



UNMISS NEWS

United Nations Mission in South Sudan



UNMISS celebrates 70th United Nations International Peacekeepers Day



Mr. Michael Makuei Lueth, Minister of Information and Broadcasting (second from left) and SRSG Loej lay wreath for fallen UN peacekeepers
UNMISS Photo / JC McIlwaine

as a result of acts of violence, accidents and disease. During the last 18 months, 166 peacekeepers worldwide have died, 15 of which were UNMISS staff members, in addition to three Russian airmen under contract with the Mission whose helicopter was brought down near Bentiu last August. These provide a sobering reminder of the danger and many risks that UN peacekeepers face as they perform their duties in areas affected by war, violence and insecurity.

TOGETHER FOR PEACE



This year coincides with the 70th anniversary of the creation of the United Nations and the beginning of global peacekeeping. The UN is therefore reflecting on past, present and future of Peacekeeping to reaffirm the UN commitment to working 'Together for Peace'. The UN has participated in a total of 71 peacekeeping operations in Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe and the Middle East. The number of people who have been involved in UN Peacekeeping (more than 1 million) far surpasses the total number of staff that have been employed by the UN in all other capacities across the globe. Today, some 125,000 women and men serve in 16 peacekeeping missions worldwide. They are working in many of the world's most challenging environments and are mandated to deliver increasingly complex and difficult tasks.

The International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers is a solemn occasion commemorated around the world in all Peacekeeping Missions to remember those who have given their lives in the cause of peace. Notable this year, several peacekeepers lost their lives during the fight against Ebola in West Africa, including one young staff member from South Sudan, who was working in Liberia. The ceremony, which brings together peacekeepers, the host nation and the international partners includes a wreath laying ceremony.

Since the first UN peacekeeping mission was established in 1948 and until April 2015, 3,358 military, police and civilian personnel have lost their lives in the service of peace

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Snapshot of UNMISS assistance to South Sudan

The UNMISS mandate was voted by the Security Council in resolution 1996 (2011). As a result of the conflict it was amended in May 2014. It been extended twice for six months. The current mandate runs until 30 November 2015 and focuses on four main priorities: protection of civilians, monitoring and investigation of human rights abuses, facilitating the delivery of humanitarian assistance, and supporting the implementation of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement signed in January 2014.

UNMISS Police/ UNPOL conduct patrols that maintain

presence and vigilance, as well as protecting UN personnel and property; interacting with local communities, and supporting humanitarian agencies during IDP registration for food distribution, and the conduct of gender related activities including of gender related activities.

UNPOL also provides support to the South Sudan National Police Services (SSNPS) through the implementation of a Confidence and Trust building Policing Strategy (CTBPS) which is designed to promote the safe return of the internally displaced persons and refugees back to their homes.

United Nations International Peacekeepers Day in Juba



UNMISS Police:

- The establishment of the 3 Police posts through UNMISS-funded Quick Impact Projects to facilitate voluntary return of IDPs to three areas of Juba: Khor Williams, Mia u Saba and Hai Tarawa
- Increase public confidence in the SSNPS by providing advice and support to the establishment of the 777 Emergency Response Unit to help deal with public complaints and security issues within Juba
- Support in sensitization of SSNPS officers from Central Equatoria State
- Sensitization of the SSNPS on human rights; international humanitarian law; protection of civilians; community policing; gender, child and vulnerable persons protection; and professional ethics
- Operational coordination including advice and sensitization in all 10 states on civilians protection, Human Rights and Gender-related issues

UNPOL carries around 60 patrols across South Sudan every day.

UNMISS Force: Daily operations during the last six months have achieved:

- Physical protection to civilians inside and outside UNMISS bases through force protection, patrolling, engagement with local authorities and communities
- Creation of conditions conducive to the delivery of humanitarian assistance through 1,560 air patrol hours in support of air reconnaissance and security assessments
- 1,733 mobile troops patrol days conducted by military liaison officers at the state level and 1,872 mobile troop patrol days at the county level
- 116,800 mobile troop days conducted in integrated teams in support of Intergovernmental Authority on Development's (IGAD) Monitoring and Verification Teams in 8 sites towards support of implementation of Cessation of Hostilities agreement.

Quick Impact Projects

Through targeted infrastructure projects (Quick Impact Projects), UNMISS builds relationships and partners with the local population to deliver tangible results throughout South Sudan in the areas of education, health and security infrastructure. Since 2013, over 30 Quick Impact Projects have been implemented. These projects include establishing police facilities, water and sanitation points, constructing and upgrading hospitals, building schools, rehabilitating bridges, upgrading radio communication, drilling boreholes, constructing community centers, supporting peacebuilding initiative, erecting market centers and building local courts. In February 2015, over 1,500 Magwi Town households received a Solar-Powered Water System implemented by UNMISS, UN Habitat, and the Italian NGO AVSI. The project directly improved the quality of drinking water, mitigates a water shortage, and fosters a higher level of security for women and girls fetching water.

UN International Peacekeepers Day in other states



Flags were raised, wreaths were laid and many a tribute was paid to fallen and serving peacekeepers as UNMISS commemorated the International Day of UN Peacekeepers (29 May) across the country. On the day and throughout the weekend UN leadership, local authorities and various representatives of the civil society all came together to honour peacekeepers who have given their lives in the name of peace, and to salute the contributions made by more than 125,000 peacekeepers around the globe, 14,000 of whom are serving in South Sudan.

Kuajok, Warrap State

At least 5,000 people left their homes behind and showed up at the Sports Stadium to enjoy an exciting football and volleyball games between UNMISS teams and local Kuajok All Stars teams. Acting Governor, Akec Tong Aleu, said the event was the most well-attended ever in his state and would “promote cordial relations between UNMISS and our people”. He also commended the Mission for having saved “thousands of lives” through its presence and patrols, adding: “With you here, no matter for how long, we are sure that peace and stability will return to our country”.

Bentiu, Unity State

UNMISS State Coordinator Mary Cummins hailed the “relentless dedication” and hard work of the peacekeepers deployed in the state. With more than 62,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs)

currently seeking shelter and assistance at the UNMISS Protection of Civilians sites in the states, resources are stretched to the limits, and Ms. Cummins warned that worse may still come. “As long as the fighting goes on, the humanitarian crisis in Unity State will deteriorate further. The recent military offensives have destroyed countless homes and livelihoods”, she noted.

Eastern Equatoria State

Sporting activities, as table tennis, pool and a Peacekeepers’ Day race were organized commemorate the day in Torit and Kapoeta. In Kapoeta, UNMISS staff explained their different roles in fulfilling the mission mandate and screened a video showcasing the work of UN peacekeeping operations around the world. Meanwhile, in Torit, Jerome Gama Surur, the Deputy Governor of the State emphasized the importance of peacekeepers being present and visible. “The presence of peacekeepers enhances stability and gives confidence to the people. When the communities see you, they feel safe and therefore don’t run away”, he said.

Rumbek, Lakes State

More than one thousand people in the community of Cuei Chok Payam in Lakes State’s Rumbek East County were treated to what the Chief of the Dhieu clan Mayek Manyuon described as an “eye-opener” when UNMISS staff visited the location and its primary school. Dut Makoi, State Minister of Education, acknowledged that peacekeeping is indeed a very challenging endeavor and that the

impartiality of UNMISS unfortunately makes the mission subject to inevitable criticism from different communities across the country.

Wau, Western Bahr El Ghazal

UNMISS staff in, donated food and clothes to the elderly and most disadvantaged, including children at the Don Bosco Orphanage. Students and local artists performed dances and dramas, while uniformed peacekeepers marched alongside a South Sudanese police band in a procession from Peace Square to Wau Stadium.

Aweil, Northern Bahr El Ghazal

UNMISS peacekeepers displayed their generosity, this year by visiting and handing over food and non-food donations at Aweil Central Prison and blood to Aweil Civil Hospital. UNMISS State Coordinator Koliab Nahataba commented that the UN is in the country for everybody and expressed his faith those currently in jail will one day become “useful citizens of the society”. The generous, peacekeeping spirit continued in the evening, when an UNMISS football team made sure the opposing local team Black Eagles could celebrate victory and lift a glorious trophy to the fading light of the sky.

Jonglei

Peacekeepers marked the Day with sporting activities, cultural performances and multicultural culinary offerings, much to the delight of the approximately 450 people in attendance.

Chinese Infantry battalion inaugurates headquarters camp

On 26 May, the very first Chinese Peacekeeping Infantry Battalion to ever be deployed in a Peacekeeping Mission held an inauguration ceremony for its headquarters in UN House, UNMISS compound in Juba. The battalion headquarters gates were opened by the resident Chinese Ambassador to South Sudan, Ma Qiang, as he beat a

traditional Chinese drum. Also attending the ceremony, the SRSG and Head of UNMISS Ellen Margrethe Loej said. “I am please to note that the first ever Chinese Infantry battalion in the history of UN Peacekeeping is 700 men and women strong, was deployed to South Sudan and part of them are standing in front of us – no doubt in recognition of the very big challenges faced by this country”.



Force Commander Lt. Gen. Yohannes Gebremeskel Tesfamariam and SRSG Loej inspecting the troops
UNMISS Photo/JC McIlwaine

UNMISS Troop Contributing Countries (TCC)
*Figures cited below as of May 2015

TCC	TCC Acronym	Troop Strength
India	INDBATT 1/2	2267
Nepal	NEPBATT 1/2	1576
Rwanda	RWANBATT 1/2	1841
Ethiopia	ETHBATT 1/2	1265
Kenya	KENBATT	735
Mongolia	MONBATT	862
Ghana	GHANBATT	312
China	CHINBATT	512
Bangladesh		279
Cambodia		149
Japan		272
Korea		273
Sri Lanka		673
Total		10485
Military Liaison Officers		187
Staff Officers		312
GRAND TOTAL		10984

UNMISS Police
*Figures cited below as of May 2015

POLICE	Strength
UNPOL	560
Formed Police Unit (FPU)	470
Total	1030



UNMISS Photos

CLICK THE LINKS

STATEMENT

Statement from UNMISS SRSJ Loej on the occasion of the commemoration of Africa Day
bit.ly/1EwVQAF

FlickR GALLERY

International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/unmissmultimedia/sets/72157651309539334>

UNDP and Nile Hope hand over new market shed in Ming-kaman

UNMISS facebook album:
<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.836423086433364.1073742433.160839527325060&type=1>

UNMISS flickr album:
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/unmissmultimedia/sets/72157653104796521>

UNMAS visit mine clearance site in Central Equatoria
UNMISS facebook album:

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.836706023071737.1073742434.160839527325060&type=3>

UNMISS flickr album:
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/unmissmultimedia/sets/72157652638014909>

UN Peacekeeping facebook post:
<https://www.facebook.com/unpeacekeeping/posts/10152794965431003>

VIDEO

Chinese infantry battalion inaugurates headquarters camp
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/tv/unifeed/2015/05/s-sudan-chinese-battalion/>

UNMISS WEBSITE
UNMISS Japanese contingent hands over port security fence to government
<http://bit.ly/1Gv70dO>

UNPOL chief concludes visit to three states
<http://bit.ly/1IYEFg>

WEBSITE

Ban Ki-moon condemns continued fighting in South Sudan
<http://bit.ly/11AVTRq>

Abducted children returned to Bor County
<http://bit.ly/1FyIqJ>

Children killed abducted and raped in South Sudan attacks – UNICEF
<http://bit.ly/1At7a53>

UNMISS organizes essay competition for peacekeepers day
<http://bit.ly/1KgJaT4>

UNMISS hands over two-classroom block to Ikotos Primary School
<http://bit.ly/1Ku1KKM>

Community leaders in Bentiu protection site trained in conflict mitigation
<http://bit.ly/1fPaVo1>

SRSJ Loej briefs UN Security Council
<http://bit.ly/1IEGgV>

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