killed and nearly 200,000 displaced in the country's worst-ever outbreak of violence since its July 2011 independence from neighbouring Sudan.

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More than 2,000 South Sudanese cross into Abyei: OCHA

Sudantribune.com Kharotum, 09/01/14 - Aid agencies on the ground in the disputed region of Abyei say that between 2,000 and 2,500 people have entered the area after fleeing violence in South Sudan's Unity state, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has reported.

Most have settled in the Agok area, with a few people moving back across the border to South Sudan's Warrap state, OCHA said in its latest humanitarian bulletin for Sudan.

The new arrivals are mostly women and children, who have taken refuge with relatives and friends.

Thousands of civilians have fled Unity state amid heavy fighting, which broke out on Wednesday between government forces and opposition soldiers in Unity state's Mayom county.

The South Sudanese army (SPLA) is trying to retake the capital, Bentiu, from a faction of the army that defected over two weeks ago.

More than 8,000 people have taken refuge at United Nations bases in Bentiu, the UN's top humanitarian coordinator in South Sudan, Toby Lanzer, said on Wednesday.

Humanitarian groups, there are currently enough supplies available to meet the immediate needs of new arrivals to Abyei, an oil-producing region claimed by both Sudan and South Sudan.

In an unofficial referendum last October members of Abyei's southern-aligned Ngok Dinka ethnic group voted overwhelmingly in favour of joining South Sudan.

Meanwhile, humanitarian agencies in East Darfur are preparing for a possible influx of an estimated 10,000 people from South Sudan amid reports that large numbers of South Sudanese are gathering at the border of the western Sudan region, the OCHA report said.

There have been conflicting reports over whether 6,000 South Sudanese, mostly women and children, have already crossed the border from South Sudan's Bahr el Ghazal locality. OCHA has been unable to independently verify the reports.

OCHA said humanitarian agencies in Ed Daein remain concerned about the lack of adequate relief supplies in East Darfur, saying an influx of new arrivals would place further strain on already overstretched services in the region.

The International Organization of Migration (IOM) has confirmed that an estimated 2,700 people have already arrived in Sudan's South Kordofan state, the vast majority of whom are nomads.

According to the IOM, 924 people have taken refuge in El Leri town, with a further 950 moving to Talodi and 800 to El Amira town.

The UN estimates that at least 200,000 people have been displaced since fighting broke out in the South Sudan capital, Juba, on 15 December between rival members of the presidential guards, quickly spreading to other parts of the country.

According to the UN, the refugee exodus continues to gather momentum, with thousands fleeing to neighbouring countries everyday. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

Sudanese refugees help keep S. Sudan camps running as foreign workers pull out

Sudantribune.com Juba, 09/01/1 - Refugees from Blue Nile state in neighbouring Sudan have mobilised to fill the void left by evacuated aid staff to help keep life in some of South Sudan's largest refugee camps running smoothly, the UNHCR said on Wednesday.

Ongoing fighting in the north-east of the country has cut road routes to Upper Nile state's Maban county, which is home to some 120,000 refugees mostly from Sudan.

The UN refugee agency said residents in the camps have stepped up to take on more responsibilities, including guarding warehouses packed with supplies belonging to UNHCR and aid agencies that left after the violence erupted between the South Sudanese government and opposition forces.

Refugees who had been trained as water pump technicians have also taken on a lead role within the camps, helping ensure pumps keep on working.

“This initiative is very positive. Refugees have taken control of the situation. They are making sure nothing is being touched. There has been no looting at all”, the UNHCR’s Adan Ilmi said.

A 22-year veteran of UNHCR, Ilmi heads the agency’s operations in Maban county capital Bunj, where he said he was now increasingly relying on refugees to take on more duties since the world’s newest nation plunged into violence on 15 December.

He is currently operating with a skeleton staff of 18 officers, one-fifth of his usual 85-strong workforce.

“We all go to the camps every morning and do whatever we can”, Ilmi said.

“It’s very important to go to the camps Sunday to Sunday to reassure the refugees we are still here with them”, he adds.

Many aid agencies pulled out of South Sudan or dramatically scaled back operations after violence broke out in Juba between rival members of the presidential guards, quickly spreading to other parts of the country, including Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile states.

Ilmi concedes refugees at the camps are concerned about what the future holds should fighting continue indefinitely.

They have already fled violent conflict in their homeland, which has been the scene of an insurgency since 2011 led by rebels from the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N), who are fighting the Khartoum regime.

Thousands of people, who lost their homes and livelihoods, have sought refuge in South Sudan and other neighbouring African countries.

UNHCR says it began training newly arrived Sudanese refugees in water management, camp management and healthcare, with a view to eventually reducing the number of international staff needed to run the camps. That plan has been suddenly tested after aid agencies began evacuating non-essential staff amid growing security concerns after the country plunged into violence.

Although fighting continues just 60kms away, Ilmi said morale among his remaining staff was high, and there were no signs that humanitarian workers or refugees at the camps are being targeted.

The UNHCR said the area remains at risk of being completely cut off by fighting, with its sister agency, the World Food Programme (WFP), recently distributing additional food rations. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

Sudan lowers oil production figures

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 09/01/14 - The Sudanese oil minister Makkawi Mohamed Awad said that his country’s production of oil is at 130,000 barrels per day (bpd).

The number contrasts with ones given by his longtime predecessor Awad al-Jaz last month who said that Sudan is producing 150,000 bpd.

Prior to the country’s breakup, Sudan produced close to 500,000 barrels but the south, which broke away in 2011, held more than three quarters of the oil reserves.

On Thursday Awad met with the Norwegian ambassador to discuss a recent accord signed for cooperation in oil and gas sector.

The minister hailed the benefits gained by Sudan through the oil boom it witnessed including the increase in number of national oil companies and qualified oil workers.

He noted an offer made by Khartoum to Juba to send Sudanese oil workers to prevent any possible oilfields shutdown in the wake of the conflict engulfing the young state.

The Norwegian envoy on his end said that his country is prepared to offer technical expertise in oil and gas sector through training and other means. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

South Sudan relief operation gets \$15m boost

Sudantribune.com Juba, 09/01/13 - The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) has earmarked \$15m to support relief operations in South Sudan where violence displaced nearly 200,000 people.

Valerie Amos, the emergency relief coordinator said the fund will help aid agencies assist tens of thousands affected by the conflict, which saw over 1,000 people killed.

“Conditions for the South Sudanese fleeing hostilities in their country are getting worse by the day”, Amos said in a statement.

With this CERF funding, UN humanitarian agencies will be better able to meet the needs of people desperately seeking shelter and safety, she added.

The violence, which initially started in the South Sudan capital, Juba and later spread to other parts of the country, has also seen over 42,000 South Sudanese flee to neighbouring Uganda, Kenya and Ethiopia.

Last year, CERF reportedly allocated nearly \$482m to support global operations, \$11.6m of which supported relief efforts in South Sudan.

Aid agencies in South Sudan have, since it's independence in July 2011, reportedly received about \$74.4m from CERF for critical assistance, including food, clean water, shelter and health services [\(Back to Top\)](#)

FEATURE - South Sudan in 'wildly unpredictable' crisis

BBC News, 10/1/2014 – There is a lingering fear that the chaos that arrived in South Sudan so fast and unexpectedly last month could quickly return in a frenzy of revenge attacks

South Sudan strife

"Back to normal... almost," said a junior official rushing past me in a corridor of the presidential offices in South Sudan's capital, Juba.

These are wildly unpredictable times in a nation still grappling with an abrupt and spectacular crisis.

But there are now some tentative signs that South Sudan's President, Salva Kiir, is gaining the upper hand.

"Bentiu will be in our hands today. Or maybe tomorrow," said the government's military spokesman, Philip Aguer, as he juggled two phones and a steady stream of saluting officers at his office on the outskirts of Juba.

Col Aguer told me he was confident that the two key towns under rebel control, Bentiu, and Bor, would soon fall to a "patient" offensive by government troops.

More confident

"We may be outnumbered in Bor, but our forces are better organised. In Bentiu the enemy morale is weakened," he said.

The breakdown in trust is likely to be long-lasting and to undermine South Sudan's attempts to build a strong, inclusive democracy

It would be risky to bet on a quick and lasting military victory for either side here.

But another reason that President Kiir's supporters may be feeling a little more confident is the recent arrival of Ugandan troops and attack helicopters in Juba, in a move clearly designed to bolster the government's grip on the city.

I have heard credible but unconfirmed claims, from three sources, that the helicopters may have been used against rebel positions in the town of Bor, further up the River Nile.

It is no great surprise that South Sudan's long-term ally Uganda is rallying to the government's side.

More surprising, and perhaps more significant, is the growing alliance between President Kiir and his former enemy, President Omar al-Bashir of Sudan.

Crisis unsolved

A few years ago, the government in Khartoum would have no doubt watched with some glee as the south descended into anarchy.

The broader security situation remains deeply worrying in a country where cattle raiding and vicious encounters between rival ethnic groups are commonplace

But times have changed. President Bashir, faced with a shrinking budget, rising unemployment and growing internal opposition, desperately needs to ensure the continued flow of oil and associated transit revenues from South Sudan's rich fields.

And so old rivals, egged on by diplomats from an oil-hungry China, now find themselves locked in relationship of mutual dependence.

It is a relationship the rebels will struggle to challenge.

Former Vice-President Riek Machar presides over a loose alliance of military defectors, ethnic militias, warlords and other forces.

They may currently be united in their opposition to President Kiir, but not by much else.

Besides, many in the rebellion are allied with other rebel groups across the border in Sudan, making it unlikely that President Bashir would choose to back them.

Inexperienced team

Yet none of this means South Sudan is anywhere close to resolving this crisis.

Many of thousands of Nuer civilians remain in camps beside the airport, fearful of reprisals by Dinkas

The humanitarian situation is bleak, with the UN, and those foreign aid agencies that have not left, struggling to meet the needs of displaced civilians and still unable to reach many areas where it is thought tens of thousands of people may still be waiting for help, or on the move in search of it.

Then there are the peace talks in neighbouring Ethiopia.

The rebels have sent what is widely viewed as an inexperienced team to the negotiations.

They have missed a chance to put political reforms at the heart of the discussions, and their demand for the release of 11 senior officials being held in Juba is a deal-breaker for the government.

Progress seems unlikely at this point.

Blasts of gunfire

The broader security situation remains deeply worrying in a country where cattle raiding and vicious encounters between rival ethnic groups have been commonplace even in the calmest of times.

“This country's progress has been set back by years - maybe by a generation”

End Quote

Now there are bigger scores to settle, particularly after the recent ethnic violence in Juba and places like Bor and Malakal.

The government in Juba is understandably anxious to avoid speculation that could fuel tensions.

But is clear that this city, now superficially calm during the day, remains an uneasy place.

Many of thousands of Nuer civilians remain in camps beside the airport, fearful of reprisals by Dinkas.

Blasts of gunfire heard most nights are widely attributed to the search by government security forces for "suspect" Nuer officials.

Foreign embassies remain on high alert - poised to pull out at short notice.

And there is the lingering fear that the chaos that erupted here so fast and unexpectedly last month could quickly return in a frenzy of revenge attacks.

It is still not clear exactly what triggered this crisis. The government insists it was an attempted coup.

Others suspect a minor clash between rival security forces at a time of tense political negotiations may have provoked President Kiir to pounce on his rivals.

Either way, the breakdown in trust here is likely to be long-lasting and to undermine South Sudan's attempts to build a strong, inclusive democracy.

I have spoken to many people here, local and foreign, in the last few days. Given the tension and uncertainties, most have asked not to be mentioned by name.

"I fear this will get worse before it gets better," one told me. "This country's progress has been set back by years - maybe by a generation."

Fighting erupted in the South Sudan capital, Juba, in mid-December. It followed a political power struggle between President Salva Kiir and his ex-deputy Riek Machar. The squabble has taken on an ethnic dimension as politicians' political bases are often ethnic. ([Back to Top](#))

OPINION - Donor-driven technical fixes failed South Sudan: it's time to get political

Thinkafricpress.com 10/01/14 - What has gone wrong in South Sudan? As the country today marks the ninth anniversary of the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), which ended decades of conflict between southern insurgents and the government of Sudan and paved the way to independence, South Sudan is experiencing another wave of violence and conflict – this time within its own borders.

Over the last few weeks we have seen what was ostensibly a political tussle for power in the world's newest country descend into shocking violence, leaving over a thousand people dead and around 200,000 displaced. While commentators can argue about who or what is most at fault in this terrible turn of events, one fact is clear: the international community – the many regional and international players who have been supporting the transition in South Sudan – shoulders some of the responsibility.

Contrary to narratives of progress that ignored the complexity of the country, the real picture has been far from rosy in the nine years since the signing of the CPA in 2005, and in the three years since the 2011 referendum that ushered in independence for South Sudan. Indeed, the political wrangling that has gripped the ruling party, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), over the last few months, and the ferocious violence unleashed on the nation's capital and much of the country over the last three weeks, did not come as a complete surprise to those who know South Sudan.

Development does not equal peace

Over the last few years, South Sudan has served as a testing ground for international engagement in so-called 'fragile states', an engagement which has too often followed textbook prescriptions and overlooked the political and social realities of the country, treating it instead as a technical exercise in state building.

Many in the aid sector in South Sudan have been operating on the assumption that greater development – improved services, infrastructure, access to food – would lead to stability and lasting peace. These assumptions were fundamentally challenged in *Aiding the peace: a multi-donor evaluation of support to conflict prevention and peacebuilding activities in*

Southern Sudan 2005-2010 which found no evidence of the assumed causal link between the provision of basic services ('peace dividends') and a reduction in conflict.

This finding was controversial as it challenged the premise, upon which a great deal of assistance to southern Sudan has been based, "that the provision of socioeconomic services addresses needs, leading ultimately to the enhancement of state legitimacy and stabilisation."

Ignoring complexity and negativity

As stressed already in 2009, transitioning from war to peace is not a technical exercise but a highly political process. South Sudan was born amidst ongoing political power plays, deep divisions and conflict at many levels – issues that remain unresolved.

The international community – and particularly donor governments – had high expectations for peace in South Sudan after the signing of the CPA. Seeing the conflict between the North and South as the main threat to peace, many overlooked the deeply entrenched divisions within the South that would continue to shape relationships and the political leadership after independence in 2011.

Concerns and warnings about the role that patronage and ethnicity play in South Sudan's politics, as well as calls to better understand the causes of vulnerability, power relations, and drivers of instability, were largely ignored as the international community focused on less complex and more positive technical 'fixes'. As argued in *Aiding the Peace*:

"The problem lies in the conceptual vacuum around 'statehood', as well as unclear identification of critical conditions that lead to peace, or to conflict, or the lack of sustained attention to them. Neither the [Government of South Sudan] nor donors produced a convincing and consensual model of what Southern Sudan as a 'state' would look like in say, ten years. From the donors, the reticence... reflected the tendency to approach the challenge purely as a technical exercise in capacity building and service delivery."

Longstanding and unaddressed grievances deeply rooted in South Sudan's turbulent history were left unhealed and have now come to the surface again. The inherently political battle for power and control of the ruling party has increasingly taken on strong ethnic connotations. In South Sudan, ethnicity is often manipulated to create enmity between groups (tribes, clans or sub-clans) for political or military advantage. The biggest problem is that the violence has created a cycle of revenge and fear, tinged with ethnic divisions, which will be extremely damaging for the future cohesion of the country. The longer the violence continues, the more difficult it will be to stop the country from sliding into all-out civil war.

The immediate focus now is on stemming the violence. While President Salva Kiir and former Vice-President Riek Machar have reportedly committed to dialogue, no real progress has been made, and once again peace talks were stalled on the issue of political prisoners yesterday. That deadlock does not seem to have been broken today.

On the anniversary of South Sudan's independence referendum, Kiir and Machar must take responsibility for stopping the fighting, call for restraint and commit to holding direct talks urgently. The country cannot afford to wait for a long drawn-out political peace process. Stopping the violence immediately is the priority, alongside a serious process of reconciliation in the long-term.

While the people and politicians of South Sudan will undoubtedly be the most significant players in determining the future of their nation, international actors will also need to reflect on how to refocus their efforts to support a peaceful transition in South Sudan. These will need to build on a sophisticated and nuanced analysis of power relations, causes of vulnerability and drivers of conflict, which must be continuously revised to be useful. Technical fixes have failed South Sudan: it's time to put politics at the heart of the nation-building project at last.

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