



UNMISS Press Release

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UNMISS SRSG Congratulates Local Communities as Civilian Disarmament Continues in Lakes State

Juba, 14 October 2011 - The **Special Representative of the UN Secretary General (SRSG), Hilde F. Johnson** today began a one day visit to Lakes State. The SRSG will meet with local communities to congratulate them for their engagement in the civilian-led disarmament process across the state. Similar disarmament processes are also underway in Warrap State and Unity State.

SRSG Johnson said: “I am encouraged by the local communities and their participation in the civilian-led disarmament process taking place across Lakes State. There has been such a positive response to this initiative with excellent cooperation between local communities and the state authorities.

“Disarmament is a pre-condition for peace, security, stability and delivery of much needed social services to the population. I want to encourage all communities to continue to work closely with the state authorities to build on the progress being made.

“UNMISS stands ready to offer our support and assistance as this civilian-led disarmament process continues”.

The civilian-led disarmament process began across three states last month and is expected to be completed within three months. Thousands of weapons are expected to be collected from local communities across Lakes, Unity and Warrap States.

During the visit SRSG Johnson will meet with the State Governor for Lakes State, the County Commissioner for Cuibet, the SPLA Division and Brigade HQ, as well as the local communities of Duony, Pagaur and Abiriu payams.

As a mark of respect SRSG Johnson will also visit Kobri William, the proposed memorial site for civil war leader William Deng who was assassinated in 1965.

Ends.