



United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)

Media & Spokesperson Unit
Communications & Public Information Office

PRESS RELEASE

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UNMISS condemns fatal shooting of civilian in its Bentiu compound

The United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) condemns in the strongest possible terms the fatal shooting of an internally displaced person (IDP) on 5 July at one of its protection-of-civilians (PoC) sites inside the UNMISS compound near Bentiu, Unity State.

UNMISS personnel heard a gunshot at approximately 8:40 p.m. last Sunday that came from the northern perimeter of the PoC site. UNMISS personnel responded promptly and found the body of a male IDP with a gunshot wound in the back.

Eyewitnesses told UNMISS that two armed men in military uniforms were seen inside the PoC site and fired the shot that killed the IDP. The gunmen then left the PoC site and fled into the surrounding bush, according to these witnesses.

The identities and motives of the assailants remain unknown, and UNMISS is currently investigating the shooting incident.

Any attack on a protection-of-civilians site constitutes a direct assault against the United Nations and may constitute a war crime. This is not the first time that an UNMISS protection-of-civilians site has come under attack by armed elements in South Sudan, and such indefensible actions will compromise the Mission's ability to implement its mandate if they continue to go unpunished.

UNMISS demands once again that the warring parties in the current conflict honor their obligation to ensure the safety and security of UN personnel in South Sudan as well as civilians seeking shelter within the UN sites and respect the inviolability of UN property and assets in the country.

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