



# United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)

Media & Spokesperson Unit  
Communications & Public Information Office

## MEDIA MONITORING REPORT

FRIDAY, 23 AUGUST 2013

### SOUTH SUDAN

- JICA to consult on us \$946 million malakal development plan (*Gurtong.net*)
- S. Sudan youths encouraged to engage in politics (*Sudantribune.com*)
- S. Sudan announces foreign investors' conference (*Voice of America*)
- Western Bahr el Ghazal forms monitoring committee on revenue collections (*Gurtong.net*)
- Caretaker Governor sacks state's Relief and Rehabilitation Director (*Radio Miraya*)
- Governor urged to announce lean cabinet (*Gurtong.net*)
- Central Equatoria to reduce its executive (*Gurtong.net*)
- New Minister for gender equality focuses on children (*Borglobe*)
- Slidell contractor held in South Sudan to be charged in kickback scheme (*Borglobe/wwltv.com*)
- SPLM poor coordination blamed on inadequate training (*Easter Radio*)
- SPLM women league refutes claims of unpopularity against party (*Gurtong.net*)
- International civil aviation trains 19 South Sudanese (*Catholic Radio Network*)
- Yei Prison to boost food production (*Easter Radio*)

### SOUTH SUDAN, SUDAN

- Progress reported in talks between Khartoum & Juba over rebel support (*Sudantribune.com*)
- South Sudan concerned over Khartoum's silence on oil flow (*Gurtong.net*)
- South Sudan exports 7 Million barrels (*Catholic Radio Network*)
- Juba delays advance visit of foreign affairs minister to Khartoum (*Sudantribune.com*)

### OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- Museveni commissions tarmacking of Atiak- Nimule road (*Sudantribune.com*)
- U.N. peacekeepers in Congo ordered to protect civilians after city shelled (*Reuters*)
- Chambas calls on rebel groups to engage talks over Darfur conflict (*Sudantribune.com*)
- Sudan deadly floods affect 300,000 people – WHO (*BBC News*)
- Police officer in interior ministry sentence to 4 years in jail of corruption (*Sudantribune.com*)
- Former president Mubarak to be placed under house arrest (*AllAfrica.com*)

### OPINION/ EDITORIALS

- Khartoum's role in arming David Yau Yau's militia (*South Sudan News Agency*)
- Early marriages hinder South Sudan prospects (*Gurtong.net*)
- When is it right for a government to seize a journalist's source material? (*Radio Voice of Russia*)

### LINKS TO STORIES FROM THE MORNING MEDIA MONITOR

- European Union envoys urge dialogue on Jonglei conflicts (*Gurtong*)
- South Sudan army jails high ranking officers over rights abuses in Jonglei (*Sudantribune.com*)
- Committee starts probe on army general (*Gurtong*)
- Suspect killer arrested, three guns recovered (*Gurtong*)
- Pibor: downpour cuts off thousands of people from accessing aid (*Eye Radio*)
- Hundreds of familiarly displaced by flooding in NBGS (*Eye Radio*)
- Rains destroy bridges linking Western Equatoria State, WBGS (*Eye Radio*)
- Government opens bids for oil pipeline construction (*Radio Miraya*)
- AU legal, military experts in Juba to probe chief Kuol death (*Eye Radio*)

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# Highlights

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## **JICA to consult on us \$946 million malakal development plan**

*Gurtong.net Juba, 23/8/2013* – The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), a South Sudan's development partner is set to hold a consultative forum next week on a \$946 million US Dollars master development plan aimed at bettering infrastructural development in the Greater Upper Nile regional capital, Malakal.

The Master Plan prepared under the project entitled: "Project for Comprehensive Planning and Support for Urgent Development on Social Economic Infrastructure in Malakal Town in the Republic of South Sudan," also aims at improving the infrastructural services in the nation.

It will be attended by senior National and State Government officials. The seminar is planned to brief the stakeholders of the process and the proposed targets for the Master Plan formulation.

Malakal is one of the third largest towns in South Sudan located strategically with links to Sudan to the North and to Ethiopia to the East of South Sudan.

Most importantly, Malakal is an economic hub of the Greater Upper Nile States with high economic development potentials, yet it has been one of the neglected towns.

The "Project for Comprehensive Planning and Support for Urgent Development on Social Economic Infrastructure in Malakal Town in South Sudan" commenced last year, said JICA.

It also aims to lay a firm foundation and a roadmap to achieve mid-term social economic infrastructure and human resource development targets in the town. ([Back to Top](#))

## **S. Sudan youths encouraged to engage in politics**

*Sudantribune.com Bentiu, 22/8/2013* – The US-based International Republican Institute (IRI) has conducted a joint initiative between political parties and youth representatives in Unity state in a bid to encourage young people to play a more active role in politics.

The purpose of the workshop was to encourage youths aligned with different parties to engage more in political processes, particularly on constitutional development in South Sudan's 10 states.

The three-day workshop, which ended on Thursday, brought youths together to discuss the role of political parties, youth in politics and the contribution of political parties towards developing democracy in the country.

### **LACK OF UNDERSTANDING**

IRI programme officer in South Sudan James Turitto said a public survey of youths conducted by the organisation from 2011-2013 found there was a general lack of understanding about the transitional constitution and national constitution review commission policy.

"Well in our republic opinion research, we found that a majority of citizens were not very knowledgeable about the constitution to begin with, so they didn't know about transitional constitution", he said.

"[The] majority said they knew nothing about the national constitutional review commission which is the body [that] has been formed by the president to develop a permanent constitution over the next two years, so there is a lot of lack of knowledge about the process", he added.

Turitto says measuring public opinion on matters affecting the country can help pave the way forward for the government.

"The government - both [the] executives branch, council of ministers and the state assembly have welcomed the IRI to present the findings on the citizens because it allows them the opportunity to see what the citizens are saying [and] understand more about what the citizens need and want", said Turitto.

Simon Majak Deng, a youth representative from the African National Congress (ANC) in Unity state, says he had learnt more about the role youths and political parties can jointly play in nation building

Deng says several political parties are finding it hard to participate in nation building efforts, saying they continue to face threats and intimidation from the ruling Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM).

"For us, our role is very open but it seem sometimes there is intimidation ... I see there is a very restricted roads forward to us, we the political parties", said Deng.

#### CHANGE MUST COME FROM GRASSROOTS LEVEL

Mama Jany Gorey, a member of the Union of Sudan African Parties (USAP), says constitutional amendments must come from grassroots movements rather than from officials designing laws before they are recognised by citizens.

"What we want most as citizens from the Republic of South Sudan, all laws must be made by citizens on a grassroots [level]. We cannot accept a constitution that come from top to bottom, it will have a lot of violations and break us", said Gorey.

Andrew Gatjang Yar, a South Sudan African National Union (SSANU) member, accused the SPLM of violating laws and threatening political opposition in South Sudan.

"The SPLM are the one who are doing the job by themselves and they are not authorising the political parties to operate democratically, so that the people should be free and fair, so we don't have any freedom of speech", said Yar.

"If we give the right [to free] speech to the citizens, so you are the enemy of the SPLM, so that is now another problem, [which is how] we should advocate our messages to the citizens of South Sudan and to know who they are", he added.

The majority of youths who took part in the public opinion survey conducted by the IRI in Unity state capital Bentiu said the training had helped encourage them to participate more in progressing their country. ([Back to Top](#))

#### **S. Sudan announces foreign investors' conference**

*Voice of America*, 22/8/2013 – More than 250 companies have been invited to an international investors' conference for South Sudan in November, which was announced this week, and which officials hope will be a step forward in breaking the country's dependence on oil revenue.

"We need to boost our private sector and therefore we need to invite investors so that they can boost our economy by investing in our country," Deputy Finance Minister Mary Jervas Yak said.

"That also will create jobs for our people and you know that, without investment, the economy cannot grow."

Oil revenue accounted for 98 percent of the South Sudan's income before production was shut down in January last year over a dispute with Khartoum over transit fees.

After the shut-down, South Sudan was forced to introduce austerity measures that are expected to remain in place until the end of the year at least.

Revenues coming into state coffers have, however, gone up since independence in 2011, increasing from 242 million South South Sudanese that year to nearly 600 million pounds last year.

But Yak said that, to really jump-start the economy, the country needs to focus on generating more revenue streams than just tax and oil.

"We want heavy investors because we want them to invest in huge projects like agriculture schemes, like infrastructure, tourism, and so we need international investors who have got money," she said.

South Sudanese businesspeople hope that the conference, which is a follow-up to the South Sudan Economic Partners Meeting that was held in Washington in April, will also help to erase negative preconceptions of the country.

The South Sudan Business Forum has offered to do its part to attract outside investors by helping them to cut through red tape and give them guidance on which authorities to deal with for specific projects. ([Back to Top](#))

### **Western Bahr el Ghazal forms monitoring committee on revenue collections**

*Gurtong.net Yei, 23/8/2013* – Western Bahr el Ghazal state Legislators have formed a committee in the state to monitor the revenue collections.

The move comes after the state acting minister for Finance Zackaria Joseph Garang informed the state assembly about reductions made by the national government in the state allocation budget to virtually half of its total.

Speaking to the members of state assembly, Garang said the strategy is a shift plan to restrict the collection of taxes which was distressing the state government.

“The state government is now in Juba currently making a follow up with the national Ministry of Finance,” said Garang.

As the civil servant July’s salaries has not yet been waged out, questions emerged from the corners of the august house on the acting minister to explain the delays. ([Back to Top](#))

### **Caretaker Governor sacks state’s Relief and Rehabilitation Director**

*Radio Miraya, 22/8/2013* – The caretaker Governor of Unity State, Joseph Manytuil Wejang, has dismissed the State Director for Relief and Rehabilitation Commission.

Manytuil has issued an order relieving William Kuol Geng, of his duties and appointing a staff member of the commission, James Machieng Madit, as acting director.

The order also appointed seven advisors to the commission.

Caretaker Governor Manytuil has also appointed a committee headed by the State Minister of Labor and Public Service, Benjamin Majak Dau, to look into complaints of former government employees who were recently dismissed from their positions. ([Back to Top](#))

### **Governor urged to announce lean cabinet**

*Gurtong.net Torit, 23/8/2013* – Eastern Equatoria state citizens are appealing to the state governor Louis Lobong Lojore to move quickly and announce a lean government by appointing competent persons to head the ministries.

Many citizens, who preferred anonymity, have welcomed the plans by their governor to reduce government but remain skeptical to seeing good leaders on board who would not show favouritism while discharging public duties.

They have advocated them serving the public irrespective of interests or ethnicities, economic, social, political backgrounds or regions of origin but serve for the common benefit of the state and the entire new nation of South Sudan.

They say they would want to see their governor in the imminent reshuffle appointing persons with possession of truthfulness, dedication, professionalism and integrity and more particularly persons who are proud to impartially serve the citizens.

The governor announced plans to downsize his state government during an extraordinary sitting held at the state secretariat on Friday 16.

Lobong briefed his cabinet along with Chairpersons of the State Commissions that a move to downsize his government ministries and commissions is now underway as final consultations are being put in place.

Although he is expected to trim the current government which comprises of 14 Ministries and about six commissions, Lobong clarified that his plan will maintain inclusiveness taking into consideration women and ethnic representations.

The present Director of Press and acting Deputy Secretary General for the Government of Dr. Joseph Abulemoi who spoke to Gurtong said the reasons behind the reduction is to save money in order to enable the government to deliver services to the people.

The governor urged the Cabinet that they should work hard to ensure maintenance of their loyalties in their respective parties and continue to serve their people.

He additionally encouraged them to support his administration to meet people's needs and the objectives of the government.

The 10 state governors in South Sudan are set to follow President Salva Kiir's move and dissolve their respective cabinets in a move to restructure and reduce the governments. ([Back to Top](#))

### **Central Equatoria to reduce its executive**

*Gurtong.net Yei, 23/8/2013* – The Central Equatoria State government plans to reduce on the executive size by forming a lean government, an official has said.

Juma David Augustine, the commissioner of Yei River County said during a press conference in Yei River County after returning from a meeting called by the Central Equatoria State Governor in Juba.

The meeting was attended by all the six Central Equatoria State County commissioners and the City Mayor of Juba City Council.

During the meeting, the central Equatoria State Governor who is the State SPLM party Chairperson, Major General Clement Wani Konga officially disclosed to the State officials that, he is going to reshuffle and reduce the size of his cabinet consultatively.

The reshuffle of the State Executive was one of the action points taken during the consultative meeting between the President of the Republic and the States' Governors in Juba.

The Central Equatoria State Executive is said to be too big, as the state and the country struggle under the austerity measure's burden.

All the Six Counties commissioners of Central Equatoria State welcomed the move by the Central Equatoria State Governor to restructure his Cabinet.

The meeting was also to enable the officials to participate in the findings of the Sudan People Liberation Movement outreach done by the SPLM cadres, who were sent to all the counties of the State to interact and find out the perceptions of the Citizens towards the SPLM political party, the concerns of the people towards service delivery and what possible recommendations the SPLM would make to address the concerns raised by the citizens.

Juma said the findings give the SPLM party an indication that, a lot of works need to be done in terms of services delivery, as the citizens had high expectations in the SPLM political party, and in the same way, the SPLM need to stand up fully on its responsibility to services delivery in the country.

He added the SPLM as a political party was also put to task to develop programs and give to the Executive to implement, adding it has been seen for long most of the programs being implemented by the Executives throughout the county, may not necessarily reflect the interests of the part, because the SPLM political party does not have ready programs at hand that response to SPLM political agenda.

The findings also established poor correlation between the SPLM main stream, Youth and Women leagues in the Country, each body works parallel to the other, which calls for a complete teaching of the party doctrines to the party members in the country.



The meeting established a gap in the SPLM party not investing in building its cadres in the country which is seen as a big problem in the future political development of the party.

Poor funding of the party activities and structures have also been identified as sources of weakness and state of inactivity in the SPLM party office from the county to the lower level.

This has resulted into some of the party members deserting the party's activities and concentrating in their personal duties which derail party activities in the country.

The members of the Executives have agreed to contribute 10% of their monthly salaries to the SPLM political party account, to be trickled down to the Boma to strengthen the financial backbone of the mother party.

The meeting also proposed on the policy of decentralization of the SPLM party activities from the National up to the Boma level, where proposal was tabled that all the sitting county commissioners will be the SPLM chairpersons in the county, to re-strengthen the party activities in the counties.

According to the findings, the citizens recommended all public positions to be allocated on competence but not on tribal basis, the citizens said as long as you begin putting people on Government positions based on regional representation this will continue to promote social injustice.

The citizens also urged the Government to protect the indigenous traders, as most business is controlled by the foreigner traders who are well off in terms of capital.

In related development the central Equatoria State Government has also pledged to secure loan to pump in the standstill Yei-Lasu Road Rehabilitation project and the construction of Kinji secondary school in Yei County.

The State has also secured road construction equipment and Yei-Lasu road stands a high chance of being the first beneficiary of the current development. ([Back to Top](#))

### **New Minister for gender equality focuses on children**

***Borglobe Juba, 23/8/2013*** – The South Sudan News (SSN) reports that the newly appointed National Minister of Gender, Child and Social Welfare the Hon. Awut Deng Acicul has urged the staff of her ministry to embrace teamwork if they are to record any meaningful success.

“Teamwork is the only way we can be able to achieve what we want for this ministry and the people of South Sudan”, the Hon. Acicul said while being officially received at the ministry.

The South Sudan News says that Acicul stated the work at the ministry is "massive and called for commitment and dedication".

One of the major tasks of the ministry, she told the SSN, is tackling the problem of street children in South Sudan. She said her ministry will have to work with all players and the ten state's ministries of Social Development in order to team up efforts to address the issue.

Like many of her fellow ministers, Hon. Acicul was received at the ministry with ululations, dancing and singing. Headed by the South Sudan Undersecretary Esther Ikere Eluzai, the staff members thanked the President of the Republic of South Sudan H.E. Salva Kiir Mayardit for appointing Hon. Acicul as the Gender Minister.

After the meeting, Hon. Acicul visited the Physical Rehabilitation Centre (PRC), Rejaf School for the Blind and the Deaf along Nimule roads as well as the proposed ministry building along Yei road.

The South Sudan News reports that on July 23, South Sudan President Salva Kiir Mayardit issued a presidential decree removing Vice-President Riek Machar Teny and dissolving the whole government of South Sudan.

Kiir dismissed all 29 ministers and deputy ministers. Kiir did not appoint a new vice-president or national ministers and deputy ministers.

The decree directed the under-secretaries of the various ministries to run South Sudan's ministries until further notice. The decree also stipulated the new government will have only 18 national ministers and deputy ministers in order to streamline government work. A senior official at the presidency predicted that government ministers will be replaced in a "very short time, as soon as possible."

Officially, Kiir's Presidential decree does not explain the reason for the major shake-up.

Senior government officials, including some fired by the decree, called the undertaking a "reshuffle" that had long been expected given the mounting problems in government work. Nhial Bol, the editor of the independent Citizen TV, concurred. He believes that the president must have acted in order to end government paralysis. "Things have not been moving in the government because of this internal fighting over who is going to control the SPLM," Nhial Bol said.

The South Sudan News adds that Fashoda Institute, the leading, Juba-based think-tank, asserts that "in embarking on the profound reshuffle of government, President Kiir put the national interest ahead of internal politics and the early posturing for the 2015 presidential elections".

The Fashoda Institute states that Sudan has been sponsoring – primarily through the supply of weapons, ammunition and funds – the sustenance and escalation of insurgencies and tribal violence throughout South Sudan to the detriment of internal development. Allegations of endemic corruption throughout the entire government – which already led Kiir to undertake drastic measures such as suspending two senior ministers – considerably, restricted the availability of foreign aid.

"The ability of the Kiir Government to tackle these daunting challenges has been needlessly complicated by their cynical exploitation by Vice-President Machar", the SSN quotes the Fashoda Institute.

"President Kiir will have a new and invigorated government that will be able to finally tackle the key challenges facing South Sudan: building alternate oil export venues – both short-term and long-term regional infrastructure; enhancing security and suppressing violence both internally and along the borders with Sudan and the Central African Republic; and launching overdue major social and economic development to put the country on a long-term ascent track. Juba will thus demonstrate activism – that is, initiate and launch major programs rather than be beholden to foreign aid.

The Fashoda political analysts told the South Sudan News that "President Kiir is correct in arguing that it was impossible to initiate anything beforehand because of the endemic lack of funds and government crises."

"With a new government in office and limited income from the short-term export push coming in – South Sudan President Kiir's Juba will be moving fast and resolutely to alleviate crises the moment this becomes possible". ([Back to Top](#))

### **Slidell contractor held in South Sudan to be charged in kickback scheme**

**Borglobe/wwltv.com** New Orleans/Juba, 23/8/2013 – A Slidell businessman is scheduled to be sentenced for his role in a kickback scheme.

In May 53-year-old Elton McCabe pleaded guilty to one charge of conspiracy to commit wire fraud.

McCabe has agreed to forfeit the \$60,000 authorities say he got from the scheme. He faces up to five years in prison.

Last fall, McCabe was detained in South Sudan on a kidnapping charge, but he was later released. ([Back to Top](#))

### **SPLM poor coordination blamed on inadequate training**

**Easter Radio**, 23/8/2013 – Yei River County Commissioner blamed SPLM party's poor coordination on inadequate training of cadres to understand the importance of each structure.

Juma David Augustine on Wednesday told the press that if cadres were well trained, they would clearly distinguish that they cannot work separately, Easter Radio reported. He stressed that SPLM cadres need to be taught the true doctrine and philosophy of the party. ([Back to Top](#))

### **SPLM women league refutes claims of unpopularity against party**

*Gurtong.net Torit, 23/8/2013* – The Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (SPLM)-Women League in Eastern Equatoria State has announced that the party is strong in the region refuting claims that the party popularity had decline.

The Women League Secretary, Hellen Siyama Pasquale, has impatiently reacted on proclamation against the Party in the state that the party, SPLM, is dead.

After their meeting held on Monday afternoon at the State SPLM Secretariat head offices in Torit, the group refuted the claims as the members united in protection of their party at the state level saying such an individual who led a group to make the false statements in Juba.

The group strongly condemned the public statement made over the South Sudan Television saying the accuser is just a hopeless person who drives other innocent people only to go and utter hatred words against the party leadership at the state level.

The Women League Siyama on behalf of her group said the individual is not even an SPLM member but a frustrated guy who is even wanted to settle a huge amount of money belonging to the public and he is supposed to be among the 75 corrupt South Sudanese officials.

According to her, the accuser claimed over the SSTV that SPLM is not popular and the government is intimidating its citizens to weaken the Party.

The Women League Member, Hon. Nassike Allan Lochul who is currently MP representing the people of Kappoeta North at State Legislative Assembly under SPLM ticket through Women List, strongly said the group with strongest terms possible, condemns the act by the frustrating group saying her Party is very strong and supported by its members.

“We in the SPLM and as the Party’s Women League stand strong and we have many competitions from different parties and all these we have challenged them. Our Party is giant and is alive,” Nasike expressed while addressing the press in Torit yesterday.

One of the Members who equally spoke, Hon. Agnes Lox Mebo angrily uttered: “I would like to refute the false talks on SSTV on Thursday 21. Since SPLM started in the then Sudan, we were members as SPLM not only today. We voted for our president; Kiir as SPLM party, we voted for our governor Lobong as Party strong hold. We will continue to prove we are strong supporters of the Party; SPLM. We will continue to be SPLM as women and we as women or mothers will continue to give birth to SPLM. Our coming generations will expand as SPLM.” ([Back to Top](#))

### **International civil aviation trains 19 South Sudanese**

*Catholic Radio Network, 23/8/2013* – International Civil Aviation Organization or ICAO and the European Union Aviation Security Mission in South Sudan trained 19 government officials on aviation security management.

The training that started on Monday and concludes today was part of the EU’s support to South Sudan to improve aviation security at Juba International Airport.

The aim of the five-day training was to explain the need for a crisis management plan to enable participants respond to major security emergencies at airports.

ICAO Aviation Security in East and Southern African Regional Officer Justus Nyunja Kabaka said after the training participants will be able to develop a crisis management plan in line with the South Sudan Civil Aviation Authority Act 2012.



He said they assist nationals to improve security at Juba International Airport to internationally accepted standards, increase flow of people, goods and boost trade. ([Back to Top](#))

### **Yei Prison to boost food production**

**Easter Radio**, 23/8/2013 – Yei River County Prisons Department revealed plans to produce excess food supply for the prisoners and citizens within Central Equatoria and beyond.

Central Equatoria Prison Service Director-General Major General William Andrea told Easter Radio that they are implementing President's vision of hunger free South Sudan by 2014.

He added that agricultural production will help reduce prices inflation. Andrea explained that agriculture is one way of transforming lawbreakers into good citizens.

He mentioned that they cultivated 21 hectors at Mugwo Payam for food crops and vegetables production. ([Back to Top](#))

### **Progress reported in talks between Khartoum & Juba over rebel support**

**Sudantribune.com** Khartoum, 22/8/2013 – Delegations from north and south Sudan concluded two-day security meetings in Khartoum which focused mainly on handling claims of supporting rebels who fighting central governments in both nations.

A statement released by the joint committees lauded the spirit of transparency, seriousness, strong and genuine desire to resolve all complaints and concerns which was prevalent during the meetings.

The two sides agreed that their respective armies would handle all the logistical aspects for joint field teams to be stationed on agreed border points. Setting up more border points is to be done after consultation between military intelligence chiefs and military attaches.

This process shall commence within a week, the statement said.

They also agreed to bolster communication between intelligence and security heads in the two countries for serious exchange of ideas and resolution of any disputes.

Armies of both countries will also withdraw and re-deploy in accordance with the map provided by the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP).

The Sudanese side was led by head of military intelligence Lieutenant General Sideeg Amer Hassan ad his South Sudanese counterpart Major General Mag Paul.

Al-Muiz Farouk who is the Secretary General of Sudan's delegation said the meeting represents a strong boost to security arrangements particularly on rebel support and creation of joint field teams on the borders. The next meeting will take place on September 17 in South Sudan capital of Juba. ([Back to Top](#))

### **South Sudan concerned over Khartoum's silence on oil flow**

**Gurtong.net** Juba, 23/8/2013 – South Sudan's Minister of Petroleum and Mining Stephen Dhieu yesterday expressed deep concerns over Khartoum's silence on updating South Sudan's government on decision of extending flow of oil.

Hon. Stephen Dhieu yesterday spoke to the press in Juba after meeting with the British Ambassador to South Sudan Ian Hughes. He said Khartoum has till up to now not updated Juba with official information regarding its decision that extended the country's oil flow through its pipeline.

Dhieu yesterday was sharing with Hughes the oil situation with Khartoum. Hughes' meeting was a move aimed at bettering diplomatic approaches the fledgling nation should engage with Khartoum in sorting out challenges that may breakdown the implementation of the Cooperation Agreement.

Dhieu said despite no updates from its foe, Khartoum on the deal, South Sudan has not taken any decision as it is responding based on commitment to the implementation of the Cooperation Agreement. ([Back to Top](#))

### **South Sudan exports 7 Million barrels**

*Catholic Radio Network*, 22/8/2013 – The Petroleum Minister revealed that South Sudan exported to global markets through Sudan seven million barrels of crude oil worth 630 million US dollars.

Stephen Dhieu Dau told the press in Juba on Thursday that they will pay to Sudan 170 million US dollars as transit fees in respect to the cooperation agreement.

United Kingdom Ambassador to South Sudan Ian Hughes said oil was important to South Sudan and Sudan for service delivery and investment.

He said the future of oil flow would be for the prosperity of both countries.

The ambassador expressed hope in the outcome of Presidents Salva Kiir's and his Sudanese counterpart Omer Al Bashir meeting in Khartoum next week. The Minister and the ambassador gave the statements after meeting in Juba. ([Back to Top](#))

### **Juba delays advance visit of foreign affairs minister to Khartoum**

*Sudantribune.com* Juba, 22/8/2013 – The South Sudanese government has rescheduled sending an advance delegation to the Sudanese capital Khartoum for a consultative meeting tasked to decide the date and agenda of a summit between the two leaders, according to a senior diplomat on Thursday.

Juba said the plan remains in the pipeline, attributing the delay to the absence of the foreign affairs minister in the country and that no other senior official has been designated to take his place.

“The plan has not changed; it [is] just that the minister of foreign affairs had travelled to Zimbabwe. He is expected to return this evening or tomorrow”, ministry spokesman Mawien Makol told Sudan Tribune on Thursday.

Makol did not provide further details of when the trip would take place, saying it may occur “next week if no other important issues take over the priority of the ministerial schedules”.

“There is no fixed date that I know [of], but I think it may be between 27 and 28 [August]”, he said

Makol said the foreign minister's visit to Zimbabwe is important as Harare enjoys special relations with the new nation.

As a member of the African Union Peace and Security Council (AUPSC), Zimbabwe is also in a position to offer its support on the Abyei issue.

“The minister is delivering a special message from the president. He will meet his Zimbabwean counterpart and other senior members of the government. Zimbabwe is a very important country to us. It is one of the countries who stood with our people during the dark days”, he said.

The senior diplomat says he expects Harare to play a vital role in reaching out to other countries in the Southern African region to persuade the Sudanese government to accept a proposal by African Union mediators to hold a referendum in October on the final status of the contested oil-producing region of Abyei. ([Back to Top](#))

### **Museveni commissions tarmacking of Atiak- Nimule road**

*Sudantribune.com* Amuru, 22/8/2013 – Ugandan president Yoweri Museveni announced on Wednesday he had commissioned the tarmacking of the 36km Atiak- Nimule road.

The road is crucial for trade between Uganda and South Sudan and its tarmacking is expected to significantly boost trade between the two countries once work is completed.

Traders have for years complained about the road being difficult to access on the Ugandan side, particularly during the rainy season, causing huge losses for those involved in the transportation and trading of perishable goods.

Speaking at the commissioning of works on the road in Atiak in Amuru district, Museveni said that his government is focusing on infrastructural development to boost the economy.

He cautioned communities living along the road against stealing materials meant for the road upgrade.

"What I don't want to hear [about] is the theft of fuel, road signs and equipment", Museveni said.

The road is plied by hundreds of trucks laden with goods destined for South Sudan. The commissioning of tarmacking is the second phase of work on the road, with the first from Gulu to Atiak already ongoing.

According to the World Bank, South Sudan has become a leading trade partner with Uganda since gaining independence more than two years ago.

The Uganda Bureau of Statistics and the Bank of Uganda estimate that trade between Uganda and Sudan grew by 1000% in the period from 2005 to 2008.

During this time, trade revenue between the two countries rose from \$60 to \$635 million, the World Bank said.

The construction of the entire road from Gulu up to the border with South Sudan is expected to cost \$100 million.

The construction is jointly funded by the World Bank and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). ([Back to Top](#))

### **U.N. peacekeepers in Congo ordered to protect civilians after city shelled**

*Reuters Goma, 23/8/2013* – The head of the U.N. mission in Congo on Thursday ordered peacekeeping troops to act to protect civilians after shelling hit the city of Goma in renewed fighting between the army and M23 rebels.

The fighting close to Goma, a city of a million people on the Rwandan border, comes after a relative lull in the 18-month rebellion. Late last month, the United Nations pledged to keep the M23 rebels out of range of the town, which they briefly seized last year.

Rwanda, which has long had strained relations with its neighbour, accused the Congolese army of deliberately firing artillery into its territory. Kinshasa denied the reports and repeated its accusation that Rwanda backs M23. Rwanda denies it.

Martin Kobler, head of the U.N. mission known as MONUSCO, said populated areas and U.N. positions had been directly attacked during the clashes on Thursday.

"I have ordered the MONUSCO Force to react and to take necessary action to protect civilians and prevent an advance by the M23," he said, without elaborating.

A Reuters reporter in Goma said three shells landed in the town and saw the bodies of two children killed in one of the explosions. Another civilian was killed and four others wounded, officials at a local hospital said. Two Congolese soldiers were also wounded, they said.

Fighting initially broke out late on Wednesday.

A senior U.N. official, who asked not to be named, said that on Thursday the rebels entered a security zone surrounding Goma, which was established by a new, robustly-mandated U.N. Intervention Brigade earlier this month.

The official said M23 had fired the shells that fell on Goma and across the border in Rwanda.

### **Rwanda Blames Congo Army**

Rwanda's defence ministry acknowledged a rocket had hit the Rwandan border village of Buga but blamed it on the Congolese army, calling it "completely unprovoked and senseless".

No casualties were reported in Rwanda, but the ministry said the explosion had damaged property.

The rebels rejected accusations they were behind Thursday's shelling, saying it was done by Congolese soldiers in an attempt to draw peacekeepers and Rwandan troops into the fight.

"We want the (Congolese army) removed from Goma and for it to be protected by the neutral forces of MONUSCO and the police. We have no intention of entering Goma," M23 spokesman Amani Kabasha said. "We are waiting for negotiations to start."

The M23 rebels began taking large swathes of Congo's volatile east early last year, accusing the central government of failing to honour a previous peace deal.

They dealt a serious blow to the image of MONUSCO - at 17,000 troops the world's largest U.N. mission - last November by marching past U.N. soldiers to briefly seize Goma.

They withdrew under a deal that called for peace negotiations between the rebels and Congolese government representatives. However the talks in the Ugandan capital Kampala have made little headway.

The 3,000-member U.N. Intervention Brigade - made up of South African, Tanzanian and Malawian troops - was established in the wake of Goma's seizure by M23 and is tasked with fighting and disarming rebel groups in Congo's volatile east.

MONUSCO said last month the new security zone established by the Intervention Brigade would keep Goma beyond the range of M23 and said the city would not come under attack again. ([Back to Top](#))

### **Chambas calls on rebel groups to engage talks over Darfur conflict**

*Sudantribune.com* Khartoum, 22/8/2013 – The joint peace mediator Mohamed Ibn Chambas on Thursday called on the rebel groups to engage separate direct talks to end the 10-year conflict in Darfur stressing that an agreement with government will pave the way for a comprehensive process for the whole Sudan.

Rebel groups including Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), two factions of Sudan Liberation Movement led by Abdel Wahid Al-Nur (SLM-AW) and Minni Minnawi (SLM-MM) say they want a holistic process to discuss the Sudanese crisis, pointing out that Darfur conflict is an expression of this national problem.

The three movements further called to associate their allies of the Sudanese Revolutionary Front (SRF) in Arusha meeting, particularly SPLM- North which fight the Sudanese government in South Kordofan and Blue Nile states.

Speaking at the inaugural session of the consultation meeting, Chambas welcomed the two delegations of JEM and SLM-MM groups who responded positively to his invitation, stressing that such encounter would help the parties to appreciate each other and build mutual confidence.

He also pointed out that Darfur conflict is a manifestation of a broader political problem in Sudan but stressed on the need to end war in order to relieve civilians who are affected by the conflict. He further added that the resolution of this crisis is a step towards the comprehensive solution that rebels demand.

He also reiterated that this meeting aims to exchange views on how to end the conflict in Darfur and the humanitarian crisis, adding that a political agreement on this issue will create a conducive environment for the comprehensive solution of the Sudanese crisis.

SLM-AW leader Abdel Wahid Al-Nur issued a statement this week rejecting to attend the consultations saying the mediation pledged to invite the SRF. On the other hand, JEM leader

Gibril Ibrahim disclosed that he, Al-Nur and Minnawi sent a joint letter asking to invite as observers the other members of the rebel coalition.

Najmaldin Mussa Abdal-Kareem, JEM deputy secretary for political affairs, told Sudan Tribune from Arush they will speak on Friday as the first session was dedicated to Chambas and his aides who gave three papers about humanitarian crisis, security situation, and the different peace processes.

Abdel-Kareem said they intend to tackle the different aspects of Darfur conflict including the problematic of peace in Darfur, civilians' protection and how to achieve a comprehensive peace agreement.

Abdallah Mursal, SLM-MM spokesperson, two days ago, said they want to take this opportunity to draw attention to the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Darfur adding they will file some propositions on this regard to the joint peacekeeping operation there.

Arusha consultations are the first meeting between the non-signatory rebel groups and the mediation since the signing of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur in July 2013. Only JEM was part of the Doha talks. ([Back to Top](#))

### **Sudan deadly floods affect 300,000 people - WHO**

**BBC News**, 23/8/2013 – More than 300,000 people across Sudan have been affected by floods that have killed nearly 50 people in August, the World Health Organization has said.

It said the region around the capital Khartoum had been particularly badly hit and was experiencing the worst floods in 25 years.

One of the major risks to health was the collapse of more than 53,000 latrines, the WHO added. A UN official in Sudan described the situation as "a huge disaster".

In a report, the WHO said that 48 people had been killed and 70 injured in the floods. It warned of increasing trends of malaria cases in the past two weeks.

Meanwhile, Sudan Interior Minister Mahmoud Hamed put the confirmed death toll at 53, according to the AFP news agency. The WHO also said property had been damaged in 14 of Sudan's 18 states.

Mark Cutts, the head of the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Sudan, told AFP last week the world body was ready to help those affected by the disaster.

He added that this was despite the fact that UN humanitarian operations "have been severely underfunded" this year. ([Back to Top](#))

### **Police officer claims of corruption in interior ministry earns him four years in jail**

**Sudantribune.com** Khartoum, 22/8/2013 – A Sudanese court in Khartoum sentenced a police officer to four years in jail and a fine equivalent to 4,000 pounds after convicting him on charges of smearing the reputation of the Interior Ministry and providing false information.

Captain Abu Zeid Abdullah Saleh was suspended by the ministry and referred to a special police court after he sent a memorandum to President Omer Hassan al-Bashir through presidential assistant Abdel-Rahman al-Mahdi which he also submitted to the Sudanese Police Director.

Saleh's 13-page letter contained allegations of corruption within the ministry which he also shared with the Interior minister.

Later the ministry suspended him from duty and ordered that he stand before an inquiry committee which recommended that he be tried and placed in maximum security imprisonment.

The judge has refused to approve a request by Saleh's defense team to subpoena several senior officials to testify including al-Mahdi, interior minister Ibrahim Mahmoud Hamid and police Chief General Hashim Osman Hussein



He also rejected adding four more defense lawyers to the defense team prompting the latter to withdraw briefly before returning after internal deliberations.

They instead decided to file a complaint against the court with Chief Justice, Justice Minister, Interior Minister and lawyers syndicate among several parties.

The also pledged to discuss the defendant's allegations with the Sudanese presidency and present documentary evidence that were excluded from the trial by the court.

Early in 2012, president Bashir ordered the establishment of an anti-corruption commission to "monitor and follow what is being published in the media about corruption," and to coordinate with the Presidency of the Republic and other competent authorities in the Ministry of Justice and the National Assembly in order to complete information on what is being raised about corruption on the state level".

But after more than a year of seemingly zero activity, Bashir sacked the commission head and did not appoint a replacement dealing blow to demands by the public for more robust investigation of corruption.

Bashir himself has persistently downplayed the magnitude of corruption saying that most of it amount to nothing more than rumors without credible proof. ([Back to Top](#))

### **Former president Mubarak to be placed under house arrest**

*AllAfrica.com*, 22/8/2013 – A supporter holds a poster of Egyptian former president Hosni Mubarak during a demonstration in Cairo, Egypt.

Former Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak is set to leave jail after a court ordered him freed pending trial. However, he is to be placed under house arrest when he does leave prison.

The prime minister's office said it would place the 85-year-old Mubarak under house arrest on the basis of Egypt's current state of emergency. It remains unclear exactly when Mubarak might leave prison, or where authorities would take him, though he is expected to go to one of three facilities later on Thursday.

The April 6 protest movement, which in part led the uprising that caused Mubarak to step down in early 2011, condemned the court order as a "deviation from the course of the revolution."

Mubarak faces prosecution for corruption and for complicity in the deaths of hundreds of people killed during the uprising against him. Last year, a court sentenced him to life in prison for complicity, but he went on to win an appeal. The former president may appear at his next scheduled hearing, on Sunday, although he has not always attended court sessions in the cases against him.

The court ordered Mubarak's release after a hearing on charges that he accepted gifts from a state-owned newspaper, the last case keeping him in detention, where he has spent over two years. In the past when courts have approved Mubarak's release, prosecutors have leveled new charges to keep him in detention. The state news agency MENA reported, however, that Wednesday's decision could not be contested because it was issued by an appeals court.

MENA reported that interim Prime Minister Hazem el-Beblawi would decide where to hold Mubarak. Potential locations include the strongman's residence in Sharm al-Sheikh, as well as two military hospitals that have treated him in recent years: one in Cairo and one north of the capital. ([Back to Top](#))

### **Civilian destruction in Jonglei: Khartoum's role in arming David Yau Yau's militia**

*South Sudan News Agency*, 22/8/2013 – There is a great deal of biased attention when it comes to international assessments of the ongoing ethnic strife in Jonglei. UN reports from the ground, primarily from the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), suggest a recent diminishment of violence, and humanitarian access may be improving. Both UNMISS and the

Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) are performing more effectively, and a very recent UN assessment indicated that tensions between the SPLA and civilians was diminishing. Certainly the situation is far from stabilized; ethnic tensions remain high, particularly between the Murle and the Lou Nuer; and it must be emphasized that the previous behavior of the SPLA has entailed very serious violations of human rights and a failure to distinguish between Murle civilians and those Murle who have joined David Yau Yau's rebellion.

But let us be clear as to why Yau Yau's group has been able to create the havoc it has, why it has been able to engage in a kind of provocative guerilla warfare that makes distinguishing civilians and combatants particularly difficult, and why it is unlikely to cease action despite the generous offer of amnesty from Juba. This rebel group, deep in South Sudan's Jonglei State, has been repeatedly armed by Khartoum as part of a larger effort to destabilize the South. Armaments have come overland, but also have been airlifted by Khartoum's Antonov aircraft to Yau Yau. Again, this effort is an extension of a broader war of attrition that has as its goal the collapse of the state of South Sudan. Certainly Jonglei would not present nearly the challenges it does without the activities of Yau Yau's group; and Yau Yau's group would not be able to operate—without a political agenda and trading almost exclusively on ethnic grievances—without substantial military support from Khartoum.

Despite these facts, international condemnation over developments in Jonglei has fallen almost exclusively on Juba. I have myself been publicly critical of SPLA human rights abuses in Jonglei (<http://www.sudanreeves.org/?p=4108>), but would hope such criticism is seen within the broader assessment of the causes of violence against civilians in Jonglei. That so little is said on this score by the UN, the U.S., the EU, the African Union and others signals both expediency and disingenuousness.

I have discussed at length the evidence that Khartoum is supporting Yau Yau's group and—by contrast—the complete absence of evidence for the regime's claim that South Sudan is supporting rebel groups within Sudan ("The arming of rebels in Sudan and South Sudan: What is the evidence?" 17 June 2013, <http://www.sudanreeves.org/?p=4059>). I survey a great deal of evidence from recent years, and little has change in the intervening months to change the conclusions reached.

Moreover, a new study by the Small Arms Survey provides even more detailed evidence that armaments used by Yau Yau's group are purposefully sent by the National Islamic Front/National Congress Party in a desperate effort to undermine South Sudan before Sudan's own continuing economic implosion sweeps this corrupt and desperate regime from power. Although relatively brief, the detail and authority of the evidence and conclusions is overwhelming. It is also clear that Khartoum has begun an aggressive effort to disguise the origins of weapons by grinding off identifying numbers. I can do no better than to cite the key findings of this critical report (see website for high resolution photographs; all emphases are added)—

Small Arms Survey, "Weapons Captured from David Yau Yau's Militia, July 2013"

<http://www.smallarmssurveysudan.org/fileadmin/docs/facts-figures/arms-ammunition-tracing-desk/HSBA-Tracing-Desk-Yau-Yau-July-2013.pdf>

During the first half of 2013, Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) forces operating in Jonglei seized a variety of weapons and ammunition from rebel forces under the command of David Yau Yau. The Small Arms Survey previously documented weapons with a group of Yau Yau's men who defected under the leadership of James Kubrin in December 2012.

This report expands on the findings of the initial fieldwork. The Small Arms Survey and the independent research group Conflict Armament Research visited SPLA divisional headquarters in Paryak, Bor County, on 5 July 2013 to view a range of weapons that the SPLA had captured subsequent to the February site visit. These weapons, which are described below, are identical in type to those documented earlier in the year. They also include many of the same weapon and ammunition types that have been documented in the hands of Khartoum-backed rebel forces elsewhere in South Sudan, including the South Sudan

Liberation Army (SSLA), the South Sudan Democratic Movement/Army (SSDM/A) under the leadership of George Athor, and Johnson Olony's Shilluk militia.

Among the most striking findings of the July fieldwork in Jonglei was the significant increase in the number of weapons seen with removed serial numbers and factory marks. The most logical explanation for the increase is that actor(s) in the supply chain wish to obscure their sourcing. These designs are consistent with types observed in the Survey's February 2013 site visit of weapons. They are also of the same type observed with returning South Sudan Liberation Army (SSLA) forces in Mayom (May 2013), Johnson Olony's forces in Lul, Upper Nile (July 2013), those collected from George Athor's forces (February 2012), and seized from the SSLA in April 2011. In all cases, respective rebel forces report that the weapons have been supplied through Khartoum, though this cannot be independently corroborated. The weapons are similar in design to Iranian RPG-7-pattern models.

The trigger assemblies feature no viable identifying marks although a serial number (formerly positioned on the launch tube above the sight bracket) appears to have been removed by grinding and later painted (see images below). One example of many Chinese CQ assault rifles viewed, with associated 5.56 x 45 mm magazine and ammunition (addressed below). The rear sight housing/carry handle of the weapon has been deformed by a bullet impact. In all cases observed, identifying factory marks—which typically appear on the left-hand side of the magazine housing—have been removed by milling, indicated by the bright metal observable in the images above and below. In the left-hand image below, black paint was evidently applied after milling, although the paint has abraded with use. The weapons, and mode of milling, are identical to examples documented with Yau Yau's forces (February 2013), returning SSLA forces in Mayom (May 2013), and Johnson Olony's forces in Lul (July 2013). A number of these rifles were seized in Pibor [Jonglei] in July 2013.

This weapon is identical to PKM-pattern weapons documented in service with a range of Khartoum-backed rebel forces in South Sudan. Weapons of this kind have been identified bearing the model designation 'M80' (see HSBA Tracing Desk Report 'Weapons seized from the forces of George Athor and John Duit,' December 2012) although this particular weapon's model designation and additional marks have been removed by grinding (see images below). This 5.56 x 45 mm small-calibre ammunition is identical to types documented with Yau Yau's forces.

Of an international community that is bringing pressure to bear on Juba over its military actions in Jonglei and failing to take seriously the implications of such authoritative findings—and in turn bringing appropriate pressure to bear on Khartoum—we must say again that this represents shamefully expedient accommodation of a regime that survives only because of its unlimited capacity and willingness to generate vast human destruction. ([Back to Top](#))

*Eric Reeves is a professor at Smith College and has written extensively on Sudan.*

### **Early marriages hinder South Sudan prospects**

**Gurtong.net** Yei, 23/8/2013 – South Sudan leaders have noted that early marriage has continued to affect and demoralize the future development prospects of the new nation.

Eastern Equatoria State government has already raised concerns seeking appropriate ways and efforts to reverse the continuing practice in the region.

They say many indigenous pastoralist communities in Eastern Equatoria State marry off their underage girls when they are supposed to attend to classes as early as less than 14 years old only for wealth which is in form of cows.

The state leaders have held the communities responsible for the practices that block their development prospects.

While appealing for collective responsibility, Eastern Equatoria State citizens have voted that the communities must remain a solution to discontinue the ongoing problems by discouraging harmful cultures which aim at destroying girl-child's future.

They say one of the solutions is going to school which in most favour taking care of animals and marrying off those female ones for wealth.

The 2010 Sudan Household Health Survey (SHHS) has indicated that about 40 percent of South Sudanese girls are married off when they are still children, before they reach the age of 18.

Speaking this year in commemoration of African Child Day in June, Dr Priscilla Nyang Joseph noted that child marriage is still a big problem in South Sudan and it partly accounts for the high illiteracy rates in the country as only 6.2 percent of girls enrolled complete the full primary school cycle.

It also accounts for the high maternal deaths in the country as girls' bodies are not fully developed for motherhood.

Globally, one in three young women aged 20-24 years were first married before they reached age 18. One third of them entered into marriage before they turned 15.

"Child marriage is a violation of girls' basic rights - to a childhood, to an education, to good health and to make decisions about her own life. It can lead to unwanted pregnancies and even death. The only way to end this harmful cultural and social practice is through collective efforts from everyone in the society right from the grass root level to the policy-makers level," said UNICEF's Officer-in-Charge, Fatuma Hamidali Ibrahim.

The South Sudan Child Act 2008 prohibits subjecting children to negative and harmful practices that affect their health, welfare and dignity. The Child Act also protects every female child from sexual abuse and exploitation and gender-based violence, including rape, incest, early and forced marriage, female circumcision and female genital mutilation. Child marriage results in early and unwanted pregnancies, posing life-threatening risks, sometimes even DEATH for girls.

Preventing child marriage will protect girls' rights and help reduce their risks of violence, early pregnancy, HIV infection, maternal death and disability. When girls are able to stay in school and avoid being married early, they can build a foundation for a better life for themselves and their families and participate in the progress of their nations.

Under the leadership of the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, UNICEF and other partners are working on a range of activities to create awareness among the general public on the need to prevent and end child marriage in South Sudan. ([Back to Top](#))

### **When is it right for a government to seize a journalist's source material?**

*Radio Voice of Russia*, 23/8/2013 – As the debate of the detention of David Miranda at Heathrow continues, VoR's Scott Craig discusses the issues with Richard Norton Taylor who writes on Security and Defence matters for the Guardian and - first - Milo Yiannopolous, founder & editor-in-chief of online technology magazine The Kernel.

Milo Yiannopolous: It was very clear that he should have been detained. Whether or not the authorities ought to have used section 7, use that particular piece of terrorism legislation, is a matter of debate. But it is absolutely clear that he was rightfully detained. The fact is that he was an active part of the Guardian's investigation. They've paid for his plane tickets. He was document mule for his boyfriend. And whether or not this specific piece of legislation that was invoked was the right one in this instance doesn't really matter because there were plenty of others that could have been.

He was carrying documents that in all likelihood, at least as far as the authorities were concerned, may well have been stolen from one or more governments, whether it was the UK or the US. These are very sensitive documents that it is absolutely right for the authorities to investigate and to seize where appropriate. The problem the Guardian has with all of this is that they released an interesting report and then vastly overplayed the hand.

And unfortunately, what we've seen with this detention is that it is typical of not only Glenn Greenwald's reporting particularly, but it is also a behavior of the Guardian generally, which

is that they release good pieces of journalism and then massively overplay the hand. And the hysteria and outrage that has surrounded this, which has been sort of swept up into this discussion about press freedom and state oppression, it as I say is hysteria.

Richard Norton Taylor, if David Miranda was in possession of stolen documents the authorities were right to detain him, were they not?

Richard Norton Taylor: They certainly weren't right to detain him on the basis of terrorism legislation. And there is no evidence, by the way, that he had any document which was stolen or otherwise. If governments go around the world stopping and arresting, although Miranda was not arrested, he was kept for 9 hours by the security authorities in Britain, if governments do that – then a lot of journalists will or could be seized. It is kind of whim on a general suspicion that they have stolen documents or information which could be useful for terrorists. Many other journalists who have been writing about defense and security matter for a long time have lots of information which could be useful to terrorists. And when your interlocutor says that the Guardian has overplayed the hand, it just seems extraordinary to me. The British Government itself has certainly overplayed his hand because all the arrest of Miranda has done is increased or winded up the controversy over an issue, which does raise important principles, including that of how the press goes by its work.

Milo Yiannopolous, the real issue here is not actually about David Miranda, is it? I mean, it is not about what he had or didn't have, under which laws he was detained at Heathrow and so on. The real issue surely is what the Edward Snowden files, that have been released and leaked, expose about the scale of US and UK surveillance.

Milo Yiannopolous: Absolutely not! And I'm very disturbed by some of the coulda-woulda-shoulda language that is being used by your other guest. The fact is that this was not a vague step in the dark. This was a targeted detention. It was a detention of somebody who was carrying large quantities of electronic equipment which the authorities believe contained large quantities of stolen information. I mean, how are we supposed to have evidence until we stop people? How do you solve crimes until you arrest people? It is simply absurd to say that you can't arrest anyone until you've got firm evidence. How on earth would you get it?

You have to have a just cause to stop someone.

Milo Yiannopolous: It is perfectly reasonable. Just cause is that he is an active part of the Guardian investigation which involves stolen documents from the Government.

And the Government is therefore entitled to stop any journalist that it feels has information which is detrimental to its interests?

Milo Yiannopolous: The Government is absolutely entitled to protect the national security. There are limits to what journalists can and should responsibly do. I'm not one of those people who believe that journalists are above the law, that we can do anything, anywhere, with any documents we chose, release any information we chose without consequence because there are consequences to these things.

We saw this with WikiLeaks. Nobody will ever know what the consequences were, will continue to be and will be in the future of the reckless lunatic Julian Assange releasing documents that concern foreign intelligence all over the world. How many informants will be killed? How many people will suffer? How much of our efforts have been retarded across the world by that sort of thing?

It is absolutely right and proper that the Government should have secrets, they cannot operate without them. This was a targeted detention which was entirely right and proper. If they happen to cite the wrong piece of legislation, so what? They picked this one because it is easy, because the police like to use it, because it is very convenient. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

UNMISS Spokesperson  
Tel.: +211 (0) 912 06 7149 or Mobile: +211 (0) 912 396 539