



Press Statement

Tuesday, 16 April 2013

**Statement by Dmitry Titov, Assistant Secretary-General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions
(Department of Peacekeeping Operations)**

I came from New York to discuss with the Government of South Sudan, the United Nations Mission in South Sudan, and bilateral partners the challenges in the strategic areas of justice, military justice, corrections, police, DDR, SSR and mine action as well as the best way to deal with priorities in these areas, and in other key aspects of UNMISS work to support the Government of South Sudan, such as protection of civilians and building a national dialogue and reconciliation.

Earlier today I held very positive sessions with Vice President Riek Machar Teny and the Minister of National Security Gen. Oyay Deng.

Incontestably, there has been considerable progress in strategic fields of the rule of law area. The establishment of a High Level Panel to address prolonged, arbitrary detention and enhance access to justice, the registration and screening of National Prison and Police staff, the development of a National Security Policy, and the soon to be launched DDR programme are good examples of this progress.

At the same time, the recent positive development on the implementation of the 27 September Agreement between Sudan and South Sudan opens a new chapter not only in the relationship between the two neighboring countries, but it also creates the opportunity for South Sudan as a nation to foster peacebuilding activities, national reforms, development and economic opportunities.

On behalf of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Mr. Herve Ladsous, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, I am also here in Juba to express our heartfelt condolences to the Governments of India, South Sudan and Kenya, for the loss of five brave and dedicated peacekeepers and seven civilians who made the ultimate sacrifice for the cause of peace in South Sudan.

We stand with their families and the Governments of India, South Sudan and Kenya at this time of grief and sadness. At the meeting with the Vice President, we expressed appreciation to the Government for the excellent cooperation in dealing with this grave incident. We reiterated the importance to bring to justice the perpetrators of these crimes, as both the Secretary-General and the SRSG stated before.

The United Nations and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in particular, are deeply committed to our Mission in South Sudan. We stand together with the people of South Sudan to overcome the extraordinary challenges, in particular in the area of rule of law and security sector management.

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