



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UNMISS SRSG HILDE F. JOHNSON WELCOMES THE GOVERNMENT'S CALL TO PUT AN END TO THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE IN JONGLEI

The UN Mission to South Sudan welcomes the call by the Vice President of South Sudan, Riek Machar, urging the communities of Jonglei State to put an end to the impending violence, and to actively and immediately engage in a reconciliatory peace process.

"The mass killings must stop and the people in the area need to join together in putting an end to this merciless and lethal cycle of violence once and for all", the Special Representative of the Secretary General to South Sudan, Hilde F. Johnson said in Washington DC last night, where she has been attending the International Engagement Conference for South Sudan.

"Too many lives have been lost, not least women, children and the elderly, forced to pay a terrifying price for these terrible actions", she added.

UNMISS urges the Government of the Republic of South Sudan to continue to discharge its primary responsibility to protect civilians, and call on all the actors involved in this crisis to uphold their commitments to stop further escalation of violence and resolve their differences through constructive and peaceful dialogue.

For its part and in accordance with its mandate, UNMISS remains actively engaged to help ensure a durable peace for all with impartiality and neutrality.

UNMISS patrols were dispatched last week in response to the surprise attack in the Jalleh area. Facing the current threat, the Mission is now coordinating with the Government to help deploy additional forces to the areas of tension in accordance with its mandate and within its capacity. Subsequent additional deployments of peacekeepers are also occurring.

Over recent months UNMISS has consistently deployed its limited resources to reinforce efforts to prevent and mitigate conflict in Jonglei State, including to the Lou Nuer and Murle communities. The Mission also continues to support and promote reconciliation between the various communities, and in particular the inclusive peace process led by the Sudan Council of Churches.

SRSG Johnson pointed out that this is a time when the international community must support the government of South Sudan in their efforts to avert large-scale violence. "This is also the time for all South Sudanese to put peace in their new and independent country above all other concerns and interests", Johnson said.
