

Brief on Violence Affecting Civilians

HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ Between January and March 2026, UNMISS Human Rights Division (HRD) documented 206 incidents of conflict-related violence affecting 1,388 civilians (1,049 men, 215 women, 82 boys, and 42 girls): 767 killed, 457 injured, 93 abducted, and 71 subjected to conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV).
- ❖ Perpetration of international humanitarian law (IHL) and international human rights law (IHRL) persisted. Of these violations, the community-based militias and/or civil defense groups were accountable for 68 percent of the total number of victims (941 individuals), while the conventional parties to the armed conflict and/or other armed groups accounted for 27 percent (373 individuals), and unidentified and/or opportunistic armed elements accounted for the remaining five percent (74 individuals).
- ❖ Compared with the previous quarter (October – December 2025), the total number of documented incidents decreased by four percent (from 215 to 206); however, the number of victims increased significantly by 67 percent (from 830 to 1,388). The number of civilians killed and injured increased by 89 percent (from 406 to 767) and 73 percent (from 264 to 457), respectively. While abductions decreased by 12 percent (from 106 to 93), the number of victims subjected to sexual violence increased by 31 percent (from 54 to 71).
- ❖ Compared with the same quarter in 2025, the number of documented incidents decreased by 34 percent (from 312 to 206) and the number of victims decreased by 14 percent (from 1,607 to 1,388). The number of civilians killed increased by 4 per cent (from 739 to 767), while the number of victims injured and abducted decreased by 33 percent (from 679 to 457) and 38 percent (from 149 to 93), respectively, and survivors of CRSV increased significantly by 78 percent (from 40 to 71), indicating its prevalence in the context of armed conflict.
- ❖ The scope of the brief includes data and trends on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) on which during the first quarter of 2026, 34 incidents of SGBV affecting 34 victims were documented.
- ❖ The data presented in this report does not capture a holistic view of the human rights situation in South Sudan due to reduced footprint and resource constraints caused by the contingency plan implementation. UNMISS offices in Eastern Equatoria and Northern Bahr el Ghazal have been closed, and while human rights teams are not present in Warrap and Lakes states, which were converted to Force-only bases.

CONTEXT

During the first quarter of 2026 (January–March), the security situation in South Sudan was marked by continued violence at the subnational level, primarily involving the conventional parties to the conflict with serious implications for civilian protection. A persistent climate of impunity coupled with limited accountability for perpetrators, remained a key factor enabling violations and abuses. Throughout the reporting period, the violence was driven by various armed actors, including the conventional parties to the armed conflict and other armed groups, community-based militias, and/or civil defense

groups, as well as opportunistic and/or unidentified armed elements.

The actions of these groups contributed to a volatile security environment in which conflict-related violence remained pervasive, resulting in significant civilian harm. The illicit and continued proliferation of weapons, the mobilization and manipulation of local armed groups, recurrent intercommunal disputes, and unresolved political and territorial grievances further entrenched cycles of violence. As a result, affected populations

experienced loss of life, widespread displacement, and destruction of their properties, eroding community resilience, and worsening an already precarious human rights situation across conflict-affected areas.

This brief examines the impact of armed violence in South Sudan and provides an overview of the multifaceted trends and patterns observed between January and March 2026. It focuses on the four major forms of individual harm most commonly experienced by victims during the armed conflict: killing, injury, abduction, and sexual violence. Consistent with the previous quarter, the brief analyzes the conflict dynamics in South Sudan that continued to fuel violence affecting civilians, thereby further undermining the human rights situation within the broader political and security crisis.

The information contained in this brief was obtained from victim and eyewitness accounts as well as reports from secondary sources, including service providers, community leaders and local authorities identified during field missions conducted by the UNMISS Human Rights Division (UNMISS HRD). Unless otherwise specified, all information presented herein has been verified through independent and credible sources. All incidents of intercommunal violence were deconflicted with incidents

documented by the UNMISS Civil Affairs Division. Incidents determined as cases of CRSV were corroborated in consultation with the UNMISS Women's Protection Advisory Unit.

The data presented in this brief is non-exhaustive and likely underrepresents the scale of harm affecting civilians. Investigations by UNMISS HRD were constrained by limited resources, access denials, inaccessibility due to weather conditions, as well as fear of reprisals among victims and witnesses, and underreporting of sexual violence due to social stigma. Additionally, prevailing political and security developments further significantly restricted UNMISS access to hotspots and conflict-impacted areas.

In accordance with its mandate, UNMISS issued this brief to raise awareness and serve as an advocacy tool aimed at reducing the impact of conflict-related armed violence on civilians. The Mission continues to urge all stakeholders to take concrete action to end violence, uphold the human rights of the people of South Sudan, including their rights to life, integrity, dignity, liberty, and security of person as well as equality before the law and equal protection of the law without discrimination.

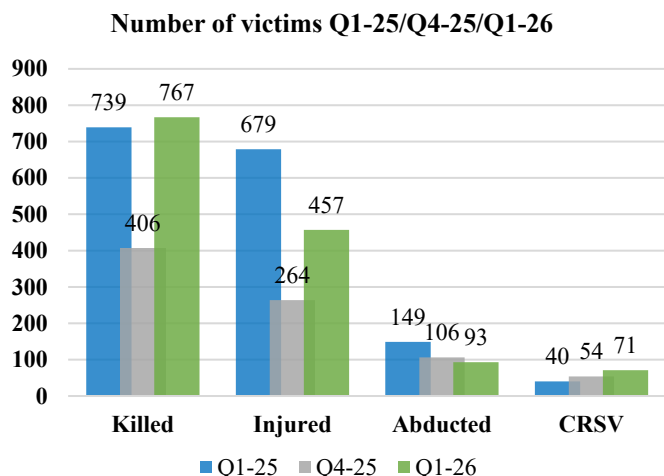
GENERAL TRENDS

Persistent armed violence and insecurity, compounded by a complex interplay of political rivalries and ethnic tensions continued to undermine the protection of civilians across South Sudan. During the reporting period (January to March), the human rights situation remained volatile, characterized by tensions, and persistent violence driven by political instability and fragmentation among parties to the peace agreement, insurgency, entrenched ethnic divisions, longstanding community grievances, territorial disputes, and competition over natural resources. These dynamics continued to hinder efforts to advance sustainable peace, and exposed civilians to further risks of harm.

The protection environment was further affected by various factors, such as the spillover impact of the conflict in Sudan, the continued proliferation of small arms and light weapons driven by illicit trade across porous borders, displacement related to violent internal conflict and environmental shocks (i.e. flooding and droughts), and the involvement of a wide range of armed actors. Additional concerns included forced military conscription and militarization of children, mainly boys, for participation in the armed conflict, and restrictions on

humanitarian access in conflict-affected areas of the country.

Between January and March 2026, UNMISS HRD documented 206 incidents of conflict-related violence affecting 1,388 civilians, including 215 women and 124 children (82 boys and 42 girls), who were subjected to one of the four major forms of harm (killing, injury, abduction, and sexual violence). This represents a four percent decrease in the number of incidents (from 215 to 206) and a 67 percent increase in the number of victims (from 830 to 1,388) in comparison with the previous quarter (October and December 2025). The number of civilians killed and injured increased by 89 percent (from 406 to 767), and 73 percent (from 264 to 457), respectively. In contrast, the number of abducted civilians decreased by 12 percent (from 106 to 93), while the number of victims subjected to sexual violence increased by 31 percent (from 54 to 71).



Compared with the same quarter in 2025, this reflects a 34 percent decrease in the number of incidents (from 312 to 206) and a 14 percent decrease in the number of victims (from 1,607 to 1,388). While the number of civilians killed increased by four per cent (from 739 to 767), the number of injured and abducted civilians decreased by 33 percent (from 679 to 457) and 38 percent (from 149 to 93), respectively. The number of victims subjected to sexual violence increased by 78 percent (from 40 to 71), indicating that while overall conflict incidents fluctuated, sexual violence against women and girls remained a concern and their vulnerability worsened. Heightened armed hostilities in Jonglei State by both parties to the armed conflict and their allied armed groups, as well as escalating violent attacks carried out by the community-based militias in the State were the main factors resulting in the increase in the number of victims.

Notwithstanding the decrease in incidents and victims compared with the same period in 2025, UNMISS HRD has reasonable grounds to believe that the data presented in this brief is not fully comprehensive. The number of incidents, as well as the number of victims, were most likely underreported due to access constraints, population movements resulting from multiple displacements, and insecurity in conflict-affected areas, which limited monitoring and verification activities. The trends, patterns, and impact of violence outlined in this brief should therefore be interpreted within this operational context.

Violence by the Conventional Parties to the Armed Conflict and other Armed Groups

In the first quarter of 2026, the human rights situation in South Sudan remained volatile as armed hostilities

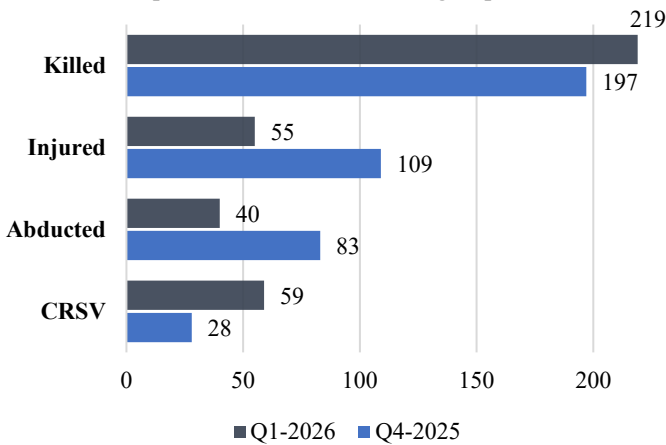
involving the conventional parties to the conflict and other armed groups intensified across several regions. These hostilities included clashes between the South Sudan People’s Defense Forces (SSPDF) and the Sudan People’s Liberation Army – in Opposition (SPLA-IO), as well as the involvement of their respective allied forces, and other armed groups. The protection of civilians was adversely impacted by persistent military operations including air and ground offensives, counter-insurgency operations, and counterattacks, particularly in parts of northern Jonglei, Eastern Equatoria, Unity, Upper Nile, Western Bahr el Ghazal, and Western Equatoria States. As in previous reporting periods, the capacity to determine the exact number of civilian casualties attributable to these actors remained constrained by insecurity and restricted access to affected areas, which limited UNMISS HRD’s ability to reach the affected communities and verify the alleged human rights violations and abuses linked to reported incidents.

During the reporting period, violence attributed to conventional parties to the conflict and other armed groups accounted for 50 percent of all documented conflict-related incidents (103 out of 206) and 27 percent of victims (373 individuals). This represents an 11 percent decrease in the number of victims compared with the previous quarter (from 417 to 373), and a 93 percent increase compared with the same period in 2025 (from 193 to 373).

Jonglei State recorded the highest number of conflict-related incidents attributed to conventional parties to the conflict and other armed groups, mainly the SSPDF and SPLA-IO, with the support of their respective allied forces, accounting for 45 percent of incidents (46 out of 103) and 67 percent (249 out of 373) of the total number of victims. The human rights environment in the State remained volatile and was characterized by escalating armed hostilities between these actors in parts of Akobo, Ayod, Nyirol, and Uror Counties, as well as the targeting of civilian population and settlements. This resulted in large-scale civilian displacement, destruction of infrastructure, including humanitarian facilities¹; and widespread violations of human rights and IHL, such as killings, injuries, sexual violence, and pillage.

¹ At least 26 health facilities were destroyed, including Médecins Sans Frontières Hospital in Lankien, and rendered non-functional, leaving the population without access to essential services.

Violence affecting civilians by Conventional parties and/or other armed groups



During the coverage of this brief, UNMISS HRD documented at least 32 incidents of aerial offensives and ground attacks in northern Jonglei State (i.e. Walgak and Akobo West in Akobo County; Wau and Khorwai in Ayod County; Padiet and Poktap in Duk County; Lankien, Pieri and Thol in Nyirol County; and Goh-goak, Karjak, Kuol-Kuom, Motot, Pathai, Tiam, Thoardit, Wechkol and Yuai in Uror County). In some of these attacks, the alleged use of highly flammable substances or incendiary weapons was also reported, resulting in casualties while traumatizing the civilians. In February, in Ayod County, two separate and deliberate attacks carried out against the civilian population by the SSPDF and its allied forces were documented. Reportedly, civilians were deceived into gathering under the pretext of receiving food assistance; however, as soon as they were assembled, the SSPDF and its allied forces reportedly started shooting at them, killing 21 civilians, including 15 women and three girls. Separately, in Wau Payam on the same day, the SSPDF and its allied forces reportedly decapitated four civilians. Relatedly, in March, 11 civilians were reportedly killed in Nyirol County during simultaneous attacks on Lankien town and Thol Payam by the SSPDF and allied forces. Meanwhile, in Ayod Payam, Ayod County, a 14-year-old girl was reportedly gang-raped by a group of armed elements believed to be members of the SPLA-IO. Further, alleged killing of prisoners of war by the SPLA-IO, an IHL violation, was also reported. Overall, UNMISS HRD documented 44 incidents affecting 246 civilians (181 killed, 24 injured, four abducted, and 37 subjected to sexual violence) perpetrated by these actors. UNMISS HRD has reasonable grounds to believe that the exact number of civilians harmed by violence committed by both parties to the armed conflict in Jonglei State may have been higher.

Western Equatoria State recorded the second-highest number of conflict-related incidents perpetrated by the conventional parties to armed conflict. The human rights situation in the State remained volatile and unpredictable due to tensions and intermittent armed clashes between the SSPDF and SPLA-IO as well as attacks against civilians in Nadiangere, Yambio County and Namutina, Nagero County; persistent incidents of CRSV; and the abduction of young men and boys allegedly for forced military recruitment. For instance, in two separate incidents in February, a total of 18 civilians (17 men and one boy) from Maruko Payam, Ibbu County and Sakure Payam, Nzara County, were reportedly abducted by members of the SPLA-IO. While some of these civilians managed to escape, the majority were allegedly taken to an area along the border of the Democratic Republic of Congo for training. In total, UNMISS HRD recorded 22 incidents perpetrated by these actors, resulting in 62 civilians harmed, including 11 women and five children, of which nine were killed, 23 injured, 22 abducted, and eight subjected to sexual violence.

In Unity State, although the number of conflict-related incidents perpetrated by the parties to the armed conflict and other armed groups was lower as compared with other conflict-impacted areas in South Sudan, the protection of civilians and human rights situation in the State remained unstable. In January, tensions between the SSPDF and the SPLA-IO, along with their respective allied militia groups were observed in the areas of Guit, Leer, and Rubkona Counties. Further, reports of military mobilization by both the SSPDF and SPLA-IO were documented in parts of Koch and Leer Counties, while civilians perceived as opposition supporters were reportedly subjected to arbitrary arrest and detention by the government security forces, mainly from the SSPDF and National Police Service.² In addition, incidents of sexual violence by these actors continued to be documented. For instance, in January, the SSPDF and its allied Bul Nuer militia reportedly raped three women from the Nuer community in Kaljak Payam Rubkona County, while the SPLA-IO, on two separate occasions, gang-raped a woman in Kaljak and Budang Payams (Rubkona County).

In Western Bahr el Ghazal State, the security and human rights situation remained fragile following the capture of the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement/Army - in Opposition (SPLM/A-IO) headquarters in Wadhallelo, Jur River County, by the SSPDF in December 2025, as well as the subsequent incidents of armed hostilities and persistent tension between the SSPDF and SPLA-IO,

² Between January and March, UNMISS HRD documented seven incidents of arbitrary arrest and detention linked to conflict, which affected 21 civilians, including four boys, in Unity State.

mainly in January 2026. This created an atmosphere of fear amongst civilians, exacerbating civilian displacement and humanitarian needs, particularly in the Bazia area in Wau County, which hosts displaced civilians from within Western Equatoria State. Reports of targeted arbitrary arrest and detention, as well as unlawful detention, ill-treatment and forced military recruitment of civilians, linked to the tension between the two parties, persisted.

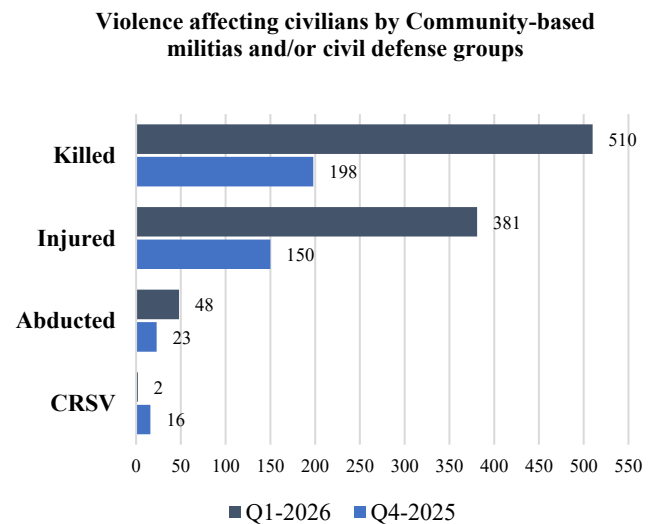
In Central Equatoria State, although a unilateral pause in armed hostilities between conventional parties to the armed conflict was observed in February and March, tensions, particularly in the southern part of the State persisted, owing to renewed armed confrontation in January between the SSPDF and SPLA-IO in Panyume, Morobo County, which directly threatened the protection of civilians and the humanitarian situation in the area. Further, violations and abuses of human rights by both parties targeting civilians continued. For instance, on 14 January, SPLA-IO elements shot and killed a 21-year-old civilian in Morobo County after storming the area to loot an unspecified number of cattle from the community. Separately, allegations of abductions by the National Salvation Front (NAS) faction, as well as incidents of CRSV by the SSPDF and NAS, were documented.

In Upper Nile State, the human rights situation remained volatile due to continued armed confrontations between the SSPDF and its aligned forces against the SPLA-IO, along with its aligned White Army militia, in parts of Nasir, Longochuk, and Maiwut Counties. These hostilities continued to pose serious protection risks to civilians and resulted in loss of life, destruction of civilian property, displacement, disruption of livelihoods, and restrictions on the delivery of humanitarian assistance. Civilians caught between frontlines were further exposed to forced recruitment, looting of property, and sexual violence.

Violence by Community-Based Militias and/or Civil Defense Groups

Armed violence perpetrated by community-based militias and/or civil defense groups remained a major driver of civilian harm during the reporting period. This violence was driven by multiple factors, such as longstanding grievances and communal tensions linked to pastoral war over cattle raiding, access to natural resources and grazing land, land disputes and contested territorial boundaries, the illicit acquisition and proliferation of small arms and light weapons, the cyclic retaliatory attacks to restock the lost cattle, and the exploitation of these actors by political elites to serve their personal interests.

During the first quarter of 2026, community-based militias and/or civil defense groups accounted for 42 percent of all documented incidents (86 out of 206) and 68 percent of all civilian victims (941 individuals). Compared with the previous quarter (October to December 2025), this represents a 143 percent increase in the number of victims (from 387 to 941). Compared with the same quarter in 2025, this reflects an 11 percent decrease (from 1,063 to 941).



Between January and March, Unity State recorded the highest number of victims attributed to community-based militias and/or civil defense groups, accounting for 28 percent of all victims nationwide (67 out of 941), notably due to the longstanding tension between the Dinka Alor of Abiemnom County, Ruweng Administrative Area (RAA) and the Bul Nuer of Mayom County that resurfaced following the killing and incineration of two Bul Nuer civilians in February by the Dinka Alor armed elements who reportedly intercepted and shot the victims as they were travelling in Awila Payam, Abiemnom County and subsequently burnt their bodies. In retaliation, on 1 March, Bul Nuer armed elements from Mayom County, specifically the Terchuong militia, launched a coordinated attack against the Dinka Alor in Abiemnom that resulted in at least 137 civilians killed and 87 others injured. In addition, 76 personnel of the government security forces were killed during the attack. Further, intracommunal violence and tensions persisted amongst the Nuer sections and sub-sections, and attacks involving armed Dinka Agaar elements from Rumbek North County against Nyuong Nuer communities in Panyijiar County continued.

Warrap State recorded the second highest number of victims attributed to community-based militias and/or civil defense groups and responsible for 27 percent of all

such victims nationwide (253 out of 941), and 97 percent of victims (148 killed and 105 injured) within the State. Most of the violence occurred in the context of cross-border and intercommunal attacks linked to cattle raiding by Nuer armed elements from Unity State targeting Dinka communities in Gogrial East, Greater Tonj (East, North and South), and Twic counties. Further, intracommunal violence amongst Dinka armed elements persisted. While 47 percent of the total number of conflict-related incidents by community-based militias and/or civil defense groups in the State were attributed to the Nuer armed elements from Unity, the remaining 53 percent were perpetrated by various armed Dinka sub-groups mainly from Gogrial East, Tonj East and Tonj South Counties.

In January, communal violence between Dinka Luanyjang and Dinka Jalwau armed elements in Wunlit Payam, Tonj East County, resulted in 45 civilian casualties (27 killed and 18 injured) and the looting of reportedly 400 cattle. In March, Nuer armed elements, reportedly from Mayendit County, Unity State, navigated through the river on 13 motorboats, and launched a raid in one of the cattle camps in Makuach Payam, Tonj East County, in which 33 civilians were killed, including 10 women and five children, and four others were injured amongst the Dinka Luanyjang community.

In Jonglei State, armed violence by community-based militias continued to threaten the protection of civilians alongside the ongoing armed conflict since December 2025. Murle armed elements from the Greater Pibor Administrative Area (GPAA) carried out attacks against the communities in parts of Ayod, Bor South, Duk, Nyirol, Pochalla, Uror, and Twic East Counties, resulting in 57 civilians killed, 29 injured, and seven abductions (six women, 11 girls, nine boys). These attacks also resulted in the destruction of civilian assets and looting of civilian property, including approximately 275 cattle. Further, incidents of violence amongst Dinka-Bor subgroups increased. For instance, in February, 17 civilians (10 Dinka-Dum and seven Dinka-Pakuei, including one girl) were injured during communal violence between the two communities in Pakeer Payam, Twic East County. Furthermore, in response to the attacks by the Murle in Greater Jonglei, the Dinka-Bor armed elements, with the intention of recovering their stolen cattle, launched a raid in Manyabol Payam, Gumuruk County, GPAA. Reportedly, the attack resulted in three civilians killed, four injured, and 17 abducted (five women and 12 children). Overall, the community-based militias were responsible for the killing of 82 civilians, injury of 68 others, and abduction of 44 victims.

In Central Equatoria State, violence by such armed actors heightened. For instance, 23 civilians (including five girls) were killed, and 15 others (including one girl) were injured over a land dispute in Terekeka Payam, Terekeka County. Civilians were reportedly also displaced.

Violence by Unidentified and/or Opportunistic Armed Elements

Incidents of violence perpetrated by armed elements that do not fall within the aforementioned categories but nonetheless bear characteristics linking them to ongoing conflicts or violence affecting civilians were also documented. The linkages were assessed based on factors such as the modus operandi of the suspected perpetrators, the locations of the incidents, and other relevant indicators such as the objective of the violence, clothing, and language used.

During the reporting period, violence attributed to these armed elements accounted for eight percent of all documented incidents (17 out of 206) and five percent of civilian victims (74 individuals), including 38 killed, 21 injured, five abducted, and 10 subjected to CRSV.

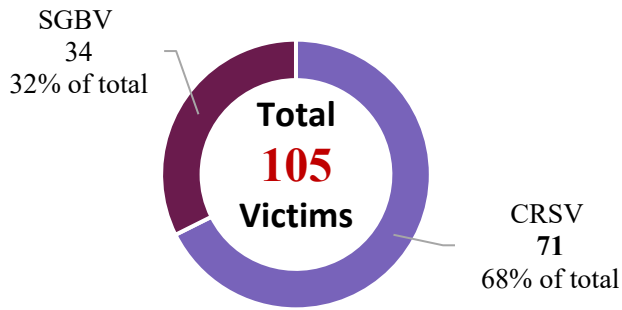
Central Equatoria State recorded the highest number of incidents and victims in this category of perpetrators, owing to the attack on 28 and 29 March in gold mining sites in Ganji Payam, Juba County, that allegedly resulted in 24 civilians killed and 15 others injured. Additionally, over a dozen members of the SSPDF were reportedly killed during the attack.

Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)

SGBV in South Sudan remained a serious concern and pervasive during the reporting period. Victims, particularly women and girls, continued to face risks of violence in the context of heightened insecurity, displacement of civilians, as well as influx of refugees from Sudan. Social stigma and the lack of access to formal justice mechanisms, on most occasions, have forced survivors to seek redress through customary bodies that are often disadvantageous to them.

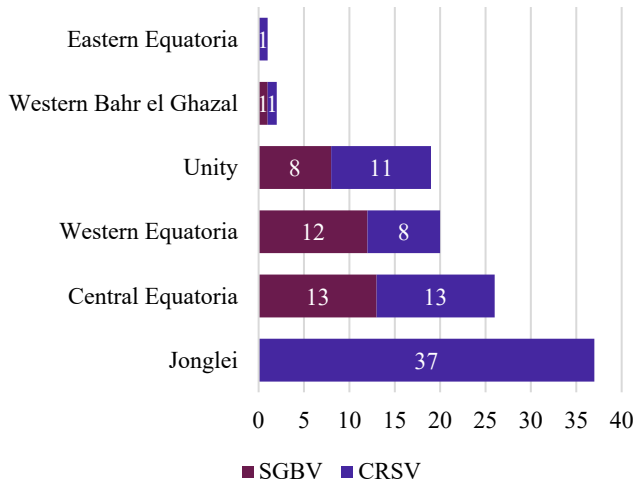
During the first quarter of 2026, UNMISS HRD documented 34 incidents of SGBV affecting 34 victims (27 women and 7 girls) across four States. The highest number of survivors were recorded in Central Equatoria State (13), followed by Western Equatoria State (12) and Unity State (eight). Perpetrators included community members, family members, and unidentified armed elements.

Total number of survivor of sexual violence Q1-2026



In addition to SGBV, UNMISS HRD documented 36 incidents of CRSV affecting 71 survivors (62 women and 9 girls). Jonglei State recorded the highest number of survivors, accounting for 52 percent (37 out of 71), followed by Central Equatoria State (13 survivors) and Unity State (11 survivors). These three States collectively accounted for 86 percent of all documented survivors.

State most affected by CRSV and SGBV in Q1-2026



Conventional parties to the conflict and other armed groups were the primary alleged perpetrators of CRSV, accounting for 83 percent of documented survivors (59 out of 71). Unidentified and/or opportunistic armed elements accounted for 14 percent (10 survivors), while community-based militias and/or civil defense groups accounted for three percent (two survivors).

UNMISS HRD documented cases of sexual violence, including gang rape and rape, in multiple locations. These included the rape of women in Lankien Town, Nyirol County, and Pajut Payam, Duk County in Jonglei State, as well as in Kaljak Payam, Rubkona County in Unity State.

UNMISS HRD has reasonable grounds to believe that incidents of SGBV and CRSV continue to be significantly underreported owing to stigma, fear of retaliation, trauma, and limited access to services and justice mechanisms. Survivors often face barriers to reporting, including social pressure to seek resolution through customary mechanisms instead of formal judicial processes.

GEOGRAPHICAL TRENDS

Between January and March 2026, Jonglei State recorded the highest number of civilian victims, accounting for 32 percent of all victims nationwide (443 individuals), followed by Unity State (21 percent, 289 individuals) and Warrap State (19 percent, 260 individuals). Together, these three States accounted for 71 percent of all documented civilian victims during the reporting period.

Unity and Warrap States were primarily affected by intercommunal violence involving community-based

militias and/or civil defense groups, whereas Jonglei State experienced both conventional armed hostilities and intercommunal violence, resulting in the highest number of civilian casualties.

During the reporting period, armed hostilities involving conventional parties to the conflict, including internal confrontations amongst their factions, continued to affect the human rights situation in parts of Jonglei, Unity, Upper Nile, Western Bahr el Ghazal, and Western

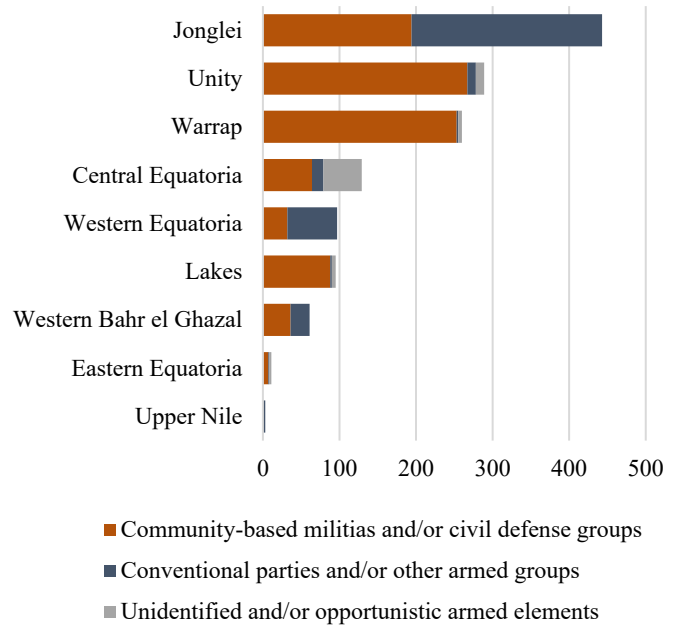
Equatoria States. Civilians in these areas were subjected to violence, including airstrikes, shelling, and ground operations, reportedly attributed to the SSPDF, and allied armed groups, resulting in civilian casualties, displacement, and disruption of livelihoods.

Jonglei State recorded the highest number of civilians killed (266 individuals) and a significant number of survivors of CRSV (37 individuals). Warrap State recorded 154 civilians killed and 106 injured. Jonglei State recorded the highest number of abductions (48 individuals), followed by Western Equatoria State (28 individuals). Central Equatoria State recorded 129 victims (62 killings, 42 injuries, 12 abductions, and 13 CRSV) of conflict related violence, including 50 attributed to unidentified and/or opportunistic armed elements, largely linked to the attack on gold mining sites in Ganji Payam, Juba County on 28 March.

In Western Equatoria State, UNMISS HRD documented abductions attributed to conventional parties to the conflict and other armed groups (28 individuals), primarily carried out by elements of SPLA-IO and NAS. These incidents were linked to forced recruitment in Yambio, Tambura, Maridi, and Mundri East Counties. The State also recorded eight survivors of CRSV

attributed to the elements of SPLA-IO and alleged SSPDF personnel.

State most affected by violence - Q1 2026



VICTIMS

Findings by UNMISS HRD indicate that men comprised the majority of victims documented during the reporting period, accounting for 76 percent (1,049 individuals). Women accounted for 16 percent (215 individuals), while children represented nine percent (124 individuals, including 82 boys and 42 girls).

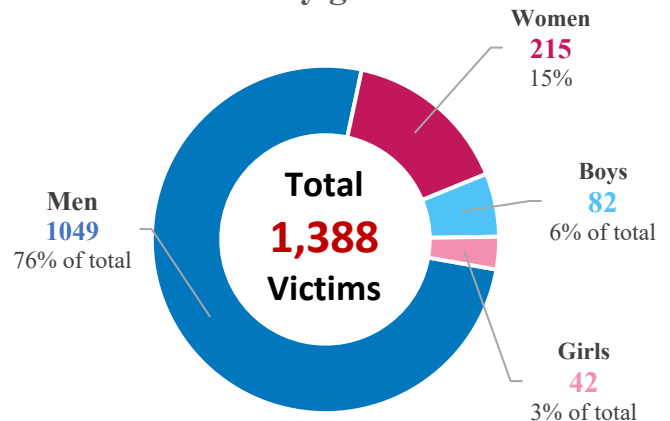
Most adult male victims were killed (571 individuals), injured (423 individuals), or abducted (55 individuals), primarily in the context of armed confrontations and violence attributed to community-based militias and/or civil defense groups, conventional parties to the conflict and other armed groups, and unidentified and/or opportunistic armed elements.

Women were primarily subjected to killing (125 individuals), CRSV (62 individuals), and injury (20 individuals). These violations were largely attributed to community-based militias and/or civil defense groups, conventional parties to the conflict and other armed groups.

Children were primarily subjected to killing (71 individuals), followed by abduction (30 individuals), injury (14 individuals), and CRSV (9 girls).

UNMISS HRD has reasonable grounds to believe that CRSV affecting male survivors remains underreported due to stigma and barriers to reporting.

Victims by gender/sex



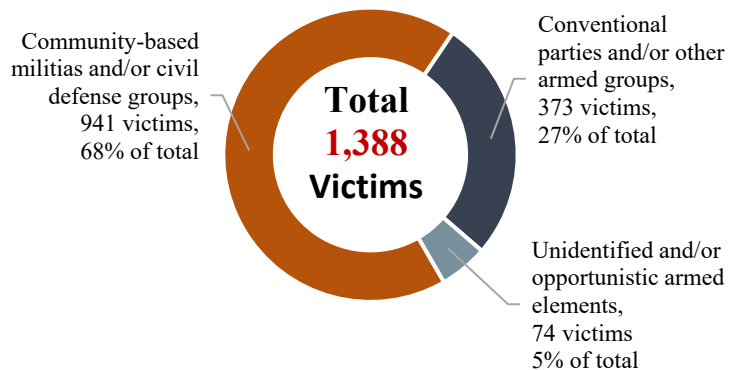
PERPETRATORS

UNMISS HRD identified three main categories of alleged perpetrators involved in conflict-related violence affecting civilians: (i) conventional parties to the conflict and other armed groups; (ii) community-based militias and/or civil defense groups; and (iii) unidentified and/or opportunistic armed elements.

Community-based militias and/or civil defense groups accounted for 68 percent of all civilian victims (941 individuals), followed by conventional parties to the conflict and other armed groups (27 percent, 373 individuals), and unidentified and/or opportunistic armed elements (5 percent, 74 individuals). In terms of the number of incidents, conventional parties to the conflict and other armed groups accounted for the largest share (50 percent, 103 out of 206 incidents).

The first category comprises conventional parties to the conflict and other armed groups, including the SSPDF and its allied armed groups, the SPLA-IO and its allied armed groups, the NAS, and other organized armed groups. UNMISS HRD documented incidents attributed to these actors, including airstrikes, ground operations, and incidents of CRSV, particularly in Jonglei State.

**Civilian casualties by type of perpetrators
Q1-2026**



The second category comprises community-based militias and/or civil defense groups. These actors were responsible for the highest number of civilian victims during the reporting period (941 individuals), primarily in the context of intercommunal violence, including cattle raiding and retaliatory attacks, particularly in Warrap, Jonglei, Unity, and Lakes States.

The third category comprises unidentified and/or opportunistic armed elements. While attribution remains limited, these actors were responsible for incidents of violence affecting civilians in multiple locations. This category includes actors involved in the attack on gold mining sites in Ganji Payam, Juba County on 28 March, which resulted in 24 civilians killed and 15 injured, as well as incidents of SGBV.

Advocacy Note

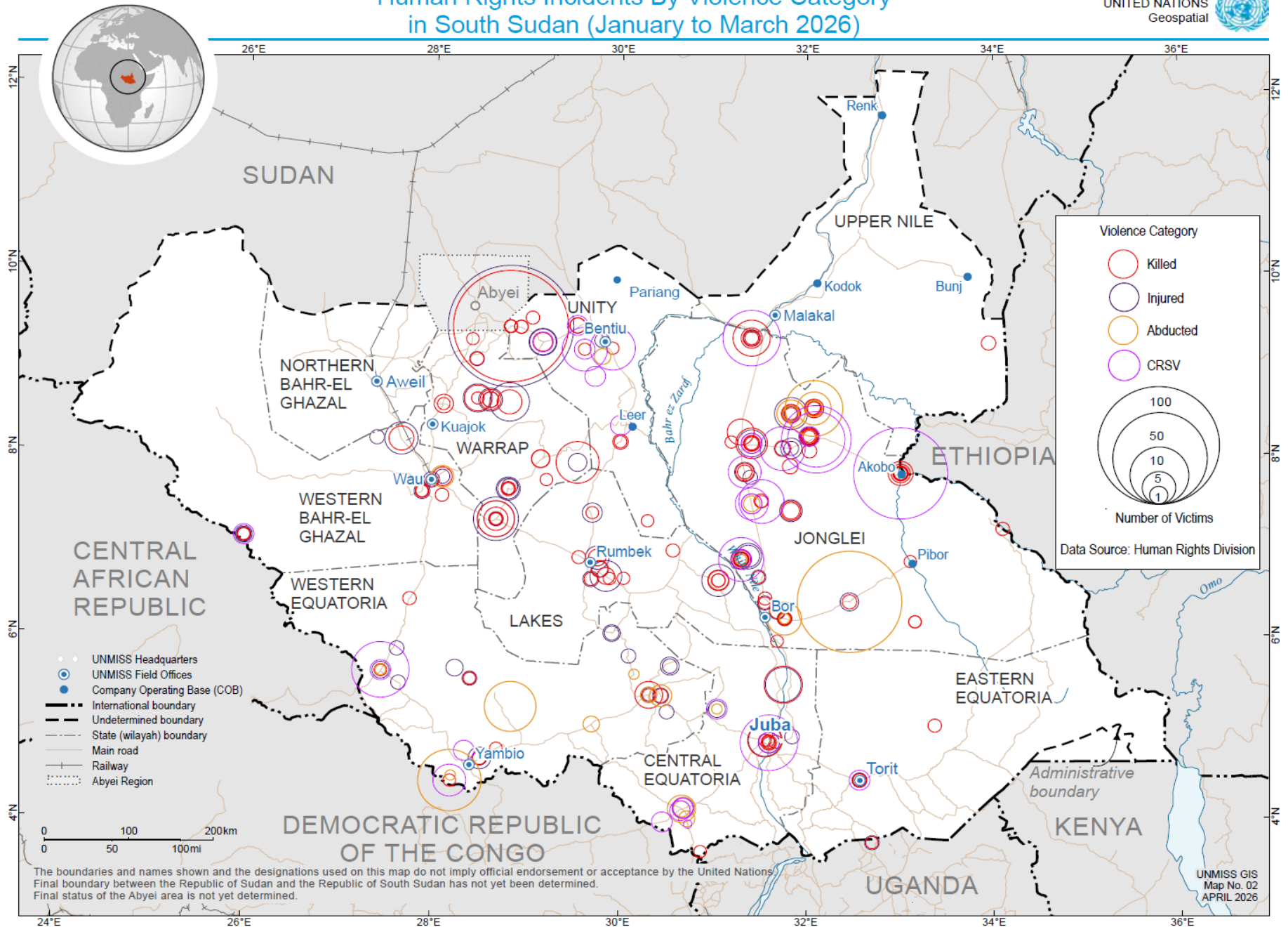
UNMISS calls upon all parties to the conflict to immediately de-escalate, implement a ceasefire and put an end to all hostilities. UNMISS further urges full compliance with their obligations under IHL and IHRL, including the protection of civilians and civilian objects.

UNMISS reiterates the responsibility of the Government of South Sudan to prevent violations and abuses committed against civilians, to protect civilians, and to ensure investigation and accountability for any violations committed. This includes taking measures to enhance the safety and security of the population, conducting prompt, independent, and impartial investigations, and ensuring accountability in accordance with applicable legal standards.

UNMISS remains concerned by the documented incidents involving aerial bombardment, sexual violence, forced recruitment, and violence affecting internally displaced persons. Such acts may constitute violations of IHL and IHRL. UNMISS calls for prompt investigation of these incidents and for those responsible to be held accountable.

UNMISS underscores the need to address continued violence affecting civilians, including killings, abductions, displacement, and sexual violence, and reiterates the importance of accountability and the rule of law in advancing efforts towards sustainable peace.

Human Rights Incidents By Violence Category in South Sudan (January to March 2026)



Human Rights Incidents By Perpetrator in South Sudan (January to March 2026)

