

11th – 17th Nov. 2016

WEEKLY MEDIA DEVELOPMENT DIGEST SOUTH SUDAN



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The digest provides highlights of development issues in the print and electronic media on South Sudan. UNDP's interest is on how the issues affect human development and vice-versa.

Media Outlets:

1. Radio Tamazuj
2. All Africa
3. The New Arab
4. Sudan Tribune
5. South Sudan News Agency
6. Committee to Protect Journalists
7. AA
8. Reuters
9. Eye Radio South Sudan
10. Juba Monitor
11. Xinhua Net
12. Business Week
13. The Dawn
14. Associated Press
15. Daily Maverick
16. World Political Review
17. UNMISS South Sudan
18. The Star
19. Voice of America
20. The Japan News
21. International Business Times
22. Daily Nation

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DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

Fuel shortage disrupts business in South Sudan capital

Denis Elamu: [Xinhua Net- 11 Nov. 2016](#)

Persistent fuel shortage has disrupted business in the South Sudanese capital Juba, a result of currency devaluation and ongoing conflicts in the oil-rich yet poverty-ridden country. Oyoo Simon, who operates a heavy generator at Bakhita radio premises, told Xinhua that they expected to have no power within the next few days due to the difficulty in accessing fuel at one of the major fuel deports in the capital. "The fuel shortage is affecting us too much. What I have bought cannot run the generator for more than two weeks," Oyoo said after returning from the fuel deport with his drum of fuel. He added that the long queues and jostling at the various fuel points in Juba makes it hard to stock fuel. "It takes more than three weeks to buy fuel from the petrol station," he said. The city's fuel is imported through Kenya's Mombasa port amid high foreign exchange rates, with the U.S. dollar exchanging as high as 78 with South Sudanese Pound (SSP) in November, up from 32 in April. Since August, the Sudan People's Liberation Army-in opposition (SPLA-IO) led by former First Vice President Riek Machar has staged several ambushes on trucks and vehicles along the Juba-Nimule road and the Juba-Yei road.

Salary delays for government employees in several South Sudan states

[Radio Tamazuj- 15 Nov. 2016](#)

Officials have confirmed that civil servants in government institutions in different parts of the country did not receive their salaries for more than two months, amid rising prices of essential commodities at the market. Kornelio Kon Ngu, South Sudan's Deputy Minister of Agriculture, told Radio Tamazuj on Sunday that government employees have gone unpaid for more than two months. Meanwhile, James Abdalla, Mvolo County Commissioner

in Western Equatoria, said that the civil servants did not receive their salaries since August. He noted that the delay of salaries was due to insecurity along the Juba-Yambio road. For their part, several civil servants in Juba confirmed that they did not receive their salaries for two months, while complaining about skyrocketing prices of goods at the market. "The price of a

sack of flour reached 2,500 SSP and a sack of sugar is 3,000 SSP, while a jerrycan of cooking oil costs 1,750 SSP," one of civil servants said. The complaining government employees called on the National Ministry of Finance to release their salaries as soon as possible. [Also reported in Eye Radio South Sudan- 11 Nov. 2016: Concerns raised over pay delay in Yei River](#)

Juba and Kampala Sign Free Trade Deal

[Joseph Oduha: All Africa- 14 Nov. 2016](#)

South Sudan and Uganda have signed a One-Stop Border Posts agreement to enhance trade through the efficient movement of goods, persons and services within the two partner states. South Sudan's ambassador and Foreign Affairs undersecretary Joseph Ayok Anei, told reporters in Juba on Monday that the deal was vital, especially for South Sudan whose economy was handicapped by political instability. The agreement was inked on November 8 in Kampala by the Foreign Affairs secretaries from both sides. Mr Anei said the deal would also do away

with non-tariff barriers and curb the illegal and high taxations imposed on traders from both countries. Although politically instable, South Sudan has curtailed the flow of commodities from Uganda and Mr Anei was optimistic that efforts by the Juba administration to restore peace would open doors for foreign investment and encourage the free trade between the two countries. [Also reported in Business Week-15 Nov. 2016: South Sudan in MOU with Uganda for border link](#)

New deal to boost S Sudan-Uganda trade

[Moses Legge: Eye Radio South Sudan- 15 Nov. 2016](#)

South Sudan and Uganda have signed a one-stop border crossing deal in a bid to reduce travel time and cost of cross-border business, an official has said. The Undersecretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Joseph Ayok Anei, says the agreement, which was signed Kampala last week, is also aimed at promoting trade through efficient movement of goods, people, and services between the two countries. "It will also enhance women's trade program to promote inclusivity and equality between women and men," Mr Anei told reporters in Juba on Monday.

"That means small businesses like those of women who come to sell bananas or vegetables from Uganda have to be empowered – make life easy for them to cross the border." Once constructed, the border post will reduce the number of stops in cross-border trade and other transactions by combining border control activities at a single location in each direction. The signing of the agreement was witnessed by the officials from both ministries of Foreign Affairs.

Southern Liech faces food shortage

Emmanuel Akile: [Eye Radio South Sudan- 11 Nov. 2016](#)

Southern Liech State is facing serious shortages of food and other humanitarian needs, an official has said. Information Minister Peter Makuoth says residents of the capital, Leer, are currently surviving on one meal per day due to lack of humanitarian assistance. The citizens don't have anything to eat, and at the same time, we don't have enough food items available in the market in Leer," Mr Makuoth told Eye Radio on Thursday. Prices of the few available items have been hiked. The area has been witnessing a series of clashes since September. This, he said,

and floods along major roads leading to the town, has affected market supplies; farmers in the state cultivated crops, but were not successful due to the floods. Following the latest clashes early this month, many residents fled to the town after incidents of attacks by the armed groups in the surrounding areas. "The humanitarian situation is very bad because many people are in the town," Mr Makuoth continued. He urged the humanitarian organizations to intervene.

Gov't to Implement Juba Power project

Sworo Charles Elisha: [Juba Monitor- 14 Nov. 2016](#)

Government has resolved to implement the \$154.1 Million Juba Power Project in phases until it is accomplished. The Minister of Energy and Dams Dr. Dhieu Mathok Diing presented a ministerial memo to the cabinet on Friday last week. The project is proposed to operate on Public Private Partnership (PPP) or Bill Own Operate and Transfer System Boot. Speaking to journalists after the Council of Ministers' meeting, the Minister of Information and Government Spokesperson, Hon. Michael Makuei Lueth said the cabinet had some observations on its immediate resumption. "However the cabinet had its observations but it appreciated the presentation and described it as excellent and applauded it but it directed that the project should be done in phases where phase 1

should be improvement and rehabilitation of the current machinery so that they start to function at that level thereafter they begin to put together the machinery up to the level when Juba will be fully satisfied," he said. He said the government had approved the Juba Power Project and directed the Ministry of Energy and Dams to continue implementing it accordingly. Minister Makuei said the Minister of Energy and Dams Dhieu Mathok also presented another report on the participation of South Sudan in the East Africa Power Industry Convention where the cabinet applauded and commended the recommendations of the report. [Also reported by Benjamin Takpiny in The Dawn- 12 Nov. 2016: Government approves \\$154.1 million for upgrading electric power in Juba](#)

New Market launched to Promote Peace

[Juba Monitor- 14 Nov. 2016](#)

Jondoru Community of Rajaf County and UNDP set up a new market to promote peace. The Construction began on Friday in Rajaf which aims to enhance livelihoods and promote peace in the

community impacted by the July fighting. Members of Jondoru community in Rajaf County gathered on Friday to celebrate the progress of the market, which aims to serve approximately

nine thousand residents, as well as various additional communities in the county. "This is the first time since 2011 that we see a great project being launched in our area to help and support our people (who are trying to) improve their lives, and for that we are very grateful to UNDP," said Chief Augustino Mori. "This project

is an answer to our current marketing and self-employment problems, and, as women, we are not going to suffer any more," said Ms. Rose Muja who spoke on behalf of Jondoru women. The market is part of UNDP's Integrated Crisis Response Plan and comes after a series of consultations with the local community.

Foreign companies hire charcoal burners

[Opio Jackson: Juba Monitor- 12 Nov. 2016](#)

Lebanese and Egyptian companies are reportedly dealing in the illegal exportation of charcoal from Jubek state. Jubek State's Governor Lt. Gen. Augustino Jadalla Wani said the foreigners hire local people to fell down trees for charcoal. The governor said that after hiring the locals to burn the charcoal, they later export it to other countries outside South Sudan. We are facing a terrible environmental situation simply because there are no implementers of the laws and regulations as foreigners are destroying our environment for charcoal export, he stressed.

"Someone has reported to me that there are Lebanese and Egyptian companies in Bilinyang that have hired some Ugandans and local people to prepare for them charcoal for export and they pay the workers at only 20 SSP for a pile of charcoal," Gen. Jadalla said. He cautioned all his thirteen county commissioners to take that matter very serious saying that he is going to send security to all counties and if it is found that there is any company that deals in charcoal burning, then that particular county commissioner will face it rough.

GOVERNANCE AND RULE OF LAW

South Sudan reactivates rule of law forum

[Radio Tamazuj- 15 Nov. 2016](#)

South Sudan announced it has reactivated a rule of law forum between public institutions with a view to providing a space aimed at guiding dialogue among the key stakeholders. Stakeholders comprise judiciary, interior ministry, Justice and police service whose functions extend to prisons as the key public institutions. Other stakeholders include media, academics, think tanks, national security and military intelligence but whose representative did not take part in one day workshop held on Tuesday by the ministry of justice, legal affairs and constitutional affairs. Speaking on Tuesday at the ministry of Justice premises, Minister

Paulino Wanawila said the reactivation of the forum will help citizens not to be arbitrarily arrested or detained until the due process of the law takes place. "So the important of this meeting is to coordinate the work of the institutions involved in the enforcement of rule of law and we are reactivating it today and now it will continue to function and we hope that it will help a lot in surfing and even inform the citizens of what we are doing as people who are having moderate nation with the institutions that respect and observe the rule of law", said Minister Wanawilla.

German party wants all cooperation with S. Sudan suspended

[Sudan Tribune-14 Nov. 2016](#)

A German political party wants cooperation with war-torn South Sudan suspended, arguing that any dealings with the Juba regime will be viewed as complicity in crimes. The political party, Die Linke (The Left) has also agitated for the termination of the mandate of the United Nations mission in South Sudan, claiming it has failed to perform its duties in protecting civilians while its operations continue costing the world, yet no work was allegedly being done. "Suspend

bilateral development cooperation with South Sudan! The regime of President [Salva] Kiir covered the country with blood and violence and at the same time enriches itself unscrupulously," a party official reportedly told German lawmakers. "While he and his opponents often live abroad in luxury, their own population suffers. Such a regime must not be a partner of the [German] federal government", he added.

Eastern Lakes state Governor Sacks commissioner

[Sudan Tribune- 17 Nov. 2016](#)

The Governor of South Sudan's Eastern Lakes state, Rin Tueny Mabor has sacked the Aweril North county commissioner. Mabor issued the decree removing Simon Jok on 14 November. Although no reason was given for the move, Jok believes his removal was linked to the exposure of a financial scandal involving some senior officials. "I have a problem with one of the staff

over the lands; the officer in charge of survey in this county misused the money amounting to SSP 30,000. That money went missing and the officer said he used the money to accommodate the minister of physical infrastructure and deputy governor during their visit to county headquarters which is now being used as a cover up," Jok told Sudan Tribune Wednesday.

UN calls on Sudan and South Sudan to negotiate over Abyei

[Associated Press- 15 Nov. 2016](#)

The U.N. Security Council is calling on Sudan and South Sudan to immediately resume negotiations on the final status of the disputed area of Abyei, saying it constitutes a serious threat to international order. The 15-member council voted unanimously Tuesday to extend the mandate of the peacekeeping force in the Abyei, underscoring that peacekeepers are charged with taking necessary action to protect

civilians under imminent threat of physical violence regardless of the source. The resolution extending the peacekeepers' mandate stressed that future status of Abyei shall be resolved peacefully, through negotiations and not through the unilateral actions of either party. Ownership of oil-rich Abyei remains disputed following South Sudan's split from Sudan in 2011.

Apuk youth withdraws support from Gogrial governor

[Sudan Tribune- 16 Nov. 2016](#)

The Apuk youth Union, home to Gogrial state governor has issued a statement notifying the

general public of their decision to withdraw a vote of confidence in their governor. The youth,

apparently backed by powerful politicians and military officers from the area in different capacities and levels in the government and in private sector, called for immediate intervention of the national government in containing communal dispute in the area. "The Apuk Youth Union in Juba has resolved to withdraw its support and allegiance from Hon.Abraham Gum Makuac, governor of Gogrial state," the letter extended to Sudan Tribune on Wednesday reads in part. It further called for the relocation of security forces to the border points to rescue the

deteriorating security situation and urged the national government for immediate intervention for peaceful settlement of community disputes. The Statement explained they decided to call for intervention of the national government because the state government "is incompetent enough and not neutral to solve the problem of the two communities". "We call upon the national government to form a fact finding committee to investigate the root cause of the dispute between the Apuk and Aguok communities".

PEACE AND SECURITY

EU announces €78 million for South Sudan crisis

[Sudan Tribune- 13 Nov. 2016](#)

The European Commission will provide €78 million in emergency aid to help those affected by the ongoing conflict in South Sudan. Over a million refugees from South Sudan, aid agencies say, have fled South Sudan into neighboring countries, with the number expected to grow. The EU commissioner, Christos Stylianides announced the funding during a visit to Uganda, one of the largest refugee and asylum-seekers hosting country in the world. "The EU stands by the people of South Sudan who had to escape conflict and violence. I would like to pay tribute

to Uganda for its hospitality in welcoming refugees and offering them an opportunity to rebuild their lives in dignity, which is an example for the region and beyond. Our new funding will help our humanitarian partner organizations get lifesaving aid to those who need it most," said Stylianides. In recent months, however, attacks on relief agencies regularly occur in South Sudan. "What's crucial therefore is that humanitarian organizations have unhindered and safe access to do their lifesaving job," stressed the EU commissioner.

Kenya's Troop Withdrawal Could Seal the Fate of South Sudan's Peace Process

[Andrew Green: World Politics Review- 15 Nov. 2016](#)

In a sharp rebuke to the United Nations, Kenya has started the process of pulling its troops from the U.N. peacekeeping mission in South Sudan. To make matters worse, Kenya is simultaneously disengaging from peace efforts in South Sudan, where a 15-month-old agreement to bring together warring parties was already on the verge of collapse. The moves by Kenya, which

has been a key regional force in pushing for South Sudanese stability, could cement its failure. Kenya's moves come in response to the firing of Lt. Gen. Johnson Mogo Kimani Ondieki, the Kenyan commander of the U.N. peacekeeping force in South Sudan, known as UNMISS, earlier this month. U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon sacked him in the wake of

an independent investigation into UNMISS' response to July clashes in South Sudan's capital, Juba. The investigators determined that command shortcomings within UNMISS

contributed to a "poor performance" among military contingents during the violence, which left more than 250 people dead, including two peacekeepers.

Yei Religious Leader pleads for a peace

[Patricia Okoed: UNMISS South Sudan- 15 Nov. 2016](#)

The Bishop of the Episcopal church of South Sudan in Yei diocese is desperately pleading with the country's leaders to bring peace to Yei. "All I beg for is peace this coming Christmas," pleads Bishop Hillary Adeba Luete, adding that "there is nothing I can ask from the people who started the conflict but to beg for peace." UN refugee agency, UNHCR says ongoing military operations in Yei have trapped up to 100,000 people in the southern town that is now facing a humanitarian crisis. Bishop Luete describes the security situation as 'disturbing', with recent

reports of more than 10 people being brutally killed and their bodies burned. Bishop Luete said it is difficult to ascertain who is behind the killings, adding that the murders are mainly being perpetrated in the village areas. On the humanitarian situation, Bishop Luete said the UN World Food Program has started distributing food assistance, greatly relieving the desperate situation. "We were very happy last week when WFP started distributing food, I could see people smiling happily carrying their food," he said.

Claims by opposition that pulling South Sudan troops was illegal dismissed

[Oliver Mathenge: The Star- 16 Nov. 2016](#)

State House has dismissed claims by opposition leader Raila Odinga that the decision by President Uhuru Kenyatta to withdraw KDF from South Sudan was unconstitutional. "It is clear that Raila has consistently misunderstood Kenya's military, which has remained apolitical since independence," State House said in a statement. Spokesman Manohar Esipisu said the decision by Uhuru to recall the troops was constitutional. He said this included obtaining authorisation by the National Security Council, acting by its mandate under the Constitution. "Needless to say, Raila is

not a member of the NSC," Esipisu said. He went on, "Our soldiers do not put their lives on the line because of allowances and stipends. They are in peacekeeping for the peace and security of Kenya." Esipisu said the military comprises committed professionals and great officers who have invested their careers in developing a respectable capacity to perform their duties. "We sacrifice immensely every time soldiers are deployed to peacekeeping missions," he said. He added that to trivialise peacekeeping and the huge sacrifices soldiers make is an insult to their profession.

Civilian casualties alleged in Nhialdiu clashes; IO deny aid worker abductions

[Radio Tamazuj- 16 Nov. 2016](#)

A state official says that nine civilians were killed in clashes between government and opposition in Nhialdiu, Unity State, on Sunday. SPLA-IO rebels, meanwhile, deny abducting aid workers

from the village but confirm that they captured territory where they were based. Lam Tungwar, Minister of Information in South Sudan's proposed Northern Liech State said that nine

civilians were killed in the clashes that erupted between the government and opposition forces on Sunday in Nhialdiu area. "Nine civilians were killed during the clashes in Nhialdiu area," said Tungwar. Speaking to Radio Tamazuj, Tungwar admitted that rebels overran Nhialdiu briefly but claimed that the government forces have since recaptured the area from the opposition. He also reiterated his earlier claim that the opposition abducted 21 aid workers including 20 South

Sudanese nationals and one Kenyan national. One aid agency that has worked in Nhialdiu area denied that any of its staff were abducted. "We do not have any WFP Staff members abducted in Nhialdu over the weekend," said agency spokesman George Fominyen. Meanwhile, William Gatjiath, a spokesman for the armed opposition claimed they are still in control of the area since the clashes erupted on Sunday.

Thousands trapped by fighting in South Sudan Receive Emergency Aid

[Tito Justin: Voice of America- 15 Nov. 2016](#)

The United Nations refugee agency UNHCR said it is distributing life-saving items to more than 6,000 vulnerable families trapped by fighting in Yei River state over the last six months. Internally displaced persons (IDPs) say they welcome the relief aid but want to be allowed to safely return to their home villages so they can harvest the crops they planted. The food rations they are receiving are not enough to survive on. UNHCR officials said more than 10,000 families were displaced from their homes in Yei County after fighting broke out between government forces and armed opposition groups

aligned to former First Vice President Riek Machar. U.N. agencies say humanitarian conditions deteriorated quickly because aid workers were not able to access the area due to rampant insecurity. Ana Roba and her seven children are some of the displaced villagers receiving food assistance from UNHCR. The Roba family was displaced two months ago from Day Star, an area about two kilometers from Yei town. Roba and her children now stay with relatives near the Episcopal Church of Sudan and South Sudan offices in Yei.

South Sudanese President grants amnesty to rebels

[Sudan Tribune- 17 Oct. 2016](#)

South Sudan's President Salva Kiir has reportedly granted amnesty to 750 troops loyal to his main political rival and the country's former First Vice-President Riek Machar. Those pardoned crossed in to neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) when fighting erupted in the capital, Juba in July this year. Local media reports quoted South Sudan's Defence Minister Kuol Manyang saying the Juba regime was ready to welcome the armed opposition forces residing in refugee camps in DRC. "The President of the Republic made an amnesty for those who will be ready to come back and this is the message we were carrying to the authorities in

DRC," Manyang told the Dawn newspaper. A team, the minister disclosed, would be sent to convey the amnesty message to the rebels, whose leader declared armed resistance against President Kiir in September. "Those who will want to go back to the army; we will send them to contentment sites where they will be screened. And those who will want to be in the police, will be re-trained," added the minister. Violence broke out in South Sudan's capital in July when the two rival forces clashed, leaving hundreds dead and thousands displaced. The incident forced Machar to flee Juba into the DRC.

Education minister condemns killing of teachers in Yambio

[Sudan Tribune- 16 Nov. 2016](#)

The education, gender and social welfare minister in Gbudue, one of South Sudan's newly created states has condemned the killing of two teachers in the recent fighting that displaced pupils preparing for examinations. Addressing a public gathering in Yambio on Tuesday, Phillip Pia said the two teachers were killed in the recent fighting between armed groups who attacked the town, but were repulsed by the army. "It is of great disappointment to see that we are killing teachers who are not supposed to be touched, we are killing the future," said Pia. One of those killed was a Mathematics teacher, while the

other was the inspector of schools in Gbudue state, according to the minister. Pia said government imports teachers from neighboring countries. He further decried the fact that hundreds of pupils have fled their homes, yet schools were to start final examinations as per schedule. Most of the schools are closed and deserted, mainly in the northern part of Yambio town, as children fled their home into safe locations. In April, members of South Sudan National Liberation Movement (SSNLM) signed an agreement with the South Sudanese government.

Cabinet approves rescue missions abroad for GSDF / South Sudan operation to start Dec. 12

[Yomiuri Shimbun: The Japan News- 15 Nov. 2016](#)

At a Cabinet meeting on Tuesday, the government approved a new mission in which Ground Self-Defense Force personnel dispatched to U.N. peacekeeping operations in South Sudan can come to the rescue of those who have come under attack, and also approved another mission of joint protection of billeting areas. The new missions were made possible under the security-related laws that took effect in March. It is the first time the government has approved new functions on the basis of the laws. In a meeting of the National Security Council attended by nine related ministers held before the Cabinet meeting, the government confirmed

it would assign both missions to the GSDF troops, the 11th of their kind, which departs for South Sudan on Sunday. At the Cabinet meeting, the government decided to revise an implementation plan to add the new rescue mission and confirmed permitting the joint protection of billeting areas. At a meeting of a House of Councilors special committee on the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade pact on Tuesday, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe had a high opinion of GSDF activities, saying, "The dispatch of the Self-Defense Forces has been highly praised by international society."

Uganda now home to 450,780 people fleeing war-torn South Sudan

[International Business Times-10 Nov. 2016](#)

More than 450,780 people have now fled war-torn South Sudan to Uganda, which continues to receive the highest number of new arrivals, followed by Ethiopia and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). While a fragile peace deal was signed in August last year, effectively ending the

2013-2015 civil war which killed tens of thousands and displaced 2.2 million, renewed fighting broke out on 7 July between forces loyal to President Salva Kiir, and fighters loyal to former vice-president Riek Machar — killing more than 300. This setback to peace efforts is

responsible for the latest surge in those fleeing, driving just over 220,320 people to neighbouring Uganda since July 2016. Uganda has commendably kept its doors open to the new arrivals, United Nations refugee agency (UNHCR) previously said in a statement. As of 18 October, there were 323,964 South Sudanese

refugees in Uganda. New clashes broke out on Wednesday (9 November) between loyalist forces and rebels, just metres from the Ugandan border point of Oraba, forcing UNHCR and NGOs on the ground to halt their activities for a few hours.

1 dead, over 10 wounded in different attacks in Juba

[Radio Tamazuj- 9 Nov. 2016](#)

At least one person been killed during a house attack in South Sudan's capital, Juba, on Tuesday night, highlighting rise in the organised and banditry act over the past days. Security and police officials blamed the rise in attacks on lack of cooperation and provision of correct information by the resident. Mawien Dut Wol, a resident of Malakia in Juba town, said Wednesday six gunmen entered one of the houses of his neighbour and killed one person last night. "You know the security situation in Juba has been deteriorating these days. It has now reached a point where people don't get out helping others because that would be a risk. Last night some gunmen in mixed military, police and

national security entered one of the houses of one of our neighbours and killed one person," said Mawien. He identified the victim as Waleed Awad, who was killed by around 1 am after allegedly appearing to resist attempts to take money, clothes, phones and laptops. "I know the victim. He is a good man. He runs a shop in Malakia. It seems these people know him too because they came, they asked him to give them but he was hesitant and asked why", he said. Police spokesman Daniel Justin said police were doing their best but are not getting information on time from the residents. "We cannot be overall the places at the same time.

South Sudan army says it withdrew from Sudan border

[Radio Tamazuj- 10 Nov. 2016](#)

South Sudan's army units have withdrawn from their positions at the border with neighboring Sudan in compliance with the 2012 non-aggression deal, a spokesman for the SPLA army said. The move comes after Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir gave South Sudan until December 2016 to implement the agreement that included a package of understandings related to security, citizens' status, border and economic issues, as well as oil and trade. Lul Ruai Koang, spokesman of the SPLA army, told Radio Tamazuj yesterday that they have already

withdrawn troops from the common borders. He pointed out that the withdrawal of forces was in line with security arrangements under the 2012 Joint Cooperation Agreements between the two Sudans. Lul called upon the Sudanese government to pull out its troops at least ten kilometres from the common border. However, the military spokesman didn't mention the areas deserted by their units. "I am still waiting for the report on the areas deserted by the forces," said Lul.

South Sudanese flee country as 'Potential for Genocide' grows

Kevin J Kelly: [Daily Nation- 12 Nov. 2016](#)

More than 10 percent of South Sudan's 11.3 million people have fled the country in a mass exodus that is now accelerating, the United Nations reports. In addition to the nearly 1.3 million South Sudanese living in refugee camps, about 1.6 million more have been displaced inside the country, the UN says. Some 200,000 are sheltering in or near UN peacekeepers' bases. About 40 percent of South Sudan's remaining inhabitants are facing impending famine, the UN's food agencies warn. At least five simultaneous disease outbreaks are threatening lives as well, international health specialists say.

Malaria, measles, cholera, guinea worm and kala azar (a parasitic killer) are all spreading amidst a breakdown in sanitation and health care resulting from the three-year-long civil war. At the same time, "there is a strong risk of violence escalating along ethnic lines with potential for genocide," Adama Dieng, the UN special advisor on preventing genocide, declared on Friday at the conclusion of a five-day visit to South Sudan. "Throughout the week, conversations with all actors have confirmed that what began as a political conflict has transformed into what could become an outright ethnic war," he added.

Riek Machar says peace deal can save South Sudan as violence spreads and millions flee

Ludovica Laccino: [International Business Times- 11 Nov. 2016](#)

South Sudan became the world's newest nation when it declared independence from Sudan in 2011. However, the country descended into civil war in 2013, when President Salva Kiir – of the Dinka ethnic group – fired his deputy and rebel leader Machar – from the Nuer group – and his cabinet. Ethnic-related violence spread, with militia groups carrying out attacks in villages and areas known to be inhabited by either the Dinka or Nuer tribes. An estimated 50,000 people have been killed, hundreds of thousands are either facing starvation in the country or have fled, amid allegations of crimes against humanity committed by both sides, including rape, torture

and the use of child soldiers. Kiir and Machar have agreed on several peace deals – the last of which was signed in August 2015 – but have failed to control their troops, who have broken every ceasefire signed since 2014. Machar, who leads the opposing faction Sudan People's Liberation Movement-in-Opposition (SPLM-IO), originally left South Sudan in 2013. His return and his reinstatement as vice president in April 2016 had restored hopes for the implementation of the peace process. However, Machar fled South Sudan following deadly fighting that left at least 300 people dead in Juba in July.