

## **Excerpts from the Reports of the UN Secretary-General and UNMISS**

### ***SG Report 22 February 2023***

Cattle-related intercommunal violence and land disputes with ethnic undertones continued to undermine the peace process. In Jonglei State, cyclical cattle-related incidents in the Nuer, Dinka and Murle territories escalated, with large-scale mobilization extending into the Greater Pibor Administrative Area, resulting in violent clashes and the displacement of over 40,000 civilians.

In Jonglei State, intercommunal clashes between young people from the Lou Nuer and Murle communities over cattle and abductions displaced some 17,000 civilians to Pibor town and exacerbated acute food insecurity. On 22 December, Lou Nuer young people from northern Jonglei State attacked Murle people in the Greater Pibor Administrative Area to retrieve stolen cattle and abducted civilians. This culminated in a significant outbreak of violence between the two groups in Gumuruk, from 26 to 28 December, which also involved the South Sudan People's Defence Forces and eventually led to the Lou Nuer's overrunning of Gumuruk. In early January, following counter-attacks by the South Sudan People's Defence Forces and the Murle, the Lou Nuer armed young people returned to their areas of origin, mainly in Uror and Ayod Counties, but the potential for retaliatory attacks remains high.

### ***SG Report 13 June 2023***

Clashes between communities and cattle-related communal violence continued to affect the security situation. As a result of the spike in civilian casualties resulting from the conflict in Upper Nile and Jonglei States at the end of 2022 and early in 2023, a large-scale mobilization of armed Nuer young people was observed.

The greater Jonglei area saw a decrease in clashes between the Lou Nuer and Murle communities. However, sporadic incidents, particularly the raids led by the Murle in northern Jonglei, continued to perpetuate the threat of renewed mobilizations of the Lou Nuer community during the current dry season. Over the reporting period, the two groups instigated 70 incidents, resulting in 103 people killed (including 82 men, 15 women, 5 boys and 1 girl), 53 injured (46 men, 5 women, 1 boy and 1 girl) and 133 abducted (65 women, 55 boys and 13 girls), as well as one case (a woman) of conflict-related sexual violence.

### ***SG Report 11 September 2023***

The conflict in the Sudan has also exacerbated the security and humanitarian situation in South Sudan, largely owing to the influx of returnees and refugees, the reduction of available resources and weak infrastructure to meet the needs of arrivals. These factors have contributed to rising intercommunal tensions. Meanwhile, cross-border cattle raids and competition over grazing lands have led to communal fighting in various States, including Warrap, Lakes and Unity.

The security situation in Jonglei remains largely unchanged. The number of Murle-led attacks, although persistent, reduced during this period, with 25 incidents, 36 killings (30 men, 2 women, 2 boys, 2 girls), 15 injuries (14 men, 1 boy), and 29 abductions (4 women, 12 boys, 13 girls) reported since June.

### ***UNMISS Human Rights Division: Brief on violence affecting civilians January-December 2022***

- ❖ In 2022, UNMISS documented at least 3,469 civilians affected by violence and subjected to killing, injury, abduction, and conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) in South Sudan. This represents an increase of two per cent as compared with 2021 when 3,414 victims were recorded.
- ❖ The vast majority of violence was geographically concentrated in 208 payams (39 per cent of the 540 payams in the country), accounting for more than 92 per cent of the victims.
- ❖ The number of killings decreased by 16 per cent as compared with 2021, while the number of recorded cases of injuries increased by 17 per cent and the number of abductions increased by six per cent. However, the number of CRSV cases increased significantly by 96 per cent, remaining an issue of great concern.
- ❖ Despite a 27 per cent overall decrease of violence in 2022 (from 982 to 714), civilians continue to be at risk of violence. Sub-national violence involving parties to conflict accounted for 38 per cent of the documented incidents and accounted for 48 per cent of victims, while community-based militias and/or civil-defense groups are accounted for 54 per cent of the incidents involving 47 per cent of the victims.

In Jonglei State and Greater Pibor Administrative Area (GPAA), the peace achieved through a rapprochement between the community leaders of the areas was undermined by the upsurge of violence perpetrated by the Nuer community-based militias against the Murle. The massive attack launched by the Nuer on 24 December 2022 in the GPAA was, in part, in retaliation to Murle community-based militias' persistent small-scale attacks in various areas of Jonglei (such as Urur, Nyirol, and Akobo).

### ***UNMISS Human Rights Division: Brief on violence affecting civilians January-March 2023***

- ❖ Between January and March 2023, the UNMISS Human Rights Division (HRD) documented 194 incidents of violence affecting 920 civilians (405 killed, 235 injured, 266 abducted, and 14 subjected to conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV)).
- ❖ This represents a 12 per cent increase in violent incidents compared to the same reporting period in 2022 (from 173 to 194). The number of victims increased by 22 per cent (from 754 to 920). The proportion of civilians killed increased by 35 per cent (from 300 to 405), while the number of victims injured decreased by 12 per cent (from 266 to 235). Abductions significantly increased by 113 per cent (from 125 to 266), while CRSV decreased by 78 per cent (from 63 to 14).

- ❖ In comparison to the previous quarter, there is a four per cent decrease in violent incidents (from 202 to 194) and a five per cent decrease in civilian casualties (from 969 to 920). The killings decreased by 10 per cent (from 450 to 405), while injuries slightly increased by five per cent (from 224 to 235). While abductions increased by 31 per cent (from 203 to 266), the number of CRSV decreased by 85 per cent (from 92 to 14).
- ❖ Violence involving community-based militias and/or civil-defense groups accounted for 92 per cent of victims, while five per cent was attributed to parties to the conflict.
- ❖ The scope of the brief includes data and trends on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).

Persistent cattle raiding, attacks and revenge attacks in Jonglei State and the Greater Pibor Administrative Area (GPAA) involving armed elements mainly from the Lou Nuer and the Murle community have caused a significant number of casualties and continue to threaten the protection of civilians in the area. The peace achieved through a rapprochement between the community leaders of the region was undermined by the upsurge of violence perpetrated by community-based militias from Jonglei, with the majority from the Nuer community, alongside other armed elements from Gambella, Ethiopia (The Gambella region of Ethiopia is also inhabited by Nuer community from South Sudan who crossed the borders (through Pagak in Eastern Upper Nile and Akobo East of Jonglei) of South Sudan. The armed elements described in this brief is a mix of Nuer from South Sudan and armed Ethiopians) against the Murle in the GPAA wherein a massive attack was launched from 24 December 2022 to 9 January 2023, in retaliation to Murle community-based militias' persistent small-scale attacks in various areas of Jonglei (such as Akobo, Bor South, Nyirol, and Uror). During the attacks, HRD documented at least 308 killed, 131 injured, 299 abducted and four subjected to sexual violence. These civilian casualties were in addition to the number of casualties highlighted in this brief. Similarly, attacks perpetrated by the armed Murle elements continued throughout the first quarter of 2023, including a series of attacks in various areas of Akobo, Ayod, Duk, Nyirol, and Uror counties. Notably, humanitarian convoys and workers were not spared. During the reporting period, at least 20 violent incidents against humanitarian staff and assets have been documented, disrupting the delivery of food aid and other lifesaving supplies to the community. These Murle incursions accounted for 267 civilian casualties (97 killed, 78 injured, 90 cases of abductions, and two subjected to CRSV), including 79 women and 46 children.