



# UNMISS NEWS

## United Nations Mission in South Sudan

### SRSR and head of UNMISS Ellen Margrethe Loej visits Pibor



David Yau Yau (second from left), SRSR Loej and UNMISS Police Commissioner Fred Yiga.  
UNMISS Photo / Isaac Alebe Avoro

porting efforts to secure the release of other child soldiers who are still associated with his Cobra Faction. The SRSR met with a group of former child soldiers who are among the more than 1,000 who have been reunited with their families in Pibor Town.

“I am very encouraged by the success achieved by UNICEF and partners thus far in helping to obtain the release of these children, about a third of whom are 13 years old or younger,” said the SRSR. “But our work has only just begun. In conjunction with local authorities, we must ensure that these children have access to educational and health facilities and are protected from any future attempt to enlist them again in any military organization.”

During her visit, SRSR Loej also toured Pibor Town and received a briefing from UNMISS colleagues on the security and humanitarian situation in the greater Pibor area.



SRSR Loej meets former child soldier in Pibor  
UNMISS Photo / Isaac Alebe Avoro

Full press release can be accessed at: <http://bit.ly/1DwRlVX>

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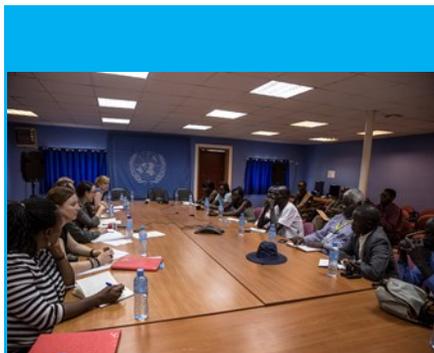
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During her visit to Pibor Town on 28 April, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General (SRSR) for South Sudan and head of the UN Mission in South Sudan, Ellen Margrethe Loej, met with senior local officials, recently released child soldiers and UNMISS staff members assigned to the Mission’s county support base.

SRSR Loej visit met with David Yau Yau, the chief administrator of the Greater Pibor Administrative Area and former commander of the South Sudan Democratic Movement/Army’s Cobra Faction. The head of UNMISS welcomed the release of 1,757 child soldiers who were once associated with Mr. Yau Yau’s militia and urged him to continue sup-

**UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict visits South Sudan**

On 22 April, members of a delegation from the United Nations Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict that included representatives of UN Women, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the governments of the United Kingdom and Sweden met with local journalists and undertook a communication activity using *UN Action’s Stop Rape Now advocacy platform*. The purpose of their visit was to provide technical support to the finalization and implementation of the joint communique signed between the Government of South Sudan and the United Nations in October 2014 aimed at addressing conflict-related sexual violence in South Sudan. The main objectives of their mission were to



*Delegation members of UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict with local journalists in Juba  
UNMISS Photo / Isaac Alebe Avoro*

familiarize delegation members with the political, security and operational context of the conflict in South Sudan as well as the programmatic and operational responses that have been undertaken by the UN system including UNMISS, UN agencies and the Humanitarian Cluster system.

During the visit, members of the delegation also met with local civil society representatives, including women’s groups, faith-based organization, and international non-governmental organizations to obtain an overview of the situation related to sexual violence. They also assessed the possible needs of these organizations in providing essential services to victims of sexual violence.

**Commemoration of World Press Freedom Day**

*“There is no simple mistake, a mistake is a mistake and a mistake in law is crime”.*

This year’s World Press Freedom Day was marked by local media associations in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and other partners under the theme, “advocating for media safety, freedom of expression and gender equality in the media.”

At the opening of a two-day conference in Juba on 4 May, Minister of Information and

Broadcasting Michael Makuei Lueth told participants, “Don’t step on the toes of others, if you do that, you have committed an offence, you are in conflict with the law and anybody in conflict with the law must be charged.”

The Director of the UNMISS Human Rights Division Ibrahim Wani moderated a panel discussion on fostering conditions for freedom of expression and freedom of information.



*Dignitaries at world press freedom day in Juba  
UNMISS Photo/ Isaac Alebe Avoro*

**Nepalese female peacekeepers participate in supply convoy**



*First female peacekeepers who traveled with Operation Lifeline 5 supply convoy  
UNMISS Photo / Corporal Khadak Bdr BC*

The fifth in a series of supply barge convoys recently travelled the 1,700-kilometre distance from Juba to destinations in Upper Nile State on the White Nile River. Dubbed Operation Lifeline 5, the convoy delivered fuel, food rations and contingency-owned equipment to UNMISS installations in Malakal and Melut.

For the first time, 11 female peacekeepers belonging to the Nepalese Battalion Two (NEPBATT 2) joined 40 male colleagues in providing force protection to the barges.

The importance of providing force protection to such barge convoys was highlighted by an attack on UNMISS-contracted barges in late April 2014 by an unknown armed group in the vicinity of Tonga in Upper Nile State. Two UNMISS peacekeepers and two crew members were wounded in that incident.

The Operation Lifeline 5 convoy consisted of four barges carrying contingency-owned equipment, three barges laden with food rations and two barges transporting fuel.

## Mongolian peacekeepers rehabilitate Pariang primary school



Mongolian Battalion at Pariang primary school in Pariang County, Bentiu, Unity State  
UNMISS Photo / Solomon Ayiko

On 24 April the Mongolian Battalion (MONBATT) of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan began rehabilitation work at a primary school in Pariangt County, Unity State through the implementation of an UNMISS Quick Impact Project. The rehabilitation of the primary school will accommodate larger numbers of students and provide a more conducive learning environment in Unity State for the benefit of 120 pupils.

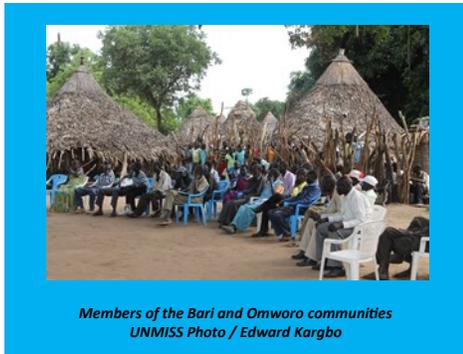
Current plans call for the improvement of fencing, lighting and toilet facilities within a period of one month.

During a ceremony, Acting UNMISS Unity State Coordinator Alain Sitchet

said, “that is part of the programmes aimed at consolidating peace and building confidence in Pariang County where we have operated since the inception of the Mission”. Cultural performances were conducted by students from the primary school and the Mongolian peacekeepers. A medical outreach was also conducted in the community and free health care services and essential medicines were provided to the local hospital.

The programme was led by Mr. Sitchet, the MONBATT commanding officer Col. Batchuluun Mishka and Pariang County Commissioner Mr. Monylang Minyiel.

## Rival communities in Torit County agree to end conflict



Members of the Bari and Omworo communities  
UNMISS Photo / Edward Kargbo

Two rival communities in Eastern Equatoria’s Torit County recently reached a peace deal that is expected to end two years of conflict that has claimed many lives.

Members of the Bari and Omworo communities met in Loudo on 25 April at a peace conference organized by local authorities with support from UNMISS and committed to ending the long-running tensions and violence.

UNMISS Civil Affairs Officer Ann-Mary Aलो said it was important that it was the communities who have called for dialogue and peace.

Leaders from the rival communities appreciated the efforts of the state government and UNMISS in reconciling the neighbours.

“We cannot even farm because of the insecurity, and this means we cannot get food,” said sub-chief Charles Oliha.

## Conflict resolution roundtable at cattle camp



Men from Ruop community attending the roundtable discussion at cattle camp in Marial-bek, Lakes State  
UNMISS Photo / JC McIlwaine

With support from UNMISS Lakes State Coordinator’s Office, the Relief, Reintegration and Protection Section, Public Information and the Nepalese battalion, UNMISS Civil Affairs Division led a conflict resolution roundtable on 21 April at a cattle camp in Marial-bek, Lakes state.

The team met with the Ruop sub-clan of the Agar clan of the

Dinka ethnic group, who have been in conflict with the neighbouring Kuei sub-clan since 2007.

This was the third visit to the cattle camp by UNMISS staff members and aimed to provide feedback from previous visits in the wake of a major clash on 15 March that left over 100 people dead. That was followed by a nighttime killing within the cattle camp.

The continuing incidence of violence has forced students to stay out of school in Pachong since last August. The UNMISS Civil Affairs Division team in Lakes State and the Ruop and Kuei communities have undertaken seven peace initiatives with the various groups to hear their grievances and explore possible solutions to end the cycle of violence.

UNMISS Troop Contributing Countries (TCC)  
\*Figures cited below as of April 10, 2015

TCC	TCC Acronym	Troop Strength
India	INDBATT 1/2	2239
Nepal	NEPBATT 1/2	1547
Rwanda	RWANBATT 1/2	1812
Ethiopia	ETHBATT 1/2	1245
Kenya	KENBATT	711
Mongolia	MONBATT	849
Ghana	GHANBATT	300
China	CHINBATT	700
Bangladesh		274
Cambodia		140
Japan		268
Korea		268
Sri Lanka		66
<b>Total</b>		<b>10419</b>
Military Liaison Officers		187
Staff Officers		312
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>10918</b>

UNMISS Police  
\*Figures cited below as of April 17, 2015

POLICE	Strength
UNPOL	543
Formed Police Unit (FPU)	498
Corrections	67
<b>Total</b>	<b>1108</b>

## Photo of the week



**SRSJG Loej with women representatives in Pibor**  
UNMISS Photo / Isaac Alebe Avoro

## CLICK THE LINKS

### PRESS STATEMENT

**Statement by Toby Lanzer, Humanitarian Coordinator in South Sudan**— Saving lives in South Sudan requires freedom of movement for aid workers.  
<http://bit.ly/1zwqldU>

### FLICKR GALLERY

UNMISS flickr album:  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/unmissmultimedia/>  
[https://www.flickr.com/photos/organize/?start\\_tab=new\\_set](https://www.flickr.com/photos/organize/?start_tab=new_set)  
[https://www.flickr.com/photos/organize/?start\\_tab=new\\_set](https://www.flickr.com/photos/organize/?start_tab=new_set)

### VIDEO

**SOUTH SUDAN / CHILD SOLDIERS** - More than 280 former child soldiers who have been returned to their families in Pibor, South Sudan have started taking part in educational, leisure and social activities to promote good life skills, the UN Mission in the Republic of South Sudan said Tuesday. UNMISS  
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/tv/unifeed/2015/04/s-sudan-child-soldiers/>

**SOUTH SUDAN/ WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY**- The Human Rights Division of the UN Mission in South Sudan helped organize a four-day training in Juba ahead of commemorations of World Press Freedom Day, which is observed on 3 May. UNMISS  
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/tv/unifeed/2015/05/south-sudan-press-freedom-day/>

### WEBSITE

UNMISS conducts patrols in Lakes State  
<http://bit.ly/1zfMmgP>

SRSJG Loej meets former child soldiers in Pibor town  
<http://bit.ly/1DEgkXf>

Rival communities in Torit County agree to end conflict  
<http://bit.ly/1bhsJTE>

Adult literacy programme launched in Torit  
<http://bit.ly/1JbmMK8>

Cobra Faction releases over 280 children from its ranks  
<http://bit.ly/1Gk3aR>

Mongolian peacekeepers rehabilitate school in Pariang County, Unity State  
<http://bit.ly/1DYfRif>

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