



United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)

Media & Spokesperson Unit
Communications & Public Information Office

PRESS RELEASE

19 August 2014

UNMISS condemns live fire exercise in the vicinity of Bentiu camp, Unity State

At approximately 9:45 am on Monday the 18th August, sustained gunfire, lasting for 30 minutes, was heard around the UNMISS compound in Bentiu, Unity State. The source of the firing was nearby Rubkona Airstrip, where SPLA soldiers are stationed.

UNMISS has been advised that the firing was done by SPLA troops stationed at the Airstrip, who were firing in the air, in celebration of war veterans day. All indications are that the firing into the air was done in the direction of the UNMISS Bentiu base.


As a result of the firing one child was wounded while inside the UNMISS Protection of Civilian (POC camp) area and UNMISS has recovered nine bullets which penetrated UNMISS accommodation and office blocks.

UNMISS is seriously concerned by the incident which caused injury to a civilian and could potentially have harmed more members of the civilian population as well as UN personnel and calls on the SPLA to desist with all live fire celebratory exercises in the vicinity of its bases and protection of civilian sites.

UNMISS calls on national, state, local authorities and forces to protect all civilians, and to ensure that the inviolability of United Nations premises is protected, and to take effective measures to prevent the recurrence of such incidences.

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