

South Sudan Situation Update

Trinity South Sudan Ministry The Boma Assistance Group for South Sudan May 31, 2021

National Situation

- **Bottom Line:** Presiding over a failed state, a corrupt, greedy, self-centered, autocratic government continues to enrich the powerful while the people starve, die of treatable disease, lack education and safe water. Local conflict continues because it benefits the national leadership. The threat of recurring conflict between government forces and armed rebel groups, as well as inter-communal conflict poses an ongoing threat to civilians. For interesting details see:
<https://www.globalr2p.org/countries/south-sudan/>
- Between January and March 2021, **humanitarian organizations** delivered assistance and services to nearly 2.7 million women, girls, boys and men across South Sudan. Of 8 million in need this means that 2/3 of the needy were not reached. Funding was not adequate to increase the outreach. Conflict, flooding, and criminal activity against humanitarian workers also were impediments.
Ref: UNOCHA Quarterly Update
- The **UN Security Council** on May 28, 2021 extended for one year the arms embargo imposed on South Sudan since 2018, with a clause providing for a review of its relevance in April 2022.
Ref: UNSC press release
- A South Sudanese **doctor was murdered** in the northern, oil-rich Unity state. Dr. Louis Edward Saleh was working at a clinic sponsored by the International Rescue Committee charity, and “was killed in cold blood within the facility.” The murder follows the killing of a nurse in April in Eastern Equatoria, a south-eastern state. **South Sudan is one of the most dangerous countries for humanitarians**, with nine aid workers killed there last year, according to the UN.

Ref: <https://english.alarabiya.net/News/middle-east/2021/05/23/South-Sudan-aid-doctor-killed-in-cold-blood-amid-rising-attacks>



File photo: Radio Tamazuj

- **President Salva Kiir said** that the permanent constitution of South Sudan should reflect the aspirations of the people of freedom, equality, justice and prosperity for all. The president was speaking while opening the permanent constitution-making process workshop. Those aspirations were expressed very clearly in the final report of the National Dialogue which **has**

been rejected by government leaders. Critically, the great bulk of the people of South Sudan are not aware of the results of the National Dialogue.

Ministry Update



Food Storage Warehouse in Gummuruk, May14, 2021, Rev. James Aleyi

- In Mid-May, the Greater Pibor Administrative Area **was attacked by Nuer from the Gawaar clan**. Since the Murle don't have borders with Gawaar Nuer, who live in northwestern Jonglei State, this was quite a surprise. Thousands have been displaced to Pibor. Not all details are known however it is believed that the Gawaar stole about 45,000 head of cattle, kidnapped about 200 women and children, and killed about 150 people. Most of the attackers appeared to be SPLA IO soldiers led by a General who was killed. From monitoring his captured satellite radio, *it was clear that this was being coordinated from Juba*.
- **Gummuuk and Vertet** were destroyed for the second time in two years. These towns are the homes of Rev. Orozu Lokine and Rev. James Aleyi's families. They are now in Pibor. Ref: Personal Communications



Greater Pibor Administrative Area (GPAA) Administrator, Joshua Konyi,

- **Joshua Konyi, Administrator of GPAA** said, "Our local youth managed to force the Gawaar youth to return to their area. And as I speak, there is no presence of them in our area. We need a national police force including all tribes of South Sudan. We need them to come and live together. There is no gain in the fighting because if Gawaar came and killed, kidnapped, and looted cattle, and yet Murle have to defend themselves and many are killed, no one is going to benefit from anything." Radio Tamazuj, May 26, 2021
- Differences between two groups within the **Presbyterian Church of South Sudan** arose in November 2020. They remain divided with no progress seen toward resolution. A briefing update is scheduled for Friday, June 4.

- **The South Sudan Ministry team will meet on June 7th.** Discussion items will include: a planned trip to South Sudan this summer, improving our peacemaking effort in the Jonglei/Pibor area, and establishing a Bible School in Pibor. New initiatives including working with a team to re-establish the Hospital in Pochalla and a peace initiative in Upper Nile State (requested by three of the major tribes in that area). Our fundraising for the next two months is to raise money to purchase Talking Bibles in the local languages for use in peacebuilding and evangelism.
- **A Memorial Service for Rev. Bill Anderson** will be held on the 19th June at the First Presbyterian Church in Clinton, SC, USA. Details will follow.

Trinity South Sudan Ministry Team