



# UNMISS Press Statement

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## UNMISS SRSG HILDE JOHNSON URGES STEPS TO END CYCLE OF VIOLENCE IN JONGLEI STATE

The killings this week in the villages in Jalle Payam, Bor South County, as well as in Twic East County, underline the importance of the Jonglei Peace Process and the urgent need to move forward. The attack on Jalle that took place Monday, 5 December, killed more than 40 villagers (mainly women, children, and the elderly) and wounded many others. Buildings and other dwellings were burned and large numbers of livestock were stolen.

UNMISS condemns the attack and calls on the Government of the Republic of South Sudan (GRSS), traditional leaders and other authorities to strengthen efforts to put an immediate end to any further violence, and to identify and bring to justice the perpetrators of these crimes.

There is particular concern over reports of mobilization of armed fighters in key communities in Jonglei State. Hilde F. Johnson, Special Representative of the Secretary General to South Sudan, called on the GRSS and traditional leaders to stop any such mobilization. "This cycle of violence has to stop," she said. "While respecting their need to protect themselves, the communities of Jonglei should be encouraged to refrain from mobilizing their fighters since this will only perpetuate the grisly cycle of mass violence and retaliation". The peace process must expand to include all communities in Jonglei State, she added.

UNMISS continues to support the church-led, inclusive Jonglei Peace Process, in particular the preparations for the Luo Nuer-Murle peace conference, and the All Jonglei State Peace Conference in January between the six main communities in the state, including the Dinka.

UNMISS visited the area of Jalle and Bor South County and helped evacuate some of the casualties to Juba hospital earlier this week. In an effort to contain possible mobilization, UNMISS facilitated today's visit by Archbishop Daniel Deng to the area of tension. UNMISS also sent aerial reconnaissance flights and integrated teams into the area to help stabilize the situation.