



THE CHANGING SITUATION IN SOUTH SUDAN



*This news report will be continually updated as we receive information from our SVP members in Juba
The wording is as we receive it in emails from our members. Some information may have been
removed for reasons of confidentiality.*

The latest news is given at the top of the page; please scroll down for previous news.

28th July 2016:

Source: William Luciano Takido, SVP, RSS- Juba

Extracts from email to Michel Bittar, ASASE:

I hope you are well informed about the current political development in South Sudan.
On Monday 25th July 2016, president Salve Kiir issued a republican decree relieving his peace partner Dr. Riek Machar and appointing Taban Deng Gai as the country's first vice president.
Many sound minded people in South Sudan are worried that the removal of the armed opposition leader Dr. Machar could ignite or bring South Sudan a step closer to full-scale war, shutting another door to dialogue and trampling on democratic processes,
To be honest, life in Juba is still difficult and hunger is a real threat for the civil population in South Sudan due to high prices of food commodities in the local markets.
A good number of well-to do south Sudanese are leaving the country for neighboring Sudan, Uganda and Kenya because of uncertainty about the future of South Sudan but thanks be to God our staff are still enduring the hardship of our country and we are running our activities and programs smoothly. majority of our staff are saying that in this situation. Let us put our trust in God because with God there is no impossibility

26th July 2016:

Source: BBC News / Ian Mawdsley

You may like to keep up to date with events in South Sudan as they happen and suggest that BBC News / Africa / South Sudan is a reliable source. Please follow the link:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-36886706>

19th July 2016: 19-20

Source: Betram Kuol.

Programme Manager SVP Juba

Dear Ian,

Here are some notes on the situation.

The fighting that has claimed more than 300 lives and forcing more than 42,000 to flee their homes dominated discussions at the African Union summit in Kigali-Rwanda.

Leaders of the regional bloc IGAD supported Ban Ki-moon's call for a strengthened peacekeeping mission and deployment of a regional protection force to separate SPLA-IG and SPLA-IO.

Michar (*Vice President*) told the BBC on Friday that he's around Juba, but would neither disclose his location nor return to the town to meet Kiir until pending security issues are addressed. He believes a shootout and a dogfight at the place on the 8th July, which he called a despicable incident, was a calculated plan to kill him. He said he was waiting for the outcome of a proposed meeting in Juba of the chiefs of defence forces from the region on how to tackle the security in Juba.

Juba remained calm since Thursday after the ceasefire took effect, but people remain on edge and are not sending their children to school fearing that fighting might resume. There is a severe scarcity of food in the city and long queues in front of bakeries have become a common phenomenon to see everyday.

(*President*) Kiir told reporters that he doesn't want further bloodshed in South Sudan and wants his top vice president to come back so they can chart the way forward. He said he's ready to protect Machar and his allies if they come back to the palace.

Kiir appeared Thursday with Alpha Oumar Konare, a former president of Mali and AU special envoy and Festus Mogae, the former president of Botswana and the chairman of JMEC Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission. This meeting was planned for the rival leaders to save the peace deal threatened by days of heavy gun and artillery battles in Juba.

UN officials have warned of a severe humanitarian crisis in the country brought on by disrupted harvest and the displacement of more than 2 million people

The number of South Sudanese refugees in East Africa could pass one million this year, the United Nations refugee agency said. Spokesman for the UN refugee agency said the number of refugees in neighboring countries was now 835,000. UN agency is calling on armed groups to allow safe passage for people fleeing the latest round of deadly violence and appealed for \$701 million in relief aid.

Even before the resurgence of violence in the past week, hundreds of thousands of refugees had been sheltering in Uganda, Sudan, Ethiopia and elsewhere since civil war began in December 2013.

There are new reports that South Sudan authorities are blocking some citizens, including those with US or Canadian dual nationality, from leaving the country and there has been a wide regional and international condemnation to actions by the government to prevent civilians from leaving the country after recent fighting.

The fighting prompted foreign countries to evacuate their citizens or encourage them to leave the country. Most embassies withdrew non-essential personnel and the US sent additional 47 troops to protect its citizens and embassy.

US and other countries are pressing the warring parties and are calling on them to allow civilian freedom of movement and provide unfettered humanitarian access to people in need.

There has been destruction and damage to humanitarian facilities and violence against aid workers, which has been greatly condemned.

On Thursday, Uganda deployed its military in South Sudan to help evacuate an estimated tens of thousands Ugandans living in South Sudan. Several other foreigners also fled through Uganda. On Friday, dozens of Sudanese women and children arrived in Khartoum from Juba, as Sudan also began to evacuate its nationals from South Sudan. Ethiopia said it was ready to send more soldiers to strengthen the UN peacekeeping mission in South Sudan. President Kiir, however, said South Sudan would not accept more peacekeeping forces.

Our programs are fully operational, staff and beneficiaries are back to their programs at different locations.

Thank you for your prayers, with it, the Holy Spirit is miraculously responding and will allow the Power of Love to overcome the Love of Power and will make it possible for the country's longtime political adversaries to come together to restore peace and order.

Kind regards

Betram

B. Kuol, SVDP, RSS

12th July 2016: 19-20

Source: Betram Kuol.

Programme Manager SVP Juba

..... Many thanks for your prayers and accept our wholehearted gratitude for being concern about the situation in South Sudan and the safety of the Vincentian family and members in the country.

Despite restricted movement and the risk of moving in heavily militarized streets of Juba, I was able to attend the SVDP office in Lologo today for the first time since the crises broke out last Friday, but we pray that it would be safe enough for us to manage our ordinary affairs in the office and all projects' sites tomorrow and on subsequent days.

Cease fire and a call for calm by Kiir and Macher seems to have taken effect since today morning and some of 36,000 civilians displaced during the 5 days of heavy gun shooting are returning to their homes.

Despite heavy shooting across the city during the last five days, SVDP management can confirm that our premises, property, staff and members are safe and are in good condition. However, with acute lack of food and clean drinking water in the city for a couple of days, humanitarian situation remains dire with hundred of thousands of civilian particularly the poor at the verge of hunger and starvation.

12th July 2016: 10-10

Source: Joseph Makwinja

*International Territorial Vice President - Africa 2
Society of Saint Vincent de Paul*

I just received an update from Bro Charles Loboka on the current fighting between soldiers loyal to President Salva Kiir and his immediate Vice President which has left scores dead across the capital city of Juba. According to Charles thousands of people have sort refuge in churches, schools and the U.N. peacekeeping base. Those trying to deliver humanitarian assistance to the needy are unable to do so as they are stopped at checkpoints and threatened at gun point by the opposing factions in contravention of International Law. Although the President has called for an immediate cease fire it is difficult to see how this will be achieved without outside intervention. There appears to be a total breakdown of command and control.. It is a dire state for the thousand displaced people within the city. However, our Vincentian Brothers and Sisters appear to be safe thus far. I have advised them not to take any unnecessary risks until such time as and when things are back to normal. I am waiting to hear from Betram as to the status in the compound at the Centre. Will keep you updated of developments should I get any further updates.

12th July 2016: 06-27

Source: Juba CC Secretary

Many thanks for your encouraging words, prayers and the concern of the Vincentian in England and Wales. We are encouraged that we are not alone. Ceasefire has been declared by the President on Monday 11th, evening at 8.00 pm there was random shooting all the City, the morning of Tuesday 12th, is quiet business still remain closed, Juba City gets it Water supply from Water Tankers that carries water from door to door, for the last four days there has been no supply as movement was not possible and the entire community due not trust the army due to their lack of discipline rather uncontrollable. If possible foreign intervention is necessary not words but physically. Otherwise bloodshed will continue for the two leaders do not trust each other nor their forces. The signed Peace agreement has not hold nor even implemented. These are only some highlights to share

11th July 2016: 17-18

Source: Juba CC Secretary

Greetings and well wishes with the hope that all of you are actively concern with the Vincentian activities. Juba has come under heavy gunfire as fighting erupted on Thursday 6th, Friday 7th, Saturday 8th, Sunday 9th, and the situation is still tense. At the moment people are indoors, shops and markets are closed. A number of people go displaced from their residences and are not allowed to go far or seek refuge. As people depends on Market hunger has become another additional weapon. so currently, we are facing bullets, hunger and chest infections diseases due exposition to rain and cold weather as a deadly weapons.