



UNMIS Press Release

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SRSQ Qazi, on a visit to southern Sudan, expresses concern over the increase in tribal conflict

The violent tribal clashes in Upper Nile and Jonglei states in southern Sudan which have left hundreds killed, including many women and children, and thousands displaced, are a major cause for concern, said the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General (SRSG), Ashraf Qazi, yesterday at the end of a two day visit to Jonglei and Upper Nile. It is the second time the SRSG has visited the area this year to express concern over the security and humanitarian situation.

"In recent months, the death rate in southern Sudan from violent conflict has been higher than in Darfur", Mr. Qazi commented. He urged the international community, the regional and the local actors to address the situation as an utmost priority. "A secure environment is extremely important for the conduct of elections and the referendum. The successful implementation of the CPA must be peaceful," he added.

Mr. Qazi further reiterated UNMIS readiness to assist to this end within its capacity. Mr. Qazi met with political and military leadership in Malakal, Bor and Pibor to discuss the recent fighting in the area as well as issues pertaining to the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA).

Both Jonglei and Upper Nile States Governors acknowledged the major role that UNMIS played in calming down the tension between the rival tribes by establishing two temporary operating bases in Akobo and Pibor. Last month, UNMIS deployed 120 military, police and civilian personnel in Akobo and Pibor counties in an effort to address the security situation, assist the humanitarian operations and mediate with the local authorities for peaceful reconciliation. He also highlighted the importance of enabling the state authorities to draw and implement their own stabilisation plan.

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