



UNMISS NEWS

United Nations Mission in South Sudan

New levels of 'brutality' in South Sudan, says UN rights report

South Sudanese armed forces may have committed widespread human rights abuses during a recent upsurge of fighting in Unity State in April and May, according to an UNMISS report released on 30 June.

The report suggests that the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and associated armed groups carried out a campaign against the population of Unity State, reportedly killing civilians, looting and destroying villages and displacing over 100,000 people.

According to the testimony of 115 victims and eyewitnesses from the Unity State counties of Rubkona, Guit, Koch, Leer and Mayom, SPLA fighters also abducted and sexually abused numerous women and girls, some of whom were reportedly burnt alive in their dwellings.

"This recent upsurge [in fighting] has not only been marked by allegations of killing, rape, abduction, looting, arson and displacement, but by a new brutality and intensity," says the UNMISS report. "The scope and level of cruelty that has characterized the

reports suggests a depth of antipathy that exceeds political differences."

UNMISS sought to visit the sites of alleged atrocities to verify the allegations, but its human rights officers were routinely denied access by the SPLA and also encountered logistical obstacles.

In a press release on 30 June, Special Representative of the Secretary-General Ellen Margrethe Loej urged South Sudanese authorities to allow UN human rights investigators access to the sites of alleged atrocities.

"Revealing the truth of what happened offers the best hope for ensuring accountability for such terrible violence and ending the cycle of impunity that allows these abuses to continue," Ms. Loej said.

The South Sudanese authorities have dismissed any allegations of wrongdoing and have reportedly welcomed investigations of human rights abuses.

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Displaced persons in Bentiu, Unity State.

Indians renovate destroyed vet clinic in Bor

The UNMISS Indian contingent handed over a newly renovated veterinary clinic on 20 June to the South Sudanese government in Bor, Jonglei State.

The clinic, initially built by Indian peacekeepers in 2012, was completely destroyed after conflict erupted in the state in December 2013.

In opening remarks, Indian Commanding Officer Col. Himanshu Hatkar commended the Indian veterinarians for helping to ensure cattle, a major source of livelihood in Jonglei, were well cared for. He said the Indians had conducted over 40 veterinary camps in the Greater Bor and Greater Pibor administrative areas over the past year, treating 29,500 heads of cattle.



Col. Hatkar also noted that the veterinary team had contributed \$3,000 for specialist medication to supplement the over \$40,000 worth of regular veterinary drugs provided by the Indian government.

Bor Mayor Nhial Majak Nhial said UNMISS' efforts to ensure cattle were healthy in Jonglei had greatly contributed to wealth generation in the state. Through its work, the mission had also fostered the return to normalcy of life and economic activities in Bor.

Observing that Jonglei had four million cattle, UNMISS State Coordinator Hazel De Wet said vet clinics had endeared the UN to the local population. "Peacekeeping is not only about putting an end to violence but it also involves engagement of the people of South Sudan to ensure development and stability."

Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Nyang Lul Gai stressed that healthy cattle were vital, as they were a source of wealth to the over 80 per cent of South Sudanese who lived in rural areas.

UNMISS hands over survivor safe house to Central Equatoria

To support and protect survivors of gender-based violence, UNMISS handed over a newly-constructed safe house to the Central Equatoria State government in Juba on 19 June.

"The objective is to ensure that there is a safe house for survivors who don't feel happy to continue to live in (an) environment (which) is hostile to them," said UNMISS Human Rights Officer Anthony Nwapa. "We will accommodate them here temporarily and offer them all the necessary legal and medical support as well as psychosocial support that they need."

The safe house, which was handed over to the state Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, was a joint initiative of the UNMISS Human Rights, Gender and Child Protection sections, in collaboration with the Nepalese battalion.

Noting that survivors are often ashamed and reluctant to live where they were abused, State Minister of Gender, Child and Social Welfare Mary Apai Ayiga said the safe house was needed to help in counseling them before they were taken back home.

"They ... seek ... places to go but there are no places for them to go. So this is a rehabilitation center ... we feel when they are here they will feel more secure and happy."

She appealed to development partners to donate beds, tables and chairs for the four-room safe house.

Ms. Apai also requested UNMISS to provide training for social

workers in her ministry so that they are able to handle victims. "(The social workers) need really good training so that they are able to counsel these survivors."

Zekria Shamia Amin, a social worker at the ministry, said the safe house would help the ministry keep gender-based violence cases confidential. "This office is going to keep the confidentiality of the survivors ... unlike when it is done in places exposed to the public."

The Nepalese Battalion's commanding officer, Bhuvan Khatri, said the project was constructed over a period of two months at a total cost of \$50,000.



Unspeakable violence against children in South Sudan, says UNICEF



UNICEF's Executive Director Anthony Lake has appealed "in the name of humanity and common decency" for an end to worsening violence against children in South Sudan.

"The details of the worsening violence are unspeakable, but we must speak of them," he said in a statement issued on 17 June.

Mr. Lake said as many as 129 children from Unity State were killed during only three weeks in May.

"Survivors report that boys have been castrated and left to bleed to death," he said. "Girls as young as eight have been gang-raped and murdered. ... Children have been tied together before their attackers slit their throats. Others have been thrown into burning buildings."

Mr. Lake said children were also being aggressively recruited into armed groups of both sides, and added that an estimated 13,000 children have been forced to participate in the conflict.

"Imagine the psychological and physical effects on these children – not only of the violence inflicted on them but also the violence they are forced to inflict on others," he said.

At a Security Council open debate on children and armed conflict on 18 June, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon described 2014 as one of the worst years in recent memory for children in countries affected by conflict.

The top UN official stressed that grave violations against children are of great concern both in countries of origin and in countries to which children flee to find safety.

"Children may cross the border to flee conflict, but that does not mean that they are safe from its effects," said the top UN official. "They require urgent and sustained protection interventions."

Mr. Ban however noted that multiplying and intensifying crises, including in South Sudan, make protection more difficult.

Although the release of 1,757 children from the Cobra Faction was "a bright spot in an otherwise bleak picture in South Sudan", he urged Member States to pursue all avenues to protect children affected by armed conflict.

"One important way is by ending impunity for the violations," said Mr. Ban. "Let us keep the rights of children at the centre of our efforts to build a future of dignity for all."

Mongolian peacekeepers renovate Pariang school in Unity

Continuing to boost educational facilities in South Sudan, UNMISS handed over a renovated school in Pariang, Unity State on 18 June.

Pariang Secondary School now has three rehabilitated classrooms and a teachers' room with a solar electricity system. Its 600 students also acquired six new latrines, washing facilities and a basketball court.

The facility was rehabilitated by UNMISS' Mongolian peacekeepers over a two-month period through a mission Quick Impact Project (QIP) worth \$50,000.

"Students now can enjoy the facilities and study properly," said UNMISS State Coordinator Officer-in-Charge Alain Stichet.

Noting that funding constraints had prevented the mission from rehabilitating the remaining buildings, he appealed to the government or a non-governmental organization to complete the renovation.

Pariang Executive Director Abel Dak Thon said the school had graduated more students who had gone to university and found jobs in the government than any other in the country.



"Your service has benefited many people -- the parents and entire population," he said. "The work before us now shall remain here and be remembered as a sign of the Mongolian people's kindness."

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

TCC	TCC Acronym	Troop Strength
India	INDBATT 1/2	2218
Nepal	NEPBATT 1/2	1542
Rwanda	RWANBATT 1/2	1815
Ethiopia	ETHBATT 1/2	1243
China	CHINBATT	1031
Mongolia	MONBATT	847
Kenya	KENBATT	720
Ghana	GHANBATT	300
Bangladesh		475
Japan		268
Korea		268
Sri Lanka		170
Cambodia		140
Total		11037
Military Liaison Officers		180
Staff Officers		315
GRAND TOTAL		11532

UNMISS Police
*Figures cited as of June 2015

POLICE	Strength
UNPOL	525
Formed Police Unit (FPU)	469
Total	994

Photos of the week



Treating cholera victim at UNMISS Juba protection site. Photo: UNMISS/JC McIlwaine



UNMISS Bangladesh Force Marine Unit launching riverine operations on River Nile on 22 June. Photo: UNMISS/Isaac Billy

CLICK THE LINKS

PHOTO

Celebration of World Refugee Day in Juba

UNMISS Media flickr album: <http://bitly.com/1RL1m9L>

Deployment of Bangladesh Force Marine Unit in Juba

UNMISS Media flickr album: <http://bit.ly/1eUpwCQ>

UNMISS Facebook album: <http://on.fb.me/1eUpScS>

UN Photo – Links to individual photos:

<http://bit.ly/1Kpkds4>

<http://bit.ly/1FJYcw4>

Prevention and treatment of cholera in POC sites in Juba

UNMISS Media flickr albums: <http://bit.ly/1HplBHz> and <http://bit.ly/1NsYPQv>

UNMISS facebook album: <http://on.fb.me/1GUX5OI>

Deputy SRSO Soumaré visits Yambio

UNMISS Facebook album: <http://on.fb.me/1RL1m9K>

VIDEO

Conflict, displacement in Western Equatoria

<http://bit.ly/1GKvLQk>

Cholera in Juba

<http://bit.ly/1GKvLQk>

Bangladesh Marine Unit deploying to Nile in Juba

<http://bit.ly/1Hrx51j>

UNPOL: Recruiting women police

<http://bit.ly/1fvHKe2>

World Refugee Day in Juba

<http://bit.ly/1HrvpID>

WEBSITE

DSRSG Soumaré visits Yambio to assess security

<http://bit.ly/1Gw8h1u>

UNMISS holds forum on child protection in Eastern Equatoria

<http://bit.ly/1KJAT2E>

Cholera cases increase to more than 200, health ministry says

<http://bit.ly/1HpszgO>

Partners launch campaign to end gender-based violence in Aweil

<http://bit.ly/1KjAYmZ>

Second round of cholera vaccinations kicks off in Unity State

<http://bit.ly/1HpsFVU>

IOM trains Malakal IDPs in reproductive health

<http://bit.ly/1Tz2O4G>

Bentiu displaced children commemorate Day of the African Child

<http://bit.ly/1HpsKZw>

UNMISS Indians renovate destroyed vet clinic in Bor

<http://bit.ly/1FJK85G>

UNMISS hands over survivor safe house to Central Equatoria

<http://bit.ly/1Nsy6Dx>

Mongolians renovate Pariang school in Unity

<http://bit.ly/1Kpebl7>

Unspeaking violence against children in South Sudan, says UNICEF

<http://bit.ly/1g12f2y>

Partners airlift survival kits to IDPs in hard-to-reach areas

<http://bit.ly/1FpQfM>

UNMISS tackling hygiene challenges in Malakal

<http://bit.ly/1GH6Lsw>

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