



UNMISS Press Release

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UNMISS Calls for Reconciliation Efforts in Jonglei State

Juba, 22 Aug 2011 – The Special Representative of the UN Secretary General (SRSG), Hilde F. Johnson expressed deep concern about the violent attacks in recent days and urged for restraint among the Murle and Lou Nuer communities in Jonglei State. The clashes have reportedly resulted in at least 600 casualties, and unconfirmed reports of between 750-985 people wounded. Local reports received by UNMISS suggest that between 26,000 and 30,000 cattle were stolen during the attacks and many homes have been destroyed.

State authorities have informed UNMISS that over 250,000 people have been displaced by the fighting in Pieri, Motat and Pulchol villages in Uror county, Jonglei state, and nearly 200 people may have been abducted.

Special Representative Johnson said: “This cycle of violence must stop. That so many people have been killed and injured again in such wanton destruction is unacceptable. I urge restraint by both sides of this tragic conflict. Reconciliation efforts are now urgently needed. UNMISS is willing and ready to support such a process to this effect.

An UNMISS assessment and verification team has visited the conflict affected area and will return today to offer its support to State Authorities to facilitate reconciliation efforts and prevent a further escalation of the violence.

The SRSG adds, “The security of all South Sudanese people must come first. UNMISS will assist all relevant stakeholders in preventing further violence causing so much unnecessary suffering. The mission also stands ready to use its military assets to try to deter further escalation.

“Moreover, I want to condemn the attack on humanitarian facilities which have been destroyed and looted. The humanitarian impartiality of such facilities must be respected by all.”

Ends.