



MEDIA MONITORING REPORT

United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)

TUESDAY, 21 MAY 2013

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Highlights

South Sudan army recaptures Boma: officials

Voice of America, 20/5/2013 – The South Sudanese Army (SPLA) has recaptured the town of Boma in Jonglei state after a brief battle with rebels led by David Yau Yau, SPLA officials said Monday.

“The SPLA yesterday restored law and order to Boma and chased away the militia from Boma town,” army spokesman Philip Aguer said.

Four SPLA soldiers died in the fighting and 12 were wounded, Aguer said, adding that “20 bodies from the militia side were counted” after the 30-minute battle for Boma, the psychologically important town that was the first captured by the SPLA from the Sudan Armed Forces during the long civil war against Khartoum, which ended in 2005.

The rebels, meanwhile, denied that they had lost control of Boma, saying in a statement that the SPLA had only captured the small village of Iti, around 35 kilometers outside the town.

They also said they lost only five fighters and, in an email sent to VOA on Monday, threatened to launch a counter-attack against Iti in the coming days.

The claims and counter-claims from both sides came as eight senior diplomats in South Sudan, led by U.S. Ambassador Susan Page, issued a statement voicing their concern about the violence in Jonglei state, which they said required “a political and not a military solution.”

The diplomats, who in addition to Page included the ambassadors of Norway, the European Union and Denmark; the chargé d’affaires of the United Kingdom and The Netherlands; Canada’s head of office and the head of Switzerland’s Cooperation Office, also called for the leaders of all armed groups to accept an offer of amnesty extended last month by President Salva Kiir.

Thousands of rebel fighters accepted the amnesty offer, with Yau Yau a notable exception as he launched an attack on Pibor town days after Kiir extended an olive branch to insurgent groups.

Yau Yau said in an interview with *VOA News* last week that he is fighting for a separate state for ethnic minorities who are deprived of their rights in South Sudan, and dismissed as “a joke” an offer from the government in Juba to hold peace talks. [Back to the Top](#)

Bahr el Ghazal States to support Kiir presidency

Gurtong.net Wau, 20/5/2013 – The greater Bahr el Ghazal regional leaders have adopted a resolution to fully support the leadership of President Salva Kiir Mayardit now and beyond 2015.

This was part of the resolutions arrived at during a regional conference concluded on Sunday in Wau, Western Bahr el Ghazal, with more calls for the implementation of the promise.

The aim of the conference was to lay a foundation for a new beginning and fresh start to tackling issues afflicting the region and the nation at large.

The conference provided platform for forging common understanding and cooperation among the people of greater Bahr el Ghazal region.

“The occasion provided sons and daughters of greater Bahr el Ghazal with an opportunity to discuss and share ideas on key matters including Unity, Security, Role of Law, Health, Good Governance, Education, Food security and Natural Resources, Water and sanitation, Social Welfare and the hot issue of SPLM political party which was discussed at the last day,” the leaders said in a communiqué released on Sunday.

The leaders were mindful and appreciative of the regional common historical background and identity, conscious of present economic and political situation afflicting the country and the pivotal role that greater Bahr el Ghazal region can play.

They recognized the impact of tribal conflicts and cattle rustling in the region and the need to collectively and permanently eliminate the vices for greater good of the region and the nation.

They promised to expedite the delivery of basic social services to the communities in form of social amenities.

The conference has also agreed to establish common institutions for training of technicians in various fields like health, agriculture, masonry, education and other institutions.

On the security, the conference has agreed to establish security early warning system at community level to facilitate rapid response to cases of community violence, cattle rustling, cattle theft and other natural calamities.

They also urged the National Assembly to empower the Anti-corruption commission and necessary legislation passed as a matter of necessity.

The conference has also calls on the states governors to enforce forest protection by stopping illegal cutting of the tress, enact necessary laws to protect environmental pollution and degradation particularly in regards to oil and mineral exploitation.

As the issue of the street children was one among the key topics, the conference calls for establishment of orphanage centers in coordination with churches, throughout the region to rehabilitate and reintegrate them back to the community and if not, there should be also an establishment of Juvenile courts to try minors.

On Role of Law, the conference calls on Ministry of Justice to expedite the drafting of laws in all fields in order to rescue the current lack of legal frameworks in many undefined areas. [Back to the Top](#)

Media authority bill passed for third vet

Radio Miraya, 20/5/2013 – The National Legislative Assembly has passed the Media Authority bill to its third reading.

A bill is read four times before it becomes an act with the president's assent, according to the Assembly's conduct of business regulation.

Information, Culture, and Telecommunications committee chairwoman, Joy Kwaje, presented the bill in parliament on Monday and it was passed unanimously with a few amendments.

She said the bill will offer protection to the public and journalists and also allow the people to exercise democracy.

Information and Broadcasting Minister, Barnaba Marial Benjamin, said the ministry was satisfied with the debate on the bill. Marial said the bill sets the foundation for a democratic South Sudan.

The Media Authority bill is one of three proposed media laws that seek to foster the regulation of the media with a view to promoting an independent media. The other bills are the Broadcasting and Corporation and the Right of Access to Information. [Back to the Top](#)

Media authority key for democratic society

Radio Bakhita Juba, 20/5/2013 – A media authority is an important instrument to establish a democratic society.

Information Minister Barnaba Marial Benjamin told the press after the second reading of the Media Authority Bill at the National Assembly on Monday that he “was extremely happy” with the work done by the committees that prepared the report on the bill.

He said the Media Authority Bill respects the Transitional Constitution and represents the foundation of a democratic country.

Dr Marial said the process approved for the nomination of the members of the board lends transparency and confidence to the Authority.

He added that it was important that the media industry self-regulated itself because journalists have a social responsibility and a code of ethics to follow.

Dr Marial said the media bills went through an extensive and rigorous public debate before being tabled for second reading.

He stated that there are 38 FM radio stations operating in the country and the public broadcasters will compete with the independent media houses. [Back to the Top](#)

53 cattle raid suspects netted

Radio Miraya, 20/5/2013 – Authorities in Mayom County of Unity State have arrested 53 people suspected of involvement in cattle raids.

Mayom County Commissioner, John Bol Maya said the arrests were made over the past four months in the areas of Koch, Mayom and Guit.

Meanwhile, the Commissioner of Leer County is calling on the national government to conduct a peaceful disarmament exercise in the state.

Gabriel Gok Liah said the numerous guns fuel clashes between communities. Meanwhile, police are holding one suspect who is believed to have been part of a group involved in recent inter-communal clashes between communities in Koc and Mayom counties.

A total of twenty 20 people have been killed in revenge cattle raids between the two communities over the past few weeks.

Speaking to *Radio Miraya* the Commissioner of Mayom County, John Bol Maya said the suspect is in detention awaiting trial, while security agents hunt down a second suspect who escaped. [Back to the Top](#)

Reserve army generals promised jobs

Gurtong.net Juba, 20/5/2013 – The National Legislative Assembly Speaker James Wani Igga has advised army generals on reserve list to be patient as the government will soon engage them with other responsibilities.

“I want to tell them to keep up. You are never and never forgotten by your national government so don’t think you are thrown to the rubbish pit,” he said.

The speaker said that he was in the bush with them and he knows how tough they were and that he has written a lot about them in his book.

He also said that those put on the reserve list are very young and energetic which makes many people to wonder but said the government is very wise and can fix them anywhere because they are capable of handling any position.

“And I want to put this word to all our officers who are now put on general reserve list. You have the capabilities to be fixed in any positions so there are a lot of places waiting for you,” he said.

Igga gave an example of the Inspector General of Police who was also one of those put on reserve list and then appointed to the current position. He also gave an example of Lakes State caretaker governor who was also put on reserve before his appointment.

“So what is going to prevent this from Mobutu Mommur to Jadalla and so on and so on from also being engaged? It is a matter of time so keep strong and keep committed,” he said.

“You can serve at different levels so don’t get surprised when one is already a minister, another in another position,” he added.

The speaker said patience is the key to success and assured them that they will not be disappointed.

Early this year, the president and the Commander in Chief of the SPLA, Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit relieved officers from active service to reserve list until they are re-assigned. Some of those on reserve list ranged from the rank of Major Generals and below. [Back to the Top](#)

Alarm over security lapse at Wau Hospital

Radio Miraya, 20/5/2013 – Staff of Wau Teaching Hospital in Western Bahr el Ghazal State have handed a petition to State Governor, Rizik Hassan Zakaria, calling for the deployment of more security at the hospital.

The petition comes a week after an armed man shot dead one medical worker and injured two other staff.

In a meeting with the State Governor following the incident, the chairperson of the Workers Trade Union, Fangrasio Beda said the medical staff will resume work on Tuesday, but stressed the need for more security.

The hospital has not been in full operation since the incident, as the staff mourned the loss of their colleague and called for more protection. [Back to the Top](#)

WES parliament rejects population projection Bill

Gurtong.net Yambio, 21/5/2013 – The State Legislative Assembly of Western Equatoria (WES) has rejected the population projection bill for inaccuracies.

The bill which was presented for its second reading, sitting no. 13, chaired by the Deputy Speaker Hon. Hanna Lona Bona was instead referred for amendment.

Speaking to the August House, hon. Lona said the Assembly is not rejecting the bill but they want a bill showing a population which reflects a fair representation and projection of the populace in WES.

She said they realized irregularities and the decision of the parliament, the supreme decision making body should be respected because distorting nine members who are representing nine different constituencies is distorting the will of the people of the state.

She called upon the Minister of Local Government and Law Enforcement Daniel Isbone to involve fellow lawmakers and the county commissioners in the collection of data of the population projection, saying she is sure some other county authorities are not aware of what is happening.

Lona thanked the honorable legislators for being very transparent in outlining issues of concerns as representatives of the people of WES. She also added that as legislators, they want to foster unity and see service delivery to the citizens.

She urged the minister of local government to re-table the bill as soon as possible for the good of the people of WES especially for economic planning and the next census of 2014.

Hon. Isbone said it is the responsibility of the national government and what the state government has to do is to project the population of the community and thereafter to create awareness to the people so that they prepare for the census of 2014.

He admitted that the projection may not be accurate but said population can never be accurate. The minister said creating awareness will be difficult as the state is large and will need a lot of time to mobilize the people. [Back to the Top](#)

Inadequate tools limit food security fight

Radio Miraya, 20/5/2013 – The South Sudan Farmers Union said it lacks the necessary equipment and facilities to effectively fight food insecurity.

In an exclusive interview with Radio Miraya, the Chairman of the Union, David Kulang Chany said the farmers need tractors, insecticides and other equipment to boost agricultural production. Chany has also called on the National Parliament to endorse the agricultural bank bill.

He said the proposed law would spell out clear guidelines for accessing loans and other support from the National Agricultural Bank.

President Salva Kiir last year emphasized his government's goal to make the country food secure by 2014, with plans to export produce to neighboring countries. [Back to the Top](#)

Pigi County lacks safe water source: Speaker

Gurtong.net Bor, 21/5/2013 – Pigi County in Jonglei State, South Sudan lacks clean and safe drinking water source as the only borehole there has broken down.

The State Parliamentary Speaker Peter Chol Wal said the county does not have any single borehole while Aleluyya Garang, a local artist who visited the area a week ago said there is at least one borehole at Khorfulus but has also broken down.

“What I want to say is that I am quite sure that there is no borehole in Pigi County. People are depending on river water (unpurified water),” Speaker Chol told Gurtong.

Chol said there was a plan and instruction from the Governor to some companies for construction of about 32 boreholes in Pigi County this year. Chol however did not know how far the projects have reached.

A number of borehole drilling companies have been previously hired to the boreholes across the companies failed to reach water table (level) according to the local authorities.

“I think that those companies are still in the county drilling the boreholes. I never heard any late information about the drilling of the boreholes,” said Chol.

“I need to get this information because the last time I went there in January, there was an organization operating on the ground. Three boreholes were directed for the area called Wunlem and they started working there.”

The State Minister of Physical Infrastructure, Peter Manawe Gatkuoth said that two companies: Pah and TNR that were contracted to constructs boreholes in Wunlem failed to get water in the area.

The absence of boreholes has forced the community members to depend on Sobath River which according to the speaker is a cause for suffering from water borne-diseases like Kala Zar in the area, (Pigi), Ayod and Fangak counties.

The speaker urged the governments and development partners to consider constructing boreholes in the county as well as in Pibor and the Luo community areas. [Back to the Top](#)

South Sudan constructing roads

Ethiopian Radio and Television Agency Addis Ababa, 20/5/2013 – South Sudan has prioritized the construction of several roads and bridges in the country in the wake of increasing trade talks with its neighbouring countries. This is according to reports by African Review.

The country's Economic Cluster of the Council of Ministers reviewed the road priorities during a recent meeting and reiterated the pressing demand for roads network in the new country in order to promote trade and development between states and with the six neighbouring countries of Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, DR Congo and Central Africa Republic.

These will include a network of major international trunk roads connecting to all the neighbouring countries as well as inter-state roads connecting all corners of the country to the capital, Juba.

A number of bridges will also be built across the River Nile in Juba, Bor or Ramciel and Malakal in addition to another bridge across the Sobat River in eastern part of Upper Nile state.

The roads projects are reportedly estimated to cost more than US\$10bn in a plan stretched to take 10 years to complete implementation.

The country is under an austerity budget with visible implications on roads work. Due to the budget limitations, the government will seek finances from foreign financial institutions to get the plan done.

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South Sudan hails good relations with Kenya

News Agency of South Sudan (NASS) Juba, 20/5/2013 – The Acting National Minister for Labour, Public Service and Human Resource Development, Mr Kwong Danhier Gatluak, has hailed the good relations between the Republic of Kenya and the Republic of South Sudan.

Hon Kwong said Kenya had not only played a crucial role in the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement which resulted in independence for South Sudan but had continued to support human capacity development in the country through various forms of technical assistance.

The Deputy Minister said South Sudan had benefited from the Kenya Technical Assistance Programme and the RSS/Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Capacity Enhancement Initiative in which Kenya was a critical contributor of skilled manpower alongside Uganda and Ethiopia.

Hon Kwong was speaking yesterday morning at the Juba International Airport when he led a high-powered government delegation to bid farewell to 42 Civil Service Support Officers (CSSOs) who have completed their two-year tour of duty in South Sudan under the RSS/IGAD Project.

He said a good number of the CSSOs were medical doctors and nurses who were attached to various government hospitals in the states, adding that they had done a good job there.

Among those who accompanied the Minister to see off the CSSOs were the UNDP Country Director, Mr Balazs Hovarth, and the Kenyan Ambassador in South Sudan, Mr Cleland Leshore, and the Coordinator of the Kenya South Sudan Liaison Office, Mr Maurice Nyamunga and the Public Service Undersecretary, Mrs Angeth Acol de Dut. [Back to the Top](#)

County to adopt a transparent financial management system

Gurtong.net Torit, 20/5/2013 – Torit County in Eastern Equatoria State has moved to adopt a transparent financial management system to prevent loss of public resources, an official has said.

“My administration will be welcomed by a few who do not like consuming public resources and wanting the resources utilized accordingly but will always be opposed by those individuals or groups in the opposite side,” said Torit County Commissioner German Charles Ojok

The move to adopt a financial management system follows recommendations by a committee earlier formed to study and come up with measures after investigating into missing money from land allotment in Torit.

The commissioner strongly welcomes the recommendations to avoid future misuse of funds by civil servants.

The investigation panel led by Franco Rino released its independent fact-finding report recommending among them the suspension of the county official involved in the fraud.

"We recommend that the County Main treasury should be audited once every three months so as to establish a transparent financial management system," said the report.

The committee submitted that job description of accounting officers should clearly be identified and stipulated to avoid a monopoly of one person acting as Director of Accounts, Controller of Accounts, Cashier and Rate Collector.

"Rate or tax collectors should always remit revenue collected on daily basis and should not be allowed to host the public money at their own house or homes for period of weeks or months," said the report.

They recommended that all financial forms after every work should be handed over to the Controller of accounts for custody to avoid unnecessary tax collections at wrong hours with exception of those doing collections at late hours.

Those remittances which always come direct to the main chest cashier should be stopped forthwith and be channeled through a rightful channel system.

The team said that the county main cashier had disappeared and did not present all the necessary support which could have been vouchers and other important receipts in his office.

Additionally, the report presented to the commissioner reveals that during investigation processes, there was lack of cooperation from some of accounting staff, hence making the committee's work difficult.

"With the disappearance of the County's Main Chest Cashier and lack of cooperation from some accounting staff, our work couldn't continue as expected," part of report reads.

The committee nevertheless, has recommended that chest cashier should be suspended pending thorough investigations and be replaced by a new cashier who should be assigned by the county authorities, preferably recommended by the State Ministry of Finance.

The committee also has recommended that since the main cashier vanished from the custody of security personnel, a warrant of arrest must be issued to him.

Among the findings, the committee has disclosed that during the investigation work, it found money at the office being scattered and were mixed up with papers and to make it worse, they were not found in the chest.

According to the report, a total amount of 26,926 SSP was found. Some notes were found to have been destroyed by white ants and rats while some of the notes were found tied in rolls and others in envelopes with their respective labels with some of the labels could clearly be identified and other completely not clear.

"We found it difficult to crosscheck treasury books due to disappearance of the cashier of the main chest from the custody of the security on top of lack of cooperation from some accounting staff," the report says.

The commissioner described the work as a commendable one as he encouraged them to continue delivering impartially to the citizens without fear or favour.

The County Finance Secretary did monetary collections from land applicants and the collections submitted to the county authority through the bursar but later noted wide irregularities as money went missing or disappeared silently. [Back to the Top](#)

SAF promises decisive victory against rebels soon

Ashoroq TV/Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 20/5/2013 – The Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) has announced that major victory against rebellion will be declared soon and said it would be a landslide victory which will destroy "the rebels who have committed crimes and atrocities".

SAF's spokesperson, Al-Sawarmi Khaled Saad, told *Ashoroq TV* on Monday that SAF's victory at all territories controlled by the rebel Sudan Revolutionary Front (SRF) is drawing near, promising good news for Sudanese people very soon.

He added that rebels continued to spread rumours aimed at deceiving the Sudanese people but to no avail, saying "SAF would cleanse the country of all rebellion and the hour of truth is approaching".

Saad further praised the Sudanese people for supporting SAF in all military operations zones and the public mobilisation which pervaded throughout Sudan, saying that it had a very strong impact on the men fighting in the frontlines.

In the same context, Sudan's defence minister, Abdel- Rahim Mohamed Hussein, and the National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS) director, Mohamed Atta, have visited Nyala, capital of South Darfur state, and its environs to check on the security situation.

The defence minister said in press statements Monday that his visit to Nyala aims at inspecting the security situation, noting that they held a successful meeting with the state's governor, Adam Mahmoud, and the state's security committee to check on security situation as well as ensure full coordination between SAF, the police forces, and the NISS forces.

He described the situation in Nyala as stable, saying that residents are living their normal life and security situation in the state is improving continuously. [Back to the Top](#)

Sudan's council of states suspends sessions to push for military mobilisation

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 20/5/2013 – Sudan's Council of States has decided to suspend its sessions in order to enable its members to head to their constituencies and lead a mobilisation

campaign in support of the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) in its ongoing battle with rebel groups which have stepped up their military activities in recent months.

The head of the Council, Adam Hamid Musa, said that Sudan's national legislature which includes the National Assembly and the Council of States decided to suspend its activities and send the MPs to their states to mobilize people against dangers facing the country.

Musa, who spoke in the eleventh session of the council on Saturday, added that members are part of their constituencies and they will discuss with them how to face rebels' aggression politically and militarily.

The council's members have approved the general mobilisation work plan and decided to suspend their meetings from May 20 to June 3, 2013.

The representative of the River Nile state at the council, Hisham Al-Birair, said that the campaign aims to mobilise Sudanese people and make them aware of the conspiracies being hatched to undermine peace and security in the country.

The representative of the White Nile state, Saadia Salah, for her part, praised the council's efforts to mobilise people, adding that mobilisation campaign is a comprehensive program aims at leading people to confront plots of the West and the renegades.

The representative of the Northern state, Badawi Al-Khabir, said that mobilization is a non-partisan issue and everyone is obliged to participate in it, adding that Sudanese people must be made aware that the rebel Sudan Revolutionary Front (SRF) is nothing but a rouge group fighting the Islamic regime of the Sudan.

The speaker of Sudan's National Assembly, Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Tahir, who addressed a mobilization rally in the Northern state capital of Dongola on Sunday, said that "Sudan wouldn't fit for both of us [the government and the rebels]; either we stay in it or they take it".

Al-Tahir further described SRF rebels as a "disgrace" to Sudan, traitors, mercenaries, and agents for Zionism", stressing that the battle is not only SAF's battle but also the Sudanese people. [Back to the Top](#)

Saudi investor to delay Sudan farm project over dollar curbs

Reuters Khartoum, 20/5/2013 – A Saudi firm will hold off its planned project in Sudan to produce wheat and other basic food items until the government eases a ban to repatriate profits, its head said on Monday.

Sudan, prized for its fertile land and easy access to irrigation water from the Nile, has been trying to attract farmland and livestock investment from Gulf Arab firms seeking to secure food supplies for their arid oil-producing countries.

While some government-backed projects from countries like Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Qatar have gone ahead, privately-funded farmland deals have been hampered by severe restrictions in Sudan to transfer dollars abroad.

Struggling with foreign currency shortages, Sudan's central bank has made it almost impossible to transfer dollars abroad for firms outside the oil sector dominated by Chinese firms.

Mohammed Hadi al-Barqawi, head of Riyadh-based Hadi Property Investment firm, said he had been mulling with a Turkish partner a 100,000 feddan (acre) project to produce wheat, soya, sorghum and animal feed in Sudan's northern state, which borders Egypt.

"Sudan has everything... all the agricultural and human resources who could help secure food for a large number of countries," he told Reuters.

But the Saudi firm would halt its project, which is still in a feasibility study stage, unless the government allowed it to recoup at least some profits abroad.

"The government needs to create a system to allow repatriating some of the profits, and authorities need to follow up on it," Barqawi said. "If they don't then many projects will fail."

"Sudan has a good investment legal frame, especially the fact that you are allowed to repatriate 60 percent of profits but it needs to be implemented," he said. "The problem with the central bank is whenever you want to transfer money they tell you there are no dollars."

Barqawi spoke on the sidelines of an Arab food security conference in Khartoum where government and Arab league officials sought to drum up investment from mainly Gulf firms.

"If they don't solve this problem (dollar transfers) then there is no value to such conferences," Barqawi said. "Nothing will happen in that case." [Back to the Top](#)

LRA has killed over 100,000 - UN

The New Vision, 21/5/2013 – The Lord's Resistance Army has killed more than 100,000 people during a reign of terror in Central Africa over the past 25 years, UN leader Ban Ki-moon said Monday.

The guerrilla group led by Joseph Kony, whose global notoriety was increased by the Invisible Children Internet video, is also blamed for the abduction of between 60,000 and 100,000 children and the displacement of 2.5 million people.

Ban said in a report on Central Africa that the office of High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay had researched the death toll as part of a study on the impact of the LRA since 1987, which is due out soon.

"The report finds that the LRA is responsible for more than 100,000 deaths and that between 60,000 and 100,000 children are believed to have been abducted" by the LRA, said Ban.

Kony, a former church altar boy, originally launched an uprising against the Ugandan government in the 1980s. His group has since staged attacks in several countries.

He is wanted by the International Criminal Court for war crimes and is believed to be hiding in jungles on the border between Sudan, South Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo and Central African Republic. But conflict in the region has brought an international hunt for Kony to a near standstill.

While the intensity of the guerrilla attacks has eased, Ban said "suspected LRA attacks continued to be reported in remote border areas" of Central African Republic and DR Congo.

His report said the LRA was blamed in 2012 for about 212 attacks that left 45 dead, while another 220 people were abducted, a quarter of them children. The guerrillas are accused of using their hostages as sex slaves and porters.

The UN report said more suspected attacks had been reported in 2013, with additional casualties and abductions, but it did not give a figure.

The Kony 2012 Internet video produced by the Invisible Children activist group has been viewed almost 100 million times since March last year. [Back to the Top](#)

Uganda to continue 'Leaked Letter' investigation, says official

Voice of America, 20/5/2013 – A spokesman for Uganda's government says President Yoweri Museveni's administration will continue with investigations into a security breach despite, criticisms that it is contravening the constitution.

"That is not true that the government is stifling freedom of the press or freedom of the people of Uganda," said government spokesman Fred Opolot. "The police and the government [are] ensuring that whatever it does [has] to be lawful. And again when an issue compromises national security, it has to be investigated."

Opolot says the country's security was compromised when the *Daily Monitor*, an independent newspaper, published a letter written by an army general asking for an investigation into Mr. Museveni's alleged succession plan. The government denies there is a succession plan.

General David Sejusa, coordinator for Uganda's intelligence agencies, wrote to the government seeking an investigation into rumors of a plot to assassinate senior government officials opposed to the

succession plan. Sejusa denies leaking the letter to the newspaper, which led to the government's investigation.

Museveni's alleged plan is to step down and hand over power to his son, Brigadier Muhoozi Kainerugaba.

Security officials raided the offices of the newspaper and shut down two radio stations located in the same compound as part of the investigation.

Opolot said the newspaper has refused to cooperate with the inquiry.

"It is alleged by the police [the letter] was doctored by some of the media houses and that prompted an investigation of which the police applied section 27 2A of the Police Act that allows them to summon witnesses," said Opolot. "The search has been going on and it will continue tomorrow, and what you are seeing here are the police expediting the due process of the law."

Opolot says Ugandans are aware that the administration has a mandate to address national security issues to ensure the country's stability and peace.

"They will understand that yes the national security has been compromised and whatever it takes, the government would have to ensure that peace and security is maintained, but through the lawful process and that is what it is doing right now," said Opolot.

But, opposition groups condemned the closure of the newspaper and the radio stations and accused the government of using state institutions to intimidate and harass opponents as part of a plan to silence dissent.

Olara Otunnu, opposition leader of the Uganda People's Congress, says the government is undermining the constitution.

"This is Museveni being Museveni. He has no regard for the rule of law, no regard for the constitution and various institutions of governance...all these are being subordinated to his whims," said Otunnu.

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Uganda's Daily Monitor raided over Museveni 'plot'

BBC News, 20/5/2013 – Ugandan police have raided the offices of at least two newspapers following reports that President Yoweri Museveni is grooming his son to succeed him.

Two radio stations have also been taken off air, the state-owned New Vision newspaper reports.

Last week, newspapers reported claims allegedly made by an army general that those opposed to Mr Museveni's son succeeding him risk being killed.

Mr Museveni, in power since 1986, is due to step down in 2016.

There has been long-standing speculation that his son Muhoozi Kainerugaba, a brigadier in the army, is being groomed to succeed him.

The government has denied having any such plans. It is horrifying that in this day and age you should employ all these methods - shut down a media house to get to a document"

Uganda's leading private newspaper, the *Daily Monitor*, and another newspaper, *Red Pepper*, last week published a confidential letter, purportedly written by army General David Sejusa, calling for an investigation into allegations of a plot "to assassinate people who disagree with this so-called family project of holding onto power in perpetuity".

The police raid was authorized by a court and was aimed at retrieving the alleged letter from the offices of the two newspapers, New Vision reports.

Two radio stations linked to **Daily Monitor**, **Dembe FM** and **KFM**, had also been "switched off", it reports.

Daily Monitor Managing Director Alex Assimwe told *BBC Focus* on Africa that about 50 armed policemen had raided its newsroom.

"They must be under instructions. It is horrifying that in this day and age you should employ all these methods - shut down a media house to get to a document," he said.

He added that the newspaper did not have the document, and was not compelled to divulge its sources to the police.

"The law protects us," he said.

Analysts say Gen Sejusa's letter suggests a power struggle within the military top brass, as the older generation of army officers gradually loses power to the new guard, of which Brig Kainerugaba is a prominent member, *AP news agency* reports.

Gen Sejusa fought alongside Mr Museveni when his rebel movement seized power in Uganda in 1986. The top army commander Gen Aronda Nyakairima said Gen Sejusa was being investigated, AP reports.

His letter "champions the agenda of the radical and anarchic political opposition, hence rendering him partisan", Gen Nyakairima said, it adds.

Gen Sejusa's lawyer Joseph Luzige said his client was out of the country, and would not return at the moment as he risked being arrested, AP reports.

He would stay out of Uganda until his legal team prepares for any potential cases against him, Mr Luzige added, it reports. [Back to the Top](#)

Fresh Congo fighting threat to regional peace

The New Vision Kampala, 20/5/2013 – A new wave of fierce fighting has broken out in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) after the army, Forces Armee de la Republic Democratique du Congo (FARDC), carried out an early Monday morning attack on an M23 Movement base in the Eastern part of the country, sparking off a fresh war with the rebels.

The fighting is raging on in Muningi about 10km from the North Kivu capital city of Goma which has created fears that DR Congo President Joseph Kabila started the war with hopes that the UN Intervention Brigade which has since been stationed in Goma, will be forced to join in.

A member of the M23 publicity committee based in Bunagana, Diana Katarbarwa confirmed the fighting and accused Kabila of joining forces with Rwanda rebel group Forces du Liberation Rwanda (FDLR) to plunge the nation back into bloodshed.

"The fighting is just 10 kilometers away from Goma where Kabila forces joined together with the Rwanda rebel group to attack our bases but we have registered no losses so far," she said.

Katarbarwa said that FARDC and FDLR attacked M23 positions in Kanyarucinya but they were successfully repulsed and pushed them back up to Muja area which is sparsely populated.

She also noted that the DRC forces were planning to launch an attack from Tongo in Rutshuru on M23 positions in order to cut them off from accessing an escape route.

Political analysts told *New Vision* that the fighting is a product of the collapse of peace talks between the two rival camps which were going on at Speke Resort Hotel Munyonyo in Kampala, Uganda.

When *New Vision* visited Ishasha border area on the DR Congo - Uganda border at midday on Monday, some Congolese nationals had started assembling at the border entry point to cross to Uganda where they intended to take refuge.

By press time, no refugees had arrived at Matanda Refugee Transit Center where the registration for the refugees takes place.

An official found at the venue said that they expected to a huge turn up of refugees since some of them had merely returned to Congo when the war had subsided. [Back to the Top](#)

National unity: A project for each and every South Sudanese

South Sudan News Agency, 20/5/2013 – South Sudan has just attained independence from an imposed unity that had failed miserably to take into account the objective realities on the ground. In the old Sudan people did not take national unity as a project for each and every Sudanese.

Greed and insensitivity preoccupied people's minds and the result was the breakup of Sudan into two independent nations, the Republic of South Sudan and Sudan.

Probably conscious of its struggle against unpalatable unity, the newly independent Republic of South Sudan has opted for a decentralized system of governance. It was fundamental how to establish the basic patterns of governance in realizing national unity in diversity. Decentralisation is a growing trend in Africa and the Republic of South Sudan is therefore not an exception. Indeed the Transitional Constitution, 2011 recognises the need to devolve some key central government administrative and political authority to governments at the state and local levels.

In the First Governors Forum after South Sudan's independence in July 2011, the governors of the ten states spelt out the need for further decentralisation. The governors were indeed calling for a federal system of governance in the Republic of South Sudan. However, it is very unfortunate that in some quarters federalism is negatively associated with ethnicity hence the loud cry that federalism for South Sudan is ethnic federalism. This is, nevertheless, not only blackmail but a total advertisement of profound ignorance of the essence of federalism.

Federalism in essence is envisaged as an administrative and political solution to problems of underdevelopment, marginalization and to problems of the lack of active participation of people in running their affairs. Another misleading generalisation is that there is no need for federalism in South Sudan because "federalizing federalism and/or replacing federalism with federalism is unrealistic if not an illusion". What a piece of garbage! Is there any existing federalism in South Sudan when, in fact, it has been rejected?

The Equatoria Consultative Conference which took place at Nyokuron Culture Centre in Juba under the theme; Fostering Equatoria Leadership in Building Cohesive Nation, reaffirmed the commitment of Equatoria to a federal system of governance in the Republic of South Sudan. Equatoria has spoken and is committed to objective federalism as opposed to ethnic federalism of the dependent scaremongers. Objective federalism may be defined as that federalism which addresses underdevelopment in contrast to the so-called ethnic federalism which is perceived by the lacking in confidence as putting up massive solid walls of divisions between ethnic groups that are denied interaction.

With a population of 2,628,747 which is about 32 per cent of the total population of South Sudan, the demand of Equatoria for a federal system of governance cannot be ignored. Equatoria clearly sees federalism as of benefit for all. It is therefore up to the other regions to see the benefit of federalism. People should not be put off by those of tunnel vision and lacking in confidence.

Federalism is not monolithic. It is dynamic because there is no one single definition of federalism that people may rigidly adhere to. Indian federalism is not the same as that of the United States of America. Federalism guarantees equitable sharing of power and wealth, and participation in the various aspects of running the nation and this can only be good for national unity. A system that is advocated by insensitive tunnel visionaries or pseudo revolutionaries is a sure way to doom and gloom because it will inherently be a monopoly of the tribalistic as others are treated with contempt.

South Sudan will be vibrant with federalism because national unity will be a project of each and every citizen. Development will be accelerated as major decisions are taken at the state and local level. The fear expressed that federalism divides people along ethnic and regional lines hence disunity is nothing but a mental problem. With reference to development, in federalism the regions and states will gain enormously from each other. This is by regular conferences to identify common challenges for a united effort in addressing the challenges.

In federalism expertise will be shared. I will have no problem to work in Northern Bahr el Ghazal provided I am under the governor of that state. The role of the central government should be that of a facilitator and coordinator. Implementation of projects should be the responsibility of the federal states

or regions. The central government is to provide the needed assistance and a backup to realize the overall government policy for socio-economic development in the nation.

The fear of federalism that it is ethnically and regionally divisive does not hold water. South Sudanese have come of age and are mature enough that they cannot be divided by mere levels of government in federalism. It is dependency culture that seems to be the issue here. People seem to depend on Equatoria for anything that there is an exaggerated fear of losing anything that is Equatorian in federalism.

The exaggerated fear is the type of naivety the anti-federalism lobby seems to have. However, one can assert that South Sudanese will never be divided because they are not as simple as the naivety of the anti-federalism lobby seems to suggest. Didn't South Sudanese fight as one people but of different ethnic groups, regions and states to achieve that one common terminal objective, independence? In their diversities South Sudanese were united in their struggle for freedom. What will divide them in federalism with the same diversities?

In conclusion, the anti-federalism lobby may need to rid themselves of playing games with national unity. It is possible that South Sudanese understand national unity as a project that must be achieved through each and everyone's effort in all their diversities. Equatorians understand that the unity of South Sudan is paramount but not at the expense of any other region or state. [Back to the Top](#)

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Who Should Own Uganda's News Media

AllAfrica.com, 20/5/2013 – Every May 3, matters of media freedom come under renewed focus, as we mark World Press Freedom day. And this month has not been any different.

Over the years, journalists in countries like Uganda have come under sustained attack from governments that fear enlightened masses.

Ugandan journalists have endured increasing physical brutality, meted out by security forces cheered on, literally, by their political masters.

But this year's World Press Freedom day also came at a time of growing reflection about the viability of the present model of press ownership, with most news media today owned by profit-chasing individuals or groups. As our columnist Ibrahim Ssemujju Nganda argued in his recent article, we need to rethink the ownership of news media.

We live in difficult times and in countries, where leaders are terrified of a critical, politically-conscious populace, and where the public sector is shrinking in the face of a growing private sector. So, journalism has a big role to play especially as a watchdog striving to hold power to account.

But for this to happen sustainably in our politically-constrained and largely semi-literate countries, news media cannot continue to be owned by people only preoccupied with making a profit. Journalists need an ownership model that allows them to uphold their primary loyalty to the public, whose interests they must champion, as opposed to their shareholders'.

But today we are sliding towards a cliff, where advertisers will sack journalists and editors by simply placing a phone call to the news media directors. And from that cliff, journalism, as a pillar of democratic governance, will fall to its death.

Yes, newspapers and other news media need to pay their bills. But we can have media houses that are profit-seeking but not profit-driven; in the business of selling news, but not in news primarily for business; working with, but not dictated upon by, advertisers.

Who that owner should be is the question that all who dream of a future with good governance should seek answers to. These answers will not come to us easily, but try we must. [Back to the Top](#)

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