



PRESS RELEASE

UNMISS calls for restraint and sustained government interventions to quell rising violence in Tambura

Juba, 19 December 2024 –The United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) urges all involved parties to demonstrate restraint following rising violence in the Tambura region of Western Equatoria state.

This month alone, UNMISS has received reports of some 19 instances of intercommunal conflict in Tambura. These have led to 13 people being killed, two abducted and 62 houses burnt.

Most recently, on 18 December, two separate incidents of gunfire occurred leading to the deaths of two people.

“These escalations in Tambura are alarming and must stop immediately,” said Guang Cong, Deputy Special Representative-Political, UNMISS.

“While UNMISS peacekeepers are patrolling day and night, doing their best to shore up community confidence and support humanitarian partners in providing urgent aid, there is widespread fear of further attacks and counter attacks. This has led to an influx of people in the Internally Displaced Persons camp adjacent to the Mission’s temporary operating base, and several other similar camps,” he continued.

“In addition to reinforcing our troops in Tambura, we continue engaging with authorities, political actors, security personnel, community and faith-based leaders to defuse hostilities. However, the primary responsibility for protecting civilians lies with the Government of South Sudan,” added DSRSG Cong.

“In this regard, we welcome the deployment of additional government security forces to Tambura. We also call for sustained interventions by the Government to restore calm, including conducting investigations to identify perpetrators and bring them to justice, as well as creating conditions for communities to reconcile,” he stated.

The security situation in Tambura remains fragile since intercommunal clashes first erupted in 2021, despite ongoing efforts by UNMISS as well as state and national authorities to resolve community differences through peace dialogues.