



United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)

Media & Spokesperson Unit
Communications & Public Information Office

MEDIA MONITORING REPORT

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SOUTH SUDAN

- IRI disputes report on political party polls (*Sudantribune.com*)
- Guns seized during latest arms clampdown in Bor (*Theniles.org*)
- Yei elders form oversight committee (*Radio Easter*)
- Torit prison almost complete (*Gurtong.net*)
- Save the children launches child rights coalition (*Catholic Radio Network*)
- Over 30 executive chiefs undergo training (*Radio Easter*)

SOUTH SUDAN, SUDAN

- Sudan says certain circles trying to escalate Abyei issue (*Sudantribune.com*)

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- Sudan issues arrest warrant against journalist over Abu-Kershola report (*Sudantribune.com*)
- Sudanese people realize defending homeland more urgent than food & drink: NCP (*Sudantribune.com*)
- UN chief appoints new UNAMID force commander (*Sudantribune.com*)
- Egypt TV airs live discussion of Ethiopia dam sabotage plans (*Sudantribune.com*)
- Egyptian politicians caught in on-air Ethiopia dam gaffe (*BBC News*)
- 38 dead in Sudanese road accident (*Voice of Russia*)
- UN Chief says new arms treaty will end 'free for all' nature of weapons trade (*UN News Center/AllAfrica.com*)

OPINION/ANALYSIS/EDITORIAL

- Time to refer President Kiir and the oye machine to ICC (*South Sudan News Agency (SSNA)*)

LINKS TO STORIES FROM THE MORNING MEDIA MONITOR

- South Sudan militia leader responds to presidential amnesty (*Sudantribune.com*)
- Rumbek SPLM assistant secretary warns youth against tribalism (*Sudantribune.com*)
- Unity:Mayo commissioner accused of involvement in cattle raid attack (*Sudantribune.com*)
- SPLM temporarily closes its W. Bahr el Ghazal office (*Sudantribune.com*)
- Agricultural Bank for South Sudan (*Gurtong.net*)
- Kapoeta gets over 900 metric tons of relief food (*Sudan Catholic Radio Network*)
- Security closes SPLM office in Wau (*Sudan Catholic Radio Network*)
- 30 combatants learn sexually transmitted infections (*Sudan Catholic Radio Network*)

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Highlights

IRI disputes report on political party polls

Sudantribune.com Juba, 4/6/2013 – The International Republican Institute (IRI) has dismissed an “inaccurate” media reports alleging its recently conducted opinion poll showed 89% of citizens in the Greater Bahr el Ghazal region preferred a new political party in South Sudan.

The report, which leaked to *Sudan Tribune*, was based on results from an opinion poll, whose findings are yet to be publicly announced. *Sudan Tribune* clearly indicated they were unpublished results.

However, IRI, in a statement issued Tuesday, described the report as “misleading”, but acknowledged it had conducted opinions polls, whose findings, it said, were still incomplete.

“The article claims to produce findings from a recent public opinion poll conducted by IRI in South Sudan, but the poll has not been completed so any information about the poll cannot be verified and cannot be known,” the statement reads in part.

"Any source claiming otherwise is simply making up information", it added, while assuring the public that it is in the process of seeking additional clarification on the matter. IRI does not, however, query the authenticity of whatever was published.

Data from its most recent national poll, done in May this year, are currently being analyzed, with its findings expected to be publicly released, once all the work is complete. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

Guns seized during latest arms clampdown in Bor

Theniles.org Bor, 4/6/2013 – Officials seized 85 guns during a weapons search in Bor on Wednesday, May 29, as police blocked all routes into the capital of Jonglei State and closed the market.

It is the latest phase of a long-running disarmament campaign in Jonglei State and Bor town, where the government seeks to remove illegal weapons from civilians.

“We got 85 AK47 rifles, one PKM and many pistols from civilian houses,” said Moses Majok Adol, Commissioner of South Sudan’s Police in Jonglei State after the search last Wednesday.

The arms search targeted individuals hoarding guns who could use them to rob or commit other crimes, Majok Adol said. Individual’s houses were earmarked by security forces for inspection.

Tensions are running high in the region amid talk that rebel David Yau Yau may attack Bor. A month ago, hundreds of organised forces and soldiers deserted their positions in Pibor County due to a shortage of food and arrived at Bor, panicking locals.

A force comprising of more than 1,000 soldiers, officials and police officers were deployed early on Wednesday morning to ensure that no one could hide their weapons. In previous weapons searches, people were seen burying their guns in the soil to avoid confiscation by the police.

Officials told the locals to remain calm, calling for cooperation with the forces. All the roads leading to and out of Bor town were sealed off.

The clampdown follows numerous cases of robbery at gunpoint reported in Bor over the last year.

But residents told The Niles that they remain fearful as gun ownership is common in the entire settlement, not just the homes targeted by the latest search.

Last Year in March, South Sudan launched a state-wide operation deploying an extra 15,000 police and soldiers in Jonglei State to restore peace, following a spike in raids and retaliatory violence between cattle herding groups. The national army is currently fighting a rebellion in Jonglei’s Pibor County led by David Yau Yau.

“We got 85 AK47 rifles, one PKM and many pistols from civilian houses.”

Moses Majok AdolRebel David Yau Yau, an ethnic Murle and former theology student, first rebelled in 2010 after failing to win a seat in the parliament. After accepting an amnesty in 2011, once the country won independence, he took up arms again a year later.

Thousands of locals have fled their homes since the start of the Pibor County rebellion. The current unrest is the latest chapter in a long history of insecurity, involving militias and rebels, inter-communal conflict, cattle raids and child abductions. This history has impeded development and infrastructure-building in the large eastern state. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

Yei elders form oversight committee

Radio Easter Yei, 4/6/2013 – Yei River County elders formed a committee to oversee and re-organise their activities in the five payams.

The committee is headed by Alfred Obebu, deputised by Gordon T. Loworo and Panuel Kenyi is elected a secretary, *Radio Easter* reported.

Mr Obebu said the committee aims at raising awareness and creating peaceful co-existence among communities.

County Commissioner Juma David Augustine appealed to the committee to mobilise the elders into one umbrella and form a general assembly before elections.

The committee will run the office for one month. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

Torit prison almost complete

Gurtong.net Torit, 4/6/2013 – Construction of the Torit County Prison is nearing completion. The correctional facility in the Eastern Equatoria State capital Torit is being constructed with funds from the United Nations Development Program [UNDP].

When *Gurtong* visited the site, workmen were putting final touches on the perimeter wall.

The Director of the facility Colonel Anthony Lemi Membi said the wall will enhance security especially preventing prisoners from escaping from the detention centre besides shielding inmates from intruders.

Colonel Membi expressed his gratitude at the progress and thanked the UNDP for its continued support to development of governance structures in South Sudan.

He said that the facility was expected to be ready last month, but said the contractor was putting final touches in preparation for handover.

The United Nations Mission in South Sudan officials also toured the facility alongside state government officials. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

Save the children launches child rights coalition

Catholic Radio Network, 4/6/2013 – Save the Children on Tuesday launched South Sudan Child Rights Coalition, a network of civil society organizations to ensure all children get their rights.

The coalition comprises 19 organizations from the ten states, Radio Bakhita reported.

Coalition chairperson Paulino Akuei said they decided to work together to realize children rights in the country.

He said the Coalition will work together with international NGOs, national and states governments.

Save the Children Deputy Programme Director Nadia Noor said the Coalition will bring huge impact on the life of children in South Sudan.

She called on the actors to listen to children and work according to children's best interests.

Child Welfare Director in the Ministry of Gender Celina Peter said the government would work closely with the actors to see positive impact in children's life.

She said the ministry would work closely with the policies makers and the law enforcement agencies to ensure that children's rights are protected.

The coalition was formed in November last year to assess issues that affect children. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

Over 30 executive chiefs undergo training

Radio Easter, 4/6/2013 – More than thirty executive chiefs from Terekeka and Juba Counties of Central Equatoria State are undergoing three-day training on conflict mitigation and rule of law in Yei River County.

State minister for Local Government Albert Pitia Redentore said the training focuses on settling boarder conflicts, cattle raiding and Land Act, Radio Easter reported.

The minister encouraged the chiefs to raise awareness on negative impact of domestic violence, forceful marriages and promote girls education.

Central Equatoria State Secretariat for Conflict Mitigation organised the training supported by United States Agency for International Development or USAID. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

Sudan says certain circles trying to escalate Abyei issue

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 4/6/2013 – Sudan's ruling National Congress Party (NCP) has accused unspecified parties of seeking to escalate the situation in the disputed Abyei border region by creating a climate which suggests the failure of Khartoum and Juba to arrive at an agreed solution and hence pave the way for international intervention.

The head of the NCP's organizational communication, Hamid Sideeg, who spoke to reporters yesterday, urged international partners to abide by the Abyei protocol which they have signed and deposited into the United Nations (UN), the African (AU) Union, and the Arab League (AL).

The NCP official stressed that international partners should respect the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and pointed that his party is committed to a solution based on the Abyei protocol warning that an escalation would hurt both parties.

Sideeg further said that Abyei issue is not only confined to the Arab Misseriya tribe, but is of interest to all Sudanese people who must participate in its development and support all its residents describing it as a "nation's issue". [\(Back to Top\)](#)

Sudan issues arrest warrant against journalist over Abu-Kershola report

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 4/6/2013 – A Sudanese journalist was arrested on Tuesday night following a complaint filed against him by the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) over a report attributed to him detailing events that occurred during a visit by top military officials to an area in South Kordofan recently taken back by Khartoum from rebels.

Khalid Ahmed, who works in the privately-owned al-Sudani newspaper, was one of three reporters who accompanied SAF chief of staff Lieutenant General Ismat Abdel-Rahman to Abu-Kershola.

Abu-Kershola which is located in north east of South Kordofan state and on the border with North Kordofan, had been seized by the rebel Sudan Revolutionary Front (SRF) fighters in late April, but SAF was able to recapture the town last week.

SRF rebels however, claimed it withdrew voluntarily for humanitarian reasons

The disputed report which was published on several Sudanese websites and seen by Sudan Tribune showed a demoralized and ill-prepared army struggling to defend the area which was still surrounded by SRF rebels.

Ahmed has reportedly claimed that his email and Facebook page were hacked allowing the infiltrators to get hold of his photos in Abu-Kershola and maliciously edit his original report filed with al-Sudani to include false accounts.

Calls made by Sudan Tribune to al-Sudani editor in Chief Mr. Diaa al-Deen Balal went unanswered.

Ahmed is scheduled to appear tomorrow at the state security prosecutor's office.

According to the report, the convoy of Lt. Gen. Abdel-Rahman moving just outside Abu-Kershola to inspect troops came under heavy fire from SRF rebels in the nearby mountains forcing them to retreat back to city center.

From there Brigadier General Adil Ali al-Kinani, who headed the SAF unit which recaptured Abu-Kershola, started directing tanks to advance and take positions to fire on rebel positions.

Another senior officer who held the rank of Major General in the SAF air force was speaking via radio to call for military aircrafts in North Kordofan capital city of al-Obeid to come and help fend off a potential rebel attack, the report said.

Once the military helicopter arrived, the unnamed general started directing it to attack the rebels in the mountains only to be shot down 15 minutes later prompting criticism from one of his peers in the ground forces for "misjudgment" and involving it in the battle without knowledge of the situation on the ground.

The report also claimed that during these heated and dramatic moments, the army chief of staff went to take a nap under the tree to the point where they could hear him snore.

Last Friday SRF rebels said that they downed a military helicopter near Abu Kershola but the army denied the rebel claims saying it came down because of a technical failure.

A few hours later, the military officers devised a plan that would enable them to reach the helicopter and leave safely without being fired upon from rebels.

Acting on the plan, seven tanks started shelling the mountains heavily to allow the helicopter carrying the top SAF leaders to take off safely.

The report also included several items that likely aggravated SAF including the observation that soldiers had to make their own meals as opposed to having a specialized unit prepare it for them. It also witnessed injured soldiers lying under the trees.

Some of the Abu-Kershola residents who allegedly spoke to the reporter denied government claims of mass killings and rape carried out by SRF during their one-month occupation. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

Sudanese people realize defending homeland more urgent than food & drink: NCP

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 4/6/2013 – Sudan's ruling National Congress Party (NCP) today argued that Sudanese people would ignore calls by opposition parties to topple the government on the grounds of difficult living conditions.

The head of the NCP's organizational communication, Hamid Sideeg, said that Sudanese people are sharing with the government the sense that the country is being targeted and priority should be given to its security and protection.

Sideeg however, acknowledged peoples' right to demand improvement in their living conditions needs but said that priority is now given to securing and protecting the country against foreign intervention.

The NCP official responded to questions regarding the deterioration in basic services such as the severe water problem in Gedaref and Port Sudan states by saying that Sudanese people will not be "weakened" by lack of necessary services despite their vital importance. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

UN chief appoints new UNAMID force commander

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 4/6/2013 – The United Nations and the African Union have appointed Lt. General Paul Ignace Mella, the new force commander of its Hybrid Operations in Darfur (UNAMID).

Lt. Gen Mella, a Tanzanian, replaces Rwanda's Lt. Gen. Patrick Nyamvumba, who completed his assignment at the end of March.

In a statement, the UN Secretary-General, Ban ki-moon expressed deep appreciation to the outgoing force commander for his dedication and "invaluable" service at UNAMID.

The new force commander reportedly brings with him a long and distinguished career with the Tanzanian military, having most recently served as the Chief of Defence Intelligence Organization in Dar es Salaam.

A holder of a Masters in Security and Strategic Studies from South African Defense College, Lt. Gen. Mella, also held a number of important operational, command and staff positions, prior to his work as Tanzania's intelligence chief.

Born in 1955, the new UNAMID force commander previously served as Director of Foreign Intelligence in the Tanzania Peoples' Defence Forces, Commanding Officer of an Infantry Battalion in the UN Mission in Liberia and Defence Adviser at the Tanzania High Commission in the Republic of Uganda. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

Egypt TV airs live discussion of Ethiopia dam sabotage plans

Sudantribune.com Addis Ababa, 4/6/2013 – Egyptian politicians were reportedly caught proposing anti-Ethiopia sabotage plans after a closed door meeting held on Monday was broadcast live on air without their knowledge.

Chaired by Egypt's president, Mohammed Morsi, the national dialogue centered on Egypt's stance towards Ethiopia's dam building on the Blue Nile River, which downstream countries Sudan and Egypt rely upon.

Ethiopia's announced last week that in the process of building the Great Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) in the Benshangul Gumuz region, which is just 30km from the border with Sudan, the flow of the Blue Nile River had been diverted.

Addis Ababa has downplayed the impact of the diversion and the dam itself, arguing that the new hydroelectric dam will benefit downstream countries as they will be able to buy green energy from Ethiopia.

At the meeting, Egyptian political figures including opposition political parties consulted on ways how to stop Ethiopia from continuing to build the massive \$4.8 billion dam.

A number of political parties have put forward hostile acts while the world was watching them Live on TV.

The head of the conservative Islamist Nur Party, Yunis Makhyun, said the dam project is a danger for Egypt's national security and suggested backing Ethiopian rebels as a means to destroy the project.

"We can communicate with them [Rebels] and use them as a bargaining chip against the Ethiopian government" he said.

Makhyoun went onto saying: "If all this fails, then there is no choice left for Egypt but to play the final card, which is using the intelligence service to destroy the dam."

Ayman Nour, head of the liberal Ghad Party, suggested spreading rumours that Egypt was buying advanced military planes that could be understood in Ethiopia as a plan to airstrike.

According to him these rumours would create a climate of fear in Ethiopia and the Ethiopian government will that way then begin to cooperate with Egypt's interest.

He also proposed that Egypt deploys a political, intelligence and military teams to the East African nation.

“We need to intervene in their domestic affairs” Nour added.

Spreading rumours which say that Egypt is planning military attack to destroy the dam was also among proposed ideas by the politicians.

However, some of the others present warned that spreading rumours or military action was dangerous and could turn Ethiopians into enemies of Egypt further, suggesting using diplomatic approach as best option.

After listening their views, Egyptian President, Mursi, concluded that Egypt respects Ethiopia and its people and his country won't engage in any aggressive acts.

On the contrary however AFP on same day (Monday) reported that President Mohamed Mursi warned that Cairo will not allow any move that would diminish its share of Nile water even by “one drop”.

“We cannot let even one drop of Nile water be affected,” Mursi said in a meeting aired by the state television.

APOLOGIES OVER LIVE TV

An Egyptian presidential assistant has apologised for allowing the politicians' meeting was broadcast live on air without their knowledge.

“Due to the importance of the topic it was decided at the last minute to air the meeting live. I forgot to inform the participants about the changes,” presidential aide for political affairs Pakinam El-Sharkawi said on Twitter.

“I apologise for any embarrassment caused to the political leaders”.

It was said that the incident was a huge embarrassment for the new leadership in Egypt.

ETHIOPIA READY FOR NILE TALKS

The Panel of Experts d tasked to study the impact of Nile dam has announced its final findings last week and has submitted the report to government of Sudan Ethiopia and Egypt.

The report concluded that Ethiopia's dam project won't have a negative impact on lower riparian countries of Sudan and Egypt.

Ethiopia's Minister for Water Resources, Alemayehu Tegen, on Tuesday said Egypt has no reason to worry over the dam project

"We do not have any plan to harm downstream countries, Sudan and Egypt. If Egypt has some issues to discuss with Ethiopia, we are very ready to discuss them."

Ethiopia last week began diverting the flow of the Nile River rising concerns in Cairo.

With regard to the diversion the Ethiopian Minister said "river diversion does not stop the flow of water to the downstream countries”.

He added that the “river diversion means it is the rerouting of the river flow to facilitate the construction in the riverbed, nothing else."

EGYPT'S NILE PANEL

After the release of the tripartite panel's report, Egypt's government has decided to set up its own panel that will follow-up the Ethiopia's dam being built in Nile River.

The panel established by the Egyptian cabinet will study the potential impacts the dam causes on the amount of water that reaches Egypt.

The panel will deliver its findings to President Mohamed Morsi.

The spokesperson at Ethiopia's ministry of foreign affairs, Dina Mufti, on Monday told Sudan Tribune that the tripartite panel's final report will end water disputes.

The tripartite committee was a team of 10 experts, among whom six are from Sudan, Egypt and Ethiopia while the four others are international experts. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

Egyptian politicians caught in on-air Ethiopia dam gaffe

BBC News, 4/6/2013 – Egyptian politicians are embarrassed after being caught suggesting hostile acts against Ethiopia to stop it from building a dam across the Blue Nile.

They were inadvertently heard on live TV proposing military action at a meeting called by President Mohammed Morsi.

Ethiopia last week started diverting the flow of the river in preparation for the \$4.2bn hydroelectric dam.

The Blue Nile is one of two major tributaries of the Nile.

On completion, the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam would be Africa's largest.

It is expected to produce 6,000 megawatts, and its reservoir is scheduled to start filling next year.

Apology

As the participants did not know that the meeting was being aired live by state TV, they spoke their minds unreservedly.

Their suggestions centred on military action as a decisive response to what one of them called a "declaration of war".

One of the politicians suggested sending Special Forces to destroy the dam; another thought of jet fighters to scare the Ethiopians; and a third called for Egypt to support rebel groups fighting the government in Addis Ababa.

"This could yield results in the diplomatic arena;" liberal politician and former presidential candidate Ayman Nour told the gathering.

Muhammad Anwar al-Sadat, the leader of the secular Reform and Development party, said the presidency should have warned the participants in advance that the meeting would be broadcast live.

"I am afraid most of the politicians who attended the meeting were not well informed about such a sensitive topic," he told the BBC.

"But the statements made during the meeting do not represent the Egyptian official stance. It was just a chat between politicians who were angered by the Ethiopian plans."

A presidential adviser apologised for failing to warn politicians.

"I am sorry for any unintentional embarrassment," Bakinam al-Sharqawi said in a statement.

Egypt is the most populous country in the Middle East and highly dependent on the water of the world's longest river.

Ethiopia's decision to construct the dam challenges a colonial-era agreement that had given Egypt and Sudan rights to the Nile water, with Egypt taking 55.5 billion cubic metres and Sudan 18.5 billion cubic metres.

That agreement, first signed in 1929, took no account of the eight other nations along the 6,700km (4,160-mile) river and its basin. Those countries have been agitating for a decade for a more equitable accord. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

38 dead in Sudanese road accident

Voice of Russia, 4/6/2013 – At least 38 people were killed in a road accident in Sudan involving a bus and a truck on Tuesday according to local police.

The bus collided with a truck on a highway in the state of the White Nile in the south-east of the country. According to police, several more people were injured.

Accidents involving public transport often occur in Sudan and are usually attributed to the widespread dangerous driving in the country.

At the end of last year an accident on the highway that connects the capital of Sudan, Khartoum and Vad-Medani city, 33 people were killed and another 24 were injured. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

UN Chief says new arms treaty will end 'free for all' nature of weapons trade

UN News Center/AllAfrica.com, 4/6/2013 – Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon stressed that countries have a historic opportunity to eliminate excessive and poorly regulated weapons transfers through the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), which opened for signature today at the world body's Headquarters in New York.

"With the ATT, the world has decided to finally put an end to the 'free-for-all' nature of international weapons transfers," Mr. Ban said at a special event marking the Treaty's opening for signature.

"The ATT is substantive and robust, but its effectiveness will depend on the willingness of States to ensure its full implementation."

Mr. Ban appealed to major arms-trading countries in particular to be "first movers" and bring their national legislation in line with the requirements of the treaty, which will come into force 90 days after it has been ratified by 50 nations.

Although the ATT will not control the domestic weapons use, once ratified, it will require States to establish national regulations to control the transfer of conventional arms and regulate arms brokers, among other objectives. "The eyes of the world are watching arms traders, manufacturers and Governments as never before, Mr. Ban said.

"The treaty will provide an effective deterrent against excessive and destabilizing arms flows, particularly in conflict-prone regions," Mr. Ban said. "It will make it harder for weapons to be diverted into the illicit market, to reach warlords, pirates, terrorists and criminals, or to be used to commit grave human rights abuses or violations of international humanitarian law."

The ATT is the first international treaty regulating the global arms trade. It was overwhelmingly approved two months ago in the UN General Assembly by a vote of 154 to three - Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Iran and Syria - with 23 abstentions. The vote was the culmination of a decades-long push to halt illegal shipments of weapons such as missiles, combat aircraft and attack helicopters.

Mr. Ban underlined that the ATT brings hope "to millions of women, men and children who live in deprivation and fear because of poorly controlled international arms trade and the proliferation of deadly weapons," and added that it will also enhance the enforcement of arms embargoes imposed by the Security Council and help promote social and economic development.

During the special event this morning, Angela Kane, UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, said that the day opens "a new chapter in which States will sign up to an international contract bringing responsibility and transparency to the global arms trade." While the treaty is "not perfect," she said it is certainly "robust." [\(Back to Top\)](#)

Time to refer President Kiir and the oye machine to ICC

South Sudan News Agency (SSNA), 4/6/2013 – We have shouted and shouted and shouted to the authorities in Juba about the state of lawlessness and SPLM Oye terror in the country only for these cries to fall on deaf ears. The Atenys and Mangoks fully aware of their tribal crimes zipped

their mouths initially and hypocritically set out to demonise others as Jieng haters, Nygats etc. What they did not know is that keeping quiet about heinous crimes committed by their tribes mate make them equally culpable which means they are not different from the perpetrators of these atrocities.

In 'Dirty Game' published by Sudan Tribune on 28th May 2013, Zachariah Mangok Biar spills out the beans on SPLM Oyee pre-meditated crimes. People in the country have long suspected that the state of lawlessness in the country may be down to the rulers' plans to destabilise the other social groups in order for them to establish themselves as the elites in the country. In a sense those who have been shouting are now vindicated. We have time and again asserted that the Oyee party is a tribal organisation serving interest of a particular tribe in South Sudan. We have also time and again asserted that this party is a criminal organisation similar to the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia and any decent person who values herself/himself has no business mingling with thieves, thugs and murders in membership. Please see 'SPLM brutality will destroy us all' <http://allafrica.com/stories/201210150055.html> and 'Republic of South Sudan – a rotten society mismanaging itself into self-destruction' <http://allafrica.com/stories/201303070023.html>

Being a member of the SPLM Oyee party eventually taints you beyond cleansing. Take note, once you are tainted, always tainted. Nevertheless if you quit now you may just salvage yourself and also help South Sudan free itself from the yoke of SPLM Oyee.

The lawlessness tearing South Sudan to pieces is unprecedented in its history. South Sudanese people have until 1983 been law abiding and humane. Even during the half a century wars of liberation with the Arabs there was reasonable security in all the government held areas. Seldom did murders take place save occasional politically motivated massacres carried out by Sudan government's troops usually triggered by defeats in the theatre of operations. For example, the Juba, Wau and Malakal carnages of 1965 and the Juba massacre of 1992. The police then to a certain extent was a force for good in terms of maintaining law and order. It is important to note that the police force in South Sudan at that time was not under tribal control in its entirety as now.

The current problem of insecurity in South Sudan was sown in 1983 with the inception of SPLM. As I argued elsewhere Dr John Garang introduced a new culture of killing with his tribally dominated organisation. Unfortunately the majority of the people who lost their lives in the hands of SPLA during the war were South Sudanese. Since the perpetrators of this heinous crime are members of the dominant tribe, the leadership deliberately ignored accountability. This tacit unspoken policy became a vehicle for looting, murders, general lawlessness and self-enrichment by the tribal thugs in the so called liberated areas.

As theorised in social theory the lack of accountability meant that all the members of SPLM/A were exposed to approved horrendous crimes. The impact of this was that the SPLM membership got socialised via observation and imitation of the actions of the tribal thugs to a culture of violence with impunity. This is the mechanism by which brutality was normalised by SPLM/A in South Sudan.

In 'The Politics of Liberation in South Sudan: Insider's View' Peter Adwok Nyaba illuminates this point by referring to the wrangle within the leadership of the movement at the time by writing, "Much of the movement's leadership energy was absorbed in ensuring personal survival and hatching of conspiracies to elbow out of the movement those recalcitrant officers like Kerubino and Arok Thon. The negative impact of such a situation in the leadership on the development of the SPLM/A and the conduct of the war cannot be overemphasized. For instance, to have allowed them to commit as many personal mistakes as possible in order to remove them from command were something that weighed down on the morale of the troops and the civil population because the damage was already done. Some of the senior officers committed outrageous and horrendous crimes with impunity. They looted, raped, murdered without being made answerable for those crimes. These crimes were also emulated by the officers and soldiers at the front for which there was moral obligation on the part of SPLM/A leadership, to punish those junior officers and men." So the construction of Oyee itself was on a bed rock of crime.

With the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in 2005, the normalisation of crime and the impunity in the bush accorded to the tribal thugs got transferred into the newly formed government of South Sudan (GOSS). Hence; the overt milking of the people's resources with impunity and the persistent insecurity in the country. This SPLM Oyee government of thugs and terror has no intention to address the problem of instability in the country because they know that they are the very people responsible for these ills.

These people (rulers) are fortune hunters. They went to the bush for personal gains as opposed to nationalistic duty. The overwhelming majority of the SPLM Oyee machine was motivated by crimes for personal gain rather than pursuance of a political objective. The project of 'New Sudan' belonged to Dr John Garang only. The vast membership did not subscribe to it because they had their own agenda. Some for the independence of the south and others for personal advancement. This second group soon became the majority. With the death of Dr Garang the ideology of New Sudan perished with him and arguably since then SPLM Oyee has been running on empty ideologically. The vacuum created by lack of political ideology due to the demise of Dr Garang was swiftly taken over fully by criminal values and practice. All the more, the reason why RSS is now a den of criminals from all over Africa.

SPLM Oyee due to its negative indoctrination sees power only as emanating from the gun and violence. This is rooted in Dr Garang's doctrine: Kalasinkob (Kalashnikov) da abuk, *WA aumak*, wa inta bakul fogu" meaning the AK47 gun is your father, your mother, your source of food etc. This believes is contrary to the democratic norm that true power is derived from the people through consent. Only politically aware leaders with a commitment to the betterment of their people can make a difference. This kind of thinking and reality is wholly absent in SPLM Oyee. Had RSS had such leaders and not "idiotsrotten to the core", a huge difference would have been achieved in terms of improvement in health, education, housing, food production etc. But what do we have now? Thieves for multimillionaires, unplanned residential areas dotted with villas around Juba, high mortality rate both in infants and adults, zero health service, zero education service, zero food production, zero security, daily unexplained murders. For how long should this tyranny by the few and abuse of state power by tribal criminals be allowed? This is a question that the people of South Sudan must answer for themselves.

As SPLM Oyee's accession to power in RSS to a large extent was facilitated by the international community especially given the fact that the CPA excluded vital section of South Sudanese with opposing views to SPLM from participating in the process thereby granting Oyee total monopoly, they now have a chance to remedy this situation for a better RSS. For the international community to be true friends of RSS in light of Zachariah Mangok Biar's revelations they must look the Oyee terror machine in the eye and tell them their behaviour is unacceptable.

The failure to comply with international Human rights law by president Kiir's GOSS, calls for Kiir to be held to account for his abject abuse of human rights as the head of state for South Sudan.

The international Community's refusal to accept their responsibility for this riotous government's abusive actions also makes the international community complicit in the abuse of the South Sudanese people by GOSS. We, the South Sudanese people need to be alerted to the fact that we are the only ones with a vested interest in seeing the current government go. It is us who need to push for Kiir to be indicted for his grave crimes against humanity. Therefore let us be instruments in our country's future instead of being passive bystanders and let us call for an international arrest warrant for president Kiir.

Since 2005 these rights have been violated at will by the tribal agents of the state. On the right to life there have been numerous heinous crimes committed in South Sudan without any accountability and this according to Zachariah Mangok Biar is down to the government. For instance, the shooting of police officers in Yambio, the shooting of a doctor in Yei, the assassination of Isaiah Abrahams, the killing of Ethiopian doctor in Malakia, the slaughter of Banyjiioth Matoat Tap, the killings at Kemiru, the massacre in Wau, the massacre in Lorema, the disappearance of John Lewis and many many others.

On the right of liberty, there are many people languishing in filthy run down jails on tramped up charges and hear-say for years without being formally charged. For instance, George Tang, Simon Gatwech, Peter Sule etc.

On the right of property, indigenous people of Nimule are being dispossessed of their land by the tribal gangs with support of the government. This is replicated in Chollo land and many areas in the country.

The US Human Rights reports covering South Sudan since 2005 and others show clearly that crimes in South Sudan are not solved. In a nut shell GOSS is run by criminals who are responsible for these crimes and depriving the victims of justice as well as failing to protect the citizens of South Sudan.

Now that we the people of South Sudan are not able to obtain redress to these injustices the only avenue available is through the International Criminal Court as mentioned above. The crimes of SPLM Oyee in the country fall under Article 7, Crimes against Humanity. What is needed to activate investigation by the prosecutor is a referral. The international community can now do that if they are serious about the deteriorating situation in South Sudan.

There is a compelling case for the friends of the South Sudanese people in the international community to refer president Kiir and his acolytes to ICC or at least to pressurise GOSS to initiate a national conference involving all the political parties, armed groups, civil society groups, women groups and youth groups to discuss the deteriorating situation in the country with an objective of forming a credible government. Or, they should pressure president Kiir to call for elections now for the people of South Sudan to choose the next government. It makes sense for the bleak situation in the country to be addressed now to avert a more serious problem in the not too distant future.

The international community is known to tolerate abusers who advance their interest under the “Strongman Syndrome”. For instance, Gen. Augustine Pinochet of Chile, Gen. Saddam Hussein of Iraq, Mobutu Seseke of Zaire, Gen. Jaafar Nimeri of Sudan etc. It is hoped that the mollycoddling of Juba as evidenced by Ms Hilda Johnson’s indifference to the abuses of GOSS is not based on this short sighted policy. A policy that portrays the international community as friend of the abusive dictators and enemy of the people. The truth be said the Strongman Syndrome is an imperialistic policy where individual dictators carry out the will of the imperial powers who in turn shield them from accountability.

This policy contradicts the Western claim to promotion of the ideals of the enlightenment enshrined in their constitutions. As believers of the enlightenment ideals they need to support democracy and human rights. Thugs and criminals pretending to be statesmen should not be condoned in this 21st century. However, the onus is upon the African people to reject the abuse of state power by African leaders.

SPLM Oyee is a tribal terror machine as evidenced by Zachariah Mangok Biar’s revelations and it needs to be held to account. The international community should consider pressurising Juba to accept the proposal put forward in this article. If president Kiir refuses then the international community through the UN should make a referral to ICC on the grounds of all the reports of the various domestic and international agencies buttressed by Zachariah Mangok Biar’s revelation.

The impunity in Juba is a government thing and as the citizens cannot get redress, the friends of South Sudanese people in the international community need to intervene by making a referral to ICC as soon as possible. As for the people of South Sudan they need to take responsibility by organising straight away and using ‘Article 15 – Prosecutor’ of ICC statute to raise an electronic referral to Madam Fatou Bensouda, the prosecutor of ICC to open an inquiry on all the unsolved crimes in the Republic of South Sudan. It is time for President Kiir and the Oyee machine to account. **[\(Back to Top\)](#)**

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