



United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)

Media & Spokesperson Unit

Communications & Public Information Office

PRESS RELEASE

UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS MEETS PRESIDENT OF SOUTH SUDAN

Juba, 5 July 2013: Herve Ladsous, the Under-Secretary-General (USG) for peacekeeping operations, accompanied by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Missions in South Sudan (UNMISS) Hilde F. Johnson and the Head of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) General Yohannes Tesfamariam, met this morning with the President of South Sudan Salva Kiir Mayardit and a delegation of the Government.

Herve Ladsous congratulated the President on the celebration of the 2nd anniversary of South Sudan's independence. The President and the USG also discussed UNMISS support to national political processes such as the constitutional review, legal and judicial reforms and capacity-building of the national police, as well as the resolution of the conflict in the State of Jonglei.

Herve Ladsous saluted the Government's efforts to address the situation in Jonglei, including through the amnesty offered to armed groups. He discussed with the Government international concerns regarding the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Jonglei, the grave violation of human rights perpetrated by the parties to the conflict, and the political and economic conditions necessary to achieve sustainable peace and reconciliation. The Government acknowledged its primary responsibility for the protection of civilians, and highlighted its efforts to regain the confidence of the population and restore stability in the State.

Regarding the Sudan-South Sudan relations, Herve Ladsous emphasized the support of the United Nations to the efforts and latest initiatives of the African Union High Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP), and also discussed with Government officials the situation in Abyei. With respect to the determination of the territory's final status, he stressed that UNISFA could only support the implementation of agreements between the Government of Sudan and South Sudan. He also underlined that there would be no compromise on security. He shared his deep regrets for the assassination of the Ngok Dinka Chief in Baloom on 4 May, confirmed that a joint investigation led by the African Union was about to be launched, and underlined that all armed elements entering Abyei will continue to be disarmed by UNISFA, as mandated by the UN Security Council.

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