Executive Summary

South Sudan Weekly Security Report

Summary

- No change to security threat levels in Juba were recorded over the past week, with the city reporting two assault cases, an arrest, a grenade attack and the deportation of an international NGO worker by the security agencies.
- Harassment and crimes against individual humanitarian workers (by both state and non-state actors) remains an underlying challenge, and continues to prevent a number of personnel from operating outside of the relative security of UN compounds.
- The European Union (EU) warned this week that it was contemplating imposing fresh sanctions against specific individuals in South Sudan who incite ethnic hatred, obstruct the peace process or stop UN agencies from conducting humanitarian work.
- UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, presented the name of New Zealand Member of Parliament, David Shearer, to be approved by the UN Security Council as the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). This follows the resignation of Ellen Margrethe Løj.
- President Salva Kiir, in a bid to secure oil producing areas and ensure continuous production, has ordered the deployment of troops to major concession territories. He also advised the forces to avoid the targeting of civilians and destruction of property.
- Meanwhile in Juba, Japanese Ground Self-Defence (GSDF) troops were deployed at the UN Peacekeeping Operations site in Thomping, opposite Juba International Airport.
- The UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) criticized the resistance and constraints faced by humanitarian organizations’ personnel when carrying out their activities in the country. OCHA indicated that November recorded the highest number of incidents against humanitarian operations this year (100), in comparison to the average of 90 in the preceding months.
- Members of Parliament, in both the lower and upper house, stated that they were planning to lobby the 7th International Conference on the Great Lakes Region to ensure Sudan People’s Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A-IO) is branded as an illegitimate military force.
- On 08 December, National Security Service (NSS) agents arrested the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) Country Director, Victor Moses, from his office in Thomping, detaining Moses before forcing him to leave for Kenya the next day. Five days later, another staff member was also expelled in the same manner, with no information divulged about his expulsion.
- President Salva Kiir appealed to the international community for additional funding, stating that such assistance would help his country in the implementation of key provisions of the peace deal.
Juba Security Map: 08 - 15 December 2016

South Sudan Weekly Security Report

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Locations & Ratings

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Threat Ratings

1 - Minimal
2 - Low
3 - Moderate
4 - High
5 - Very High
### National Politics

**EU warns of possible sanctions on individuals**

The European Union (EU) warned that it was contemplating imposing fresh sanctions against figures who incite ethnic hatred, obstruct the peace process or stop UN agencies from conducting humanitarian work in South Sudan. EU foreign ministers stated that they were "profoundly disturbed" by the intensifying conflict in the country and called on the transitional government to protect civilians and for all parties to respect international law and bring an end to human rights violations.

**COMMENT:** Reports of a looming genocide in South Sudan have stirred the international community to be more aggressive with their interventions in the country. Recent months have seen increasing animosity between different communities, particularly in the Equatoria region, resulting in armed attacks, murders and the displacement of civilians. In July 2015, international powers imposed asset freezes on six individuals associated with the conflict, although a number of East African countries have in practice not upheld the bans. This information was revealed after reports indicated that opposition leader, Riek Machar and his spokesperson, James Gatdet, had travelled to Khartoum in October despite nominal freezes on their international funds. **COMMENT ENDS**

**New Zealand MP appointed as head of UNMISS**

The UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, announced on Monday the appointment of a New Zealand Member of Parliament (MP), David Shearer, as the new Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). This took place after his name was approved by the UN Security Council (UNSC). Shearer will take over from Ellen Margrethe Løj, who resigned on 21 October. Ban stated that Shearer had extensive political and humanitarian experience, which would be important for the role. Previous postings for Shearer included Deputy UN envoy in Iraq, the UN Aid Chief in the Palestinian territories, and the UN Humanitarian Aid Coordinator in Lebanon. He has been an MP since 2009 and is currently New Zealand’s Labour Party’s spokesperson for foreign affairs, having worked with the UN for almost 20 years.
The President orders deployment of troops to oil fields

On Thursday 08 December, President Salva Kiir, in a bid to bar armed elements from interrupting operations in oil facilities, ordered the deployment of additional troops to Bentiu and other oil producing areas. He indicated that this action will help stabilize the security situation and improve the economic environment of the country. Kiir urged the units to distinguish between civilians and combatants during their operations in order to prevent further civilian casualties and damage to residential property in the north. The conflict has negatively impacted the economy, with observers saying that the country is likely to record negative GDP growth in 2016. Conflict has cut oil output by a third, to about 160,000 barrels per day. The country is currently pumping oil in Upper Nile state after production in Unity state ceased in 2014.

Security agency arrests and expels two Norwegian Refugee Council official

On Thursday 08 December, officers from the National Security Service (NSS) arrested the Country Director of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Victor Moses, from his office in Thomping, taking him to the NSS detention centre in Jebel. After being in detention for more than 24 hours, with even his staffers not allowed to meet him, Moses was expelled from the country to Nairobi, Kenya. Five days later, on Tuesday 13 December, another senior employee, NRC’s Area Manager in Alek, Warrap State, was also expelled in the same manner to Nairobi, Kenya. Presidential spokesman Ateny Wek Ateny said that the presidency was not aware of the expulsion.

COMMENT: Although the NSS did not divulge information about the reason for Moses’ arrest and subsequent deportation, SPLA Army Chief of Staff, Gen. Paul Malong, in a statement broadcast on state media, warned diplomats to avoid making unverified statements. Reportedly, Moses had made comments regarding the military’s plan to launch offensives against rebels operating in Equatoria region. Following on the back of a number of forced deportations of international staff and media agents linked to unfavorable coverage of SPLA activity, it is likely that a trend of expulsion may soon take place, particularly as military operations in the north are ramped up over the coming months. COMMENT ENDS

OCHA decries impediment to humanitarian access

This month the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) criticized increased humanitarian access constraints in the country. The office stated that over 100 incidents were reported in November, which was the highest recording in a month since June 2015. It was also stated that since July 2016, a monthly average of 90 incidents had been maintained, compared to an average of 63.5 per month during the first half of the year. OCHA said that in November, workers were denied access to areas outside of Yei town, Central Equatoria and Wau town, Western Bahr El Ghazal. About 66 per cent of incidents reported in that month involved violence against humanitarian personnel or assets, while 26 per cent involved interference in humanitarian action, including interference in administrative matters (five), illegal or arbitrary taxation (seven) and expulsion of staff (two).
**MPs want SPLM/A-IO declared negative force regionally**

A group of Members of Parliament, from both upper and lower houses, indicated their intention to lobby members from countries in the region participating at the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) in Khartoum to accept their demands to label the armed opposition led by Riek Machar, as an illegitimate political and military force. The conference will deliberate on security matters and whether or not it should draw a list of illegitimate forces in the region. Juba requested additional intelligence and security support, and expressed appreciation at efforts by Kenya, Ethiopia and Sudan to isolate the rebel leader Riek Machar while requesting partners to do more to limit armed groups from using their territories in the fight against the South Sudanese government.

**IGAD issues communiqué after 29th extraordinary summit**

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) held its 29th Extraordinary Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to discuss the current situation in South Sudan and Somalia, with President Salva Kiir attending. On the issue of South Sudan, IGAD expressed concern and dismay that the implementation of the peace agreement had stalled since July, while calling upon the transitional government (TGoNU) to fully cooperate with the Ceasefire Transitional Security Monitoring Mechanism (CTSAMM), UNMISS, and humanitarian partners. It condemned reports of systematic targeted attacks and killings against civilian groups while welcoming the government’s consent for the deployment of the Regional Protection Force (RPF). It also reaffirmed a collective commitment of the region to a lasting peace, security and stabilization in South Sudan. IGAD also added its voice denouncing an arms embargo or sanctions on South Sudan saying that it will not provide a solution to the crisis.
Economy/ Security Overview
South Sudan Weekly Security Report

Provincial Developments

♦ On Sunday 11 December, government troops fired at two UNOCHA trucks in Nyamani carrying food aid to Mundri. SPLA units then reportedly set fire to the vehicles and looted the food. The SPLA-IO spokesperson in Greater Mundri, Captain Girma Apaya, also accused Juba of committing war crimes in Mundri, while government troops denied UNOCHA officials clearance to access the scene of the attack.

♦ UN Internal reports indicated that six bodies, which had been handcuffed and blindfolded, were found on a road outside Yambio. The officials also found burned huts near the bodies and estimated the killings took place in early December.

♦ On Monday 12 December, one person was reportedly killed and two others wounded in the Pagoor and Akaak sections of Mayath. Reports indicate that cases of revenge killings and cattle rustling have caused heightened insecurity in the state, increasing tensions. Last week saw more than 10 people killed in different incidents.

♦ SPLA soldiers reportedly arrested a house owner and two others in Magwi area after a social gathering that continued until 0300hrs on Sunday 11 December. Later that morning, victims were found dead.

Economic Overview

Dwindling economy pushes President Kiir to appeal for financial aid

President Salva Kiir appealed for financial aid from the international community, saying that it is financial constraints that have stalled the peace agreement implementation, adding that with enough resources, his government would try to implement key provisions of the deal. He added that the government has maintained bilateral and diplomatic relations with partners who are ready to help in the implementation of a lasting peace and economic recovery.

COMMENT: Since the outbreak of fighting in July, the country has faced a sharp rise in economic challenges with the South Sudanese Pound (SSP) losing its value against the US dollar. This has led the prices of commodities to rise, and contributed to a direct deterioration in the standard of living for ordinary citizens. The government also decided to inject more currency to the economy by printing new notes, while setting a new financial policy which is aimed at offsetting the huge depreciation of the SSP and to enable the government to run its duties. COMMENT ENDS.
Military activities

SPLA recovers 700 firearms during a disarmament exercise in five counties

SPLA Third Infantry Division Commander, Maj. Gen. Santino Deng Wol, pledged to provide protection and security in Gogrial State to those civilians who voluntarily handed over their firearms. He also threatened to carry out forceful disarmament in the areas under his command and control. This followed a week-long voluntary disarmament exercise where more than 700 firearms were collected from five counties of Apuk East, West and South, Aguok North and Central and the state capital Kuacjok.

Japanese troops deployed in UNMISS site

On Monday 12 December, at the UN Peacekeeping Operations site in Thomping, Juba, a ceremony was held to mark the change of guard to the 11th group of Japanese Ground Self-Defence (GSDF) troops. The personnel, who arrived in Juba on Monday 21 November, will take on new responsibilities, including the potential rescue of UN staff and other personnel under attack, and will play a greater role in protecting the camps of UN peacekeepers in addition to engineering projects.

Juba Security Incidents

- 07 December: Assault - A UNMISS international worker was injured after being assaulted by SPLA Military Police personnel following a minor road traffic accident at Custom Roundabout.
- 08 December: Assault - Reports indicated a physical confrontation between the acting Chief Administrator, and a nephew to President Salva Kiir, at the Presidential Palace (J1) over payments.
- 08 December: Arrest – the Country Director for the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Victor Moses, was arrested in his office in Juba, held for more than 24hrs and later deported to Kenya.
- 10 December: Shooting - Reports indicated that the SPLA deputy chief for logistics was attacked in his residence. The deputy chief later disputed the allegations adding that he was still alive and working normally.
- 12 December: Grenade explosion – Seven people were reportedly killed in a grenade explosion at a residential market in Mauna, Juba.
- 13 December: Shooting - Multiple gunshots were heard attributed to an unspecified crime in Lologu area, Juba.
Fig 2. Graph showing crime trends in Juba from Thu 10 Nov – Thu 15 Dec 2016

Fig 4. Number of crimes recorded by category in Juba from Thu 08 Dec – Thu 15 Dec 2016
Key security information for expatriates in Juba

- Residents and visitors are advised to avoid security facilities and groups of security personnel during. If an armed confrontation occurs, leave the area immediately and seek refuge away from governmental and opposition areas.
- It is recommended you should observe the United Nations curfew in Juba. It runs from 2100hrs until 0600hrs in the city.
- Clients are advised to be aware of the increasing use of violence in robberies committed recently in Juba. Cooperation during such incidents is key and is supported by analysis showing that victims who appeared to resist were assaulted. In addition, clients are recommended to take the following precautions:
  - Be aware of persons and vehicles around you at all times.
  - Remember to vary your daily routes and timings.
  - Leave expensive jewelry and other valuables at home.
  - Do not leave items clearly visible in a vehicle even if it is occupied by a driver.
  - Avoid large gatherings where pickpocketing is likely to occur.
  - Keep important items on your person rather than in your bag.
  - Always maintain good situational awareness.
  - If you choose to carry a bag, keep it close to and in front of your body.
- You should avoid visiting densely-populated local markets such as Konyo Konya Market. Such locations provide petty criminals with a relatively safe area of operations.
- Recreational walking or hiking up Jebel Mountain to the west of Juba is not advised. Access to the area is prohibited by the SSNPS due to “sensitive equipment” located at its summit. In addition, the area has not been completely cleared of unexploded ordinance (UXO) and anecdotal evidence indicates that expatriates have been robbed on the mountain in the past by armed criminals.
- Vehicle ambushes on the main supply routes linking Juba to Uganda (the Juba-Nimule highway) and Juba to the rest of the country (Juba-Yei and Juba-Kajokeji roads) are a possibility. If travelling on these routes you should always adopt precautionary measures such as advance route planning, adherence to journey management protocols and consider installing a vehicle tracking system.
- Expatriate staff should not drive themselves but should use a local driver. If you and your driver witness or come across a road traffic accident (RTA), you should continue driving without stopping to assist. If the road is blocked then you should turn around and return to your base. The only exception to this advice is if you are involved in an emergency situation such as an RTA in which the driver is injured.
- If you and your driver come across a carjacking incident or are faced with threats of violence, you should move slowly, listen to what you are being told, do what you are told, understand that this is not a negotiation, appear submissive, speak little and recognize that resistance should only be used if you believe it is the only way to protect yourself from physical harm.
- It is against the law to take images of public places, government buildings, soldiers and police officers. Permission should be obtained before taking pictures of local individuals.
- If you are harassed or targeted by the authorities or by civilians, it is important not to overreact as this is likely to aggravate the situation.
- It is advisable to keep a low profile and not to draw attention to yourself. You may wish to consider concealing logos or company badges when outside your accommodation or offices.
- All valuables should be kept out of sight in your accommodation, and also when walking or travelling in a vehicle. With the deterioration in the economic situation, it is to be expected that the local population will
become more desperate for any form of income, and it is therefore important not to make yourself a target.

- Drivers should not be permitted to use their phones while driving; partly because they are not fully in control of the vehicle if talking on the phone, but also because it provides security forces with a good excuse to harass, intimidate, and elicit bribes.
- The security of valuable items and large sums of money should be considered when transporting them to the project site in view of the increasing instability and economic hardship.
- Car doors should be kept locked, including when approaching gates and checkpoints as recent incidents illustrate that robbers are willing to take the risk of stealing from vehicles. Keep doors locked and windows closed until you have entered the relevant compounds and the gate has been shut behind you. Only lower windows when necessary to deal with access control measures.
- The following lessons can be drawn from recent road traffic incidents:
  - Rigorous pre-journey checks on vehicles should be conducted.
  - Defensive driver training for all designated drivers is invaluable.
  - A system for monitoring drivers’ speed can be very helpful; this can be achieved by using in Vehicle Monitoring Systems (iVMS) (where there is GSM coverage), satellite tracking outside GSM areas, or the installation of speed governors. It is also crucial for passengers or vehicle commanders to ensure that speeds are appropriate for the road and conditions.
  - Ensure there are adequate communications within a convoy as well as a journey management controller.
  - In the event of mixed convoys, journey management should be in place; designate one organization to manage a mixed convoy.
  - First aid training for all staff is crucial.
  - Appropriate first aid equipment should be carried; more advanced equipment, providing it is supported by adequate training, can prove invaluable.
  - It is crucial, but often overlooked, that all heavy items carried in vehicles are effectively stowed to ensure that injuries are not caused by their movement in the event of an accident.
  - Three point seat belts should be used at all times.
Olive Group’s intelligence analysts and security consultants produce bespoke political and security reports, threat assessments and security risk assessments to inform decisions and to protect people and assets across South Sudan and Africa.

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