

Brief on Violence Affecting Civilians

HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ During the first quarter of 2025, the UNMISS Human Rights Division (HRD) documented 312 incidents of conflict-related violence affecting 1,607 civilians, including 739 killed, 679 injured, 149 abducted, and 40 subjected to conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV). This represents the highest number of civilian victims documented by UNMISS HRD in a single quarter since 2020.
- ❖ Compared to the previous quarter (October to December 2024), UNMISS HRD documented a 34 percent increase in violent incidents (from 233 to 312) and an 86 percent increase in the total number of victims (from 866 to 1,607). Notably, both the number of civilians killed and injured increased by 110 percent (from 352 to 739) and 94 percent (from 350 to 679), respectively. Further, the number of abductions increased by 16 percent (from 129 to 149), while the number of documented victims of CRSV increased by 14 percent (from 35 to 40).
- ❖ Compared to the same quarter in 2024, this represents a 30 percent increase in violent incidents (from 240 to 312), and a 76 percent increase in the total number of victims (from 913 to 1,607). Notably, compared to the same quarter in 2024, killings increased by 58 percent (from 468 to 739), injuries increased by 107 percent (from 328 to 679), abductions increased by 113 percent (from 70 to 149), and documented victims of CRSV decreased by 15 percent (from 47 to 40).
- ❖ The majority of victims were attributed to community-based militias and/or civil defense groups (66 percent), followed by unidentified and opportunistic armed elements (22 percent), and the conventional parties to the armed conflict and other armed groups (15 percent). Concerningly, the number of victims attributable to the conventional parties to the armed conflict and other armed groups increased by 27 percent (from 152 to 193) compared to the previous quarter, and by 151 percent (from 77 to 193) compared to the same quarter in 2024.

CONTEXT

This quarterly brief presents an overview of trends in conflict-related violence affecting civilians in South Sudan from January to March 2025 by assessing four major forms of individual harm – killing, injury, abduction, and CRSV. While the impact of violence extends beyond these forms of harm, these are the most common incidents documented nationwide.¹

The information contained in this brief is based on victim and eyewitness accounts, as well as reports from secondary sources identified during field missions. All reported incidents of intra/inter-communal violence were deconflicted with incidents documented by the UNMISS Civil Affairs Division. Further, all reported incidents of

CRSV were corroborated in consultation with the UNMISS Women's Protection Advisory Unit.

The data presented in this brief is non-exhaustive. The number of documented cases is likely underreported due to the challenges faced by UNMISS in conducting investigations, including limited resources, access denials, inaccessibility to certain areas due to flooding or poor road conditions, fear of reprisals among victims and witnesses, and underreporting of CRSV due to social stigma.

UNMISS HRD issued this quarterly brief as an advocacy tool to raise awareness regarding the impact of conflict-related violence on the civilian population; to urge all

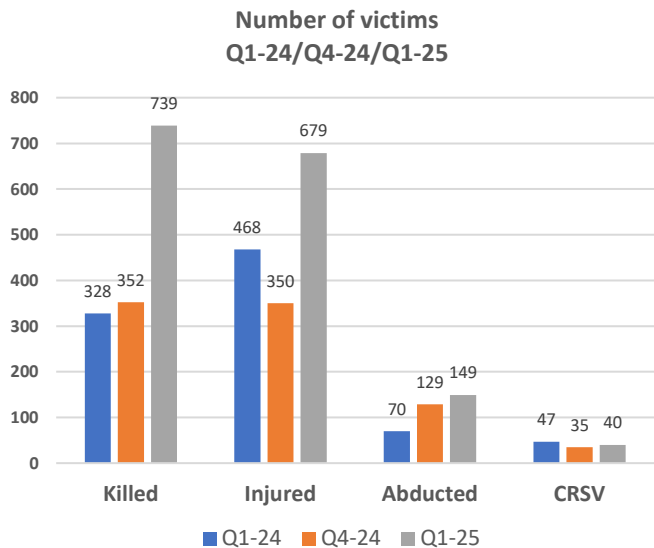
¹ Beyond the scope of violence described in this brief, UNMISS HRD continued to document other grave human rights violations and abuses, including extra-judicial executions, arbitrary arrests and detention, and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment perpetrated by Government security forces and other armed groups.

stakeholders to take action to end violence against civilians; and to promote the human rights of the South Sudanese people, including their rights to life, liberty, and security of the person.

UNMISS calls on all parties to the armed conflict to comply at all times with international humanitarian law,

GENERAL TRENDS

During the first quarter of 2025, the sharp deterioration of the political and security situation in South Sudan threatened to unravel the implementation of the Revitalized Peace Agreement and severely undermine the human rights situation across the country. During the reporting period, the human rights situation in South Sudan was undermined by several factors, including i) increased inter-communal violence, ii) hostilities involving the parties to the armed conflict and other armed groups, including the alleged involvement of the Uganda People’s Defence Forces (UPDF); iii) the spillover effects of the conflict in Sudan on the humanitarian, economic, and security situation; iv) the deepening political crisis between the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement – in Government (SPLM-IG) and the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement/Army – in Opposition (SPLM/A-IO; v) ethnic polarization; and vi) the fragile power sharing agreement.



In this context, UNMISS HRD documented widespread violations and abuses of human rights, and violations of international humanitarian law. Between January and March 2025, UNMISS HRD documented 312 incidents of conflict-related violence affecting 1,607 civilians, including 1,241 men, 195 women, and 171 children (112

including the principles of distinction, proportionality, precaution, and military necessity. Further, UNMISS reminds the Government of South Sudan of its obligation under international human rights law to take adequate measures to protect civilians, investigate alleged violations, and hold perpetrators accountable in accordance with fair trial guarantees.

boys and 59 girls).² Compared to the previous quarter, this represents a 34 percent increase in the number of violent incidents (from 233 to 312), and an 86 percent increase in the number of victims (from 866 to 1,607). Similarly, compared to the same quarter in 2024, this represents a 30 percent increase in the total number of violent incidents (from 240 to 312), and a 76 percent increase in the number of victims (from 913 to 1,607).

As illustrated by the chart, the number of civilians killed, injured, and abducted increased compared to both the previous quarter and the same quarter in 2024. Concerningly, the number of documented killings increased significantly by 110 percent (from 352 to 739 individuals) compared to the previous quarter, and by 58 percent (from 468 to 739 individuals) compared to the same quarter in 2024. Relatedly, the number of documented injuries increased considerably by 94 percent (from 350 to 679 individuals) compared to the previous quarter, and by 107 percent (from 328 to 679 percent) compared to the same quarter in 2024. Further, the number of documented abductions increased by 16 percent (from 129 to 149 individuals) compared to the previous quarter, and by 113 percent (from 70 to 149 individuals) compared to the same quarter in 2024. Notably, the number of victims of CRSV increased by 14 percent (from 35 to 40 individuals) compared to the previous quarter and declined slightly by 15 percent compared to the same quarter in 2024 (from 47 to 40 individuals).

During the reporting period, the primary drivers of violence affecting civilians were i) increased intra/inter-communal violence by community-based militias and/or civil defense groups, predominantly in Warrap, Jonglei, and Eastern Equatoria States; ii) increased attacks on civilians by the conventional parties to the armed conflict and other armed groups, primarily in Central Equatoria, Upper Nile, Western Equatoria, and Western Bahr el Ghazal States; and iii) increased attacks on civilians by unidentified and other opportunistic armed elements.

² Seven percent of these incidents (22 out of 312), though recorded and verified during the reporting quarter, were perpetrated prior to the coverage of this brief.

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Increased Inter/Intra-Communal Violence by Community-based Militias and/or Civil Defense Groups

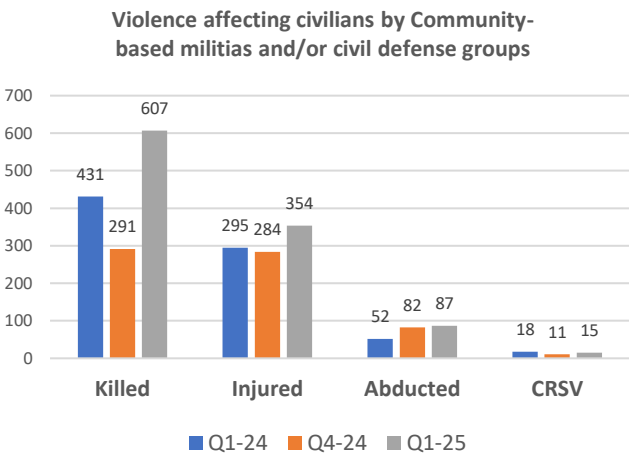
Consistent with the previous quarter, inter/intra-communal violence by community-based militias and/or civil defense groups remained the leading cause of harm affecting civilians in South Sudan, accounting for 66 percent (or 1,063 individuals) of documented victims nationwide. Concerningly, this represents a 59 percent increase in the number of victims attributable to these groups compared to the previous quarter (from 668 to 1,063 individuals).

Warrap State experienced the highest number of victims attributable to community-based militias and/or civil defense groups in South Sudan, accounting for 65 percent of the total victims attributable to these groups nationwide. Despite UNMISS’ continued engagements with the State and County authorities, as well as community leaders, to address grievances through peaceful dialogue, persistent intra-communal violence between armed elements from Dinka sub-groups remained the primary driver of civilian casualties within the State. Further, UNMISS HRD also documented civilian casualties as a result of territorial disputes and cyclical revenge attacks involving armed elements from bordering areas, including the Nuer community in Unity State, Dinka Gok and Pakam from Lakes State, and the Luo/Dinka Marial-Bai of Jur River County in Western Bahr el Ghazal State. Overall, between January and March 2025, violence by community-based militias and/or civil defense groups in Warrap State resulted in 419 civilians killed, 267 injured and four abducted, including 46 women, seven boys, and seven girls. The most significant incident occurred on 29 March, when 224 civilians were reportedly killed and 60 others were injured during retaliatory attacks between allied armed elements from the Dinka Luanyjang and Dinka Pan-Juaj communities and armed Dinka Jalwau elements in Tonj East County.

Similarly, Jonglei State experienced the second highest number of victims attributable to community-based militias and/or civil defense groups (168 individuals), driven primarily by persistent attacks by alleged Murle armed elements from the Greater Pibor Administrative Area (GPAA) in Jonglei State on the communities in Akobo, Ayod, Duk, Likuangole, Nyirol, Pochalla North, Twic East, and Uror Counties. During the reporting period, 84 percent of violent incidents and 78 percent of victims within Jonglei State were attributed to Murle armed elements, including 62 civilians killed, 34 injured, 33 abducted, and two subjected to CRSV. Notably, in February, UNMISS HRD documented six separate attacks allegedly by Murle armed elements targeting

humanitarian personnel, convoys and facilities, resulting in seven civilians killed and one injured, as well as disruption of the delivery of lifesaving humanitarian aid to communities in dire need of assistance. Further, UNMISS HRD documented retaliatory attacks by joint Dinka and Lou Nuer armed elements from Jonglei State, and separate attacks by armed Toposa elements from Eastern Equatoria State, on the Murle community in the GPAA, resulting in a total of six civilians killed, six injured, 18 abducted, and seven subjected to CRSV.

Likewise, Eastern Equatoria State experienced the third highest number of victims attributable to community-based militias and/or civil defense groups (121 individuals), primarily due to persistent cattle-raiding activities and retaliatory attacks involving civil defense groups from the Buya, Didinga, Lango, Logir, Lotuko, Pari, and Toposa communities, resulting in 85 civilians killed, 34 injured, one abducted and one subjected to CRSV. Further, UNMISS HRD documented cross-border attacks by Murle armed elements from GPAA on the Toposa and Jei communities in Kapoeta East and Kapoeta North counties, resulting in 33 civilians killed, 17 injured, and one abducted. Furthermore, UNMISS HRD documented four civilians killed in Magwi and Lafon Counties by armed Dinka Bor cattle herders from Jonglei State.



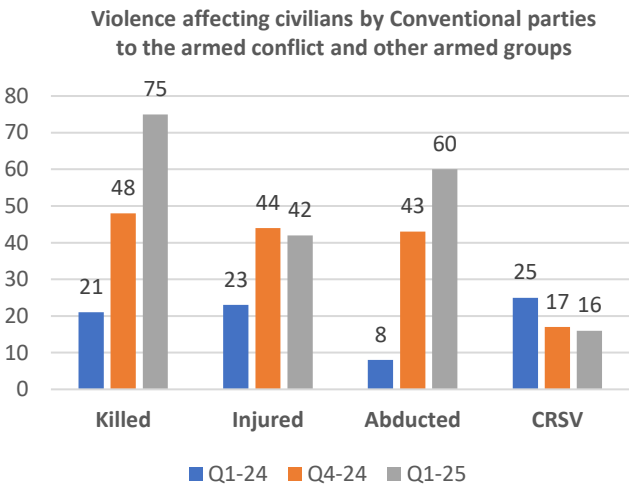
While inter/intra-communal violence is historically common among pastoralist communities in South Sudan, the entrenched patterns of violence among various ethnic groups, tribes, and sub-sections have been exacerbated by the alleged involvement and support of the conventional parties to the armed conflict. Further, political elites at the local and national levels have allegedly contributed to the intensification of violence, including by instigating or participating in the planning of attacks, and by providing financial and logistical support as well as military-grade weapons and ammunition. In this context, inter/intra-communal violence is often linked to the broader political and security dynamics in South Sudan.

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

During the first quarter of 2025, the rapid deterioration of the political and security situation in South Sudan led to a significant escalation in the number and severity of armed confrontations involving the conventional parties to the armed conflict and other armed groups, which in turn, severely undermined the protection of civilians and resulted in widespread grave human rights violations and abuses, primarily in Western Equatoria, Western Bahr el Ghazal, Upper Nile, and Central Equatoria States. Overall, violence attributable to the conventional parties to the armed conflict and other armed groups accounted for 20 percent of violent incidents and 12 percent of victims (or 193 individuals) across South Sudan. Concerningly, this represents a 27 percent increase in the number of victims attributable to this category of perpetrator compared to the previous quarter, and a 151 percent increase compared to the same quarter in 2024. Further, UNMISS HRD has reasonable grounds to believe that the number of victims attributable to the conventional parties to the armed conflict and other armed groups is likely underreported, partly due to a lack of access to the areas affected by the conflict.

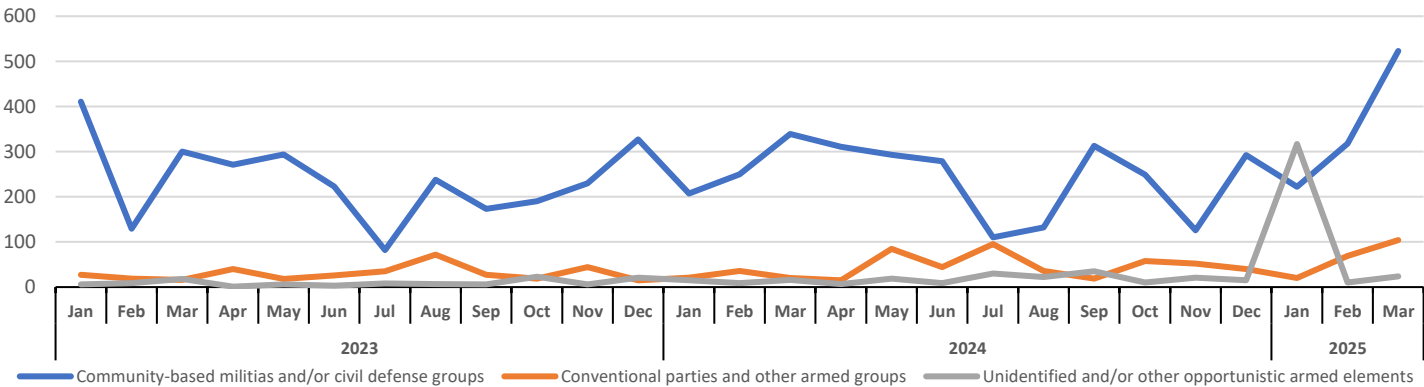
In Western Equatoria State, a resurgence of violence erupted in January between Government security forces, primarily from the South Sudan People’s Defense Forces (SSPDF), and the Sudan People’s Liberation Army – in Opposition (SPLA-IO). The escalation of violence in Western Equatoria State was marked by a series of military operations which undermined the protection of civilians in the area, including i) the deployment of the SSPDF in Nagero County; ii) the capture of Boo River Bridge by the SSPDF; iii) the spillover of violence to parts of Bazia in Wau County, Western Bahr el Ghazal State; iv) the SSPDF attack on the State House in Yambio Payam following the removal of the former State

Governor; and v) the SSPDF attack and capture of the former SPLA-IO base in Lirangu Payam, Yambio County. Collectively, these armed confrontations resulted in alleged forced disappearances, killings and injuries, ill-treatment, forced recruitment, CRSV, arbitrary arrest and detentions, pillaging, destruction of civilian properties, and forced displacement. Further, civilians from both the Azande and Balanda communities who were perceived as supporters of the former governor and/or the SPLM/A-IO were targeted and subjected to arbitrary arrest and detention and ill-treatment.



For instance, the SSPDF allegedly shot and killed two civilians while burning homesteads in Nagero County; and shot and injured one civilian following the attack on the SPLA-IO barracks in Lirangu Payam, Yambio County. Relatedly, the SPLA-IO allegedly shot and killed a pregnant woman after her husband deserted from the SPLA-IO; shot and killed two civilians for resisting forced recruitment; subjected two girls to CRSV while interrogating them regarding their allegiances; and shot and injured a civilian while attempting to forcibly disarm him. Moreover, another civilian was shot and killed in crossfire during armed confrontations between the

Trends in the number of civilians affected (January 2023 to March 2025)



SSPDF and SPLA-IO in Lirangu Payam, Yambio County. In addition, the SSPDF allegedly killed five civilians and injured two others in Tambura County. Overall, violence attributable to the conventional parties to the armed conflict and other armed groups in Western Equatoria State during the reporting period resulted in a total of 13 civilians killed, eight injured, and even subjected to CRSV.

Similarly, in Upper Nile State, armed confrontations broke out in mid-February between the SSPDF and the White Army militia in Nasir County and rapidly spread to neighboring Longochuk and Ulang Counties, as well as some parts of Jonglei State near the Sobat River. During the conduct of hostilities, while the White Army was allegedly subsequently backed by the SPLA-IO, the SSPDF, with the support of the UPDF, and the Agwelek forces of General Johnson Olony and Padang militia, allegedly conducted a series of indiscriminate airstrikes on settlements and other civilian populated areas resulting in at least 30 civilians killed and seven others injured (including 12 women, five girls, and seven boys). Further, the alleged use of incendiary weapons by the SSPDF resulted in severe burn injuries, civilian homes burned to the ground, and the displacement of the civilian population.

Relatedly, on 7 March 2025, a United Nations helicopter conducting an evacuation attempt in Nasir County, Upper Nile State was fired on, resulting in the killing of one civilian crew member and the serious injury of two other crew members. Further, several SSPDF personnel that UNMISS was attempting to extract (with the consent of all parties to the Nasir conflict) were killed.

In Central Equatoria State, UNMISS continued to document abductions of mainly young men for forced conscription by the alleged members of the National Salvation Front (NAS) splinter groups across Kajo-Keji, Morobo and Yei River Counties. During this reporting quarter, at least 60 individuals were reportedly abducted by NAS splinter groups. Separately, nine incidents attributable to the SSPDF and SSNPS in Juba, Kajo-Keji, and Yei River Counties resulted in 11 civilian victims, including six killed, three injured, and two subjected to CRSV.

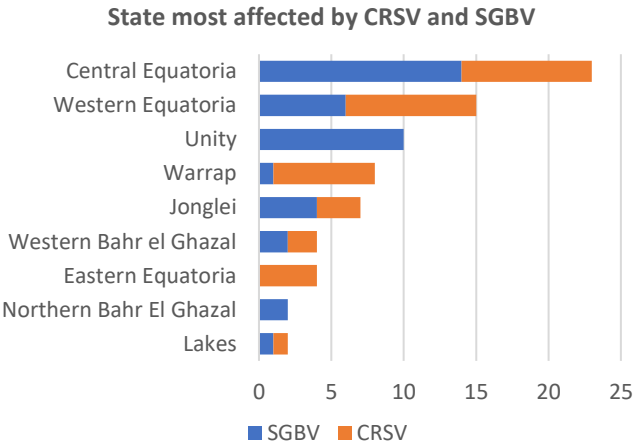
Increased Violence by Unidentified and/or Opportunistic Armed Elements

Incidents of violence by armed elements which do not fall within the above-noted categories but bear a link to conflicts or violence affecting civilians based on the modus operandi of the suspected perpetrators, location, and other relevant factors were also documented. Overall,

violence involving these armed elements accounted for 22 percent (351 individuals) of the total civilian victims. Concerningly, this represents a significant 663 percent increase (from 46 to 351 individuals) compared to the previous quarter. This increase was driven primarily by alleged attacks on civilians (mainly Sudanese nationals) by unidentified armed protestors in the context of civil unrest. Notably, from 16 to 17 January, widespread civil unrest erupted across several regions of South Sudan in response to the alleged killing of South Sudanese civilians in Sudan by the Sudan Armed Forces and affiliated groups. In this context, UNMISS HRD documented a pattern of attacks on civilians (primarily Sudanese nationals) by unidentified armed protestors, looting, and the destruction of civilian properties in several hotspot locations, including Juba, Central Equatoria State; Aweil, Northern Bahr el Ghazal State; Malakal, Upper Nile State; Wau and Boro Madina in Western Bahr El Ghazal State; Bor, Jonglei State; and Kuajok, Warrap State. Overall, attacks by unidentified armed protestors resulted in 41 civilians killed and 262 injured across South Sudan.

Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV)

Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) remained a critical threat to the protection of women and children, particularly girls. During the first quarter of 2025, UNMISS HRD documented 42 incidents of SGBV (excluding CRSV) across South Sudan, which affected a total of 45 victims (36 girls, eight women, and one boy). Compared to the previous quarter, this represents a 20 percent increase in SGBV incidents, and a 13 percent increase in the number of victims (from 40 to 45).



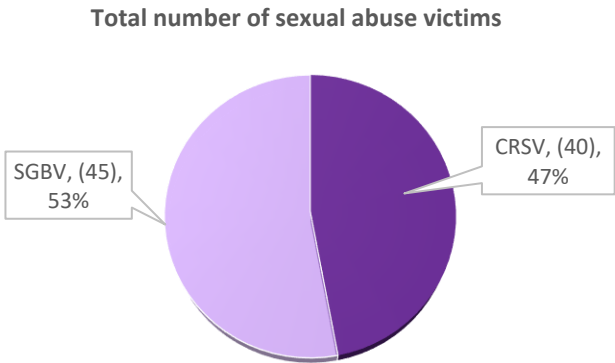
Central Equatoria State experienced the highest number of SGBV incidents (15 incidents or 36 percent), followed by Western Equatoria State (nine incidents or 21 percent) and Unity State (five incidents or 12 percent). Among documented incidents of SGBV, 76 percent were attributed to community members or neighbors, seven percent to unidentified armed elements, 10 percent to

family members, two percent to SSPDF, and five percent to SSNPS.

Further, in addition to the above-noted incidents of SGBV, UNMISS HRD documented 30 incidents of CRSV affecting 40 victims nationwide (17 girls, 22 women, and one man). Compared to the previous quarter, this represents a seven percent increase in the number of documented incidents (from 28 to 30). Western Equatoria State experienced the highest number of CRSV incidents nationwide (33 percent or 10 incidents), followed by Jonglei State (13 percent or four incidents), and Unity State (13 percent or four incidents). Collectively, these three states accounted for 45 percent of victims of CRSV nationwide. Compared to the previous quarter, Unity State experienced the highest percentage increase in the number of documented CRSV incidents (from 0 to four incidents).

Among documented incidents of CRSV, 44 percent were attributed to the conventional parties to the armed conflict and other armed groups, 33 percent to community-based militias and/or civil defense groups, and 23 percent to unidentified and other opportunistic armed elements. Consistent with previous reports, women and girls were disproportionality affected by both SGBV and CRSV,

accounting for 98 percent of the total documented victims (30 women and 53 girls).

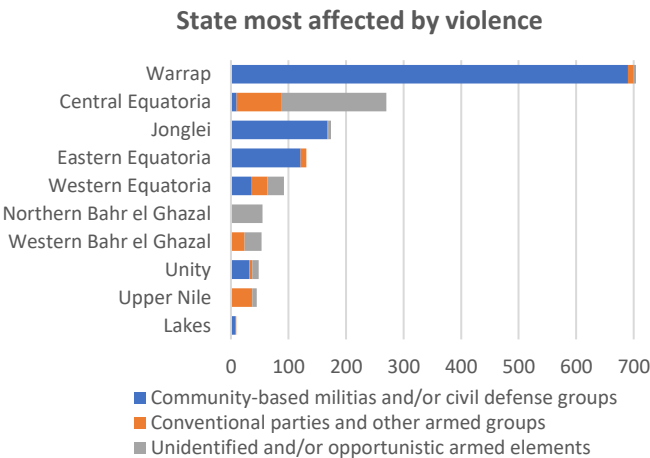


UNMISS HRD has reasonable grounds to believe that incidents of SGBV and CRSV are underreported due to various factors, including social stigma, trauma, fear of retaliation, and limited access to formal justice mechanisms across South Sudan. Further, due to intersectional vulnerabilities, survivors often face social pressure to seek compensation through customary courts or to marry the perpetrator, as opposed to seeking accountability through the criminal justice system.

GEOGRAPHICAL TRENDS

Between January and March 2025, Warrap State experienced the highest level of violence affecting civilians, accounting for 45 percent of the total number of victims nationwide (or 730 individuals), followed by Central Equatoria State (17 percent or 270 individuals), and Jonglei State (11 percent or 173 individuals). Notably, Central Equatoria State experienced a 260 percent increase in the number of documented victims compared to the previous quarter, mainly during attacks on civilians by unidentified armed protestors in the context of civil unrest; operations by suspected NAS splinter groups in Yei River, Morobo, and Kajo-Kei Counties; as well as by violent incidents attributable to government security forces. Further, Upper Nile State experienced a 73 percent increase in the number of documented victims, resulting from the alleged SSPDF airstrikes on civilian-populated areas in Nassir, Longochuk, and Ulang Counties.

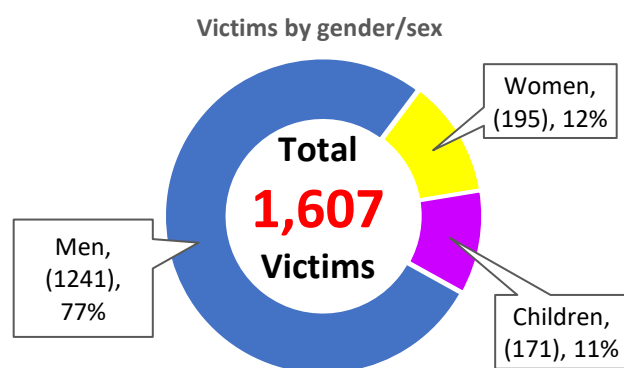
Warrap State experienced the highest number of killings (428 individuals) and injuries (298 individuals), accounting for 51 percent of the total victims of killing and injury, followed by Central Equatoria State at 14 percent (or 196 individuals), and Eastern Equatoria State at nine percent (or 128 individuals).



Central Equatoria State experienced the highest number of abductions, accounting for 40 percent of the total victims of abduction nationwide (or 60 individuals), followed by Jonglei State at 30 percent (or 44 individuals), and Western Equatoria State at 19 percent (or 29 individuals). Western Equatoria State experienced the highest number of documented victims of CRSV, accounting for 33 percent of victims of CRSV nationwide (or 13 individuals), followed by Jonglei State at 23 percent (nine individuals), and Unity State at 15 percent (six individuals).

VICTIMS

During the reporting period, UNMISS HRD documented a total of 1,607 civilian victims of conflict-related violence in South Sudan, representing an 86 percent increase compared to the previous quarter, and a 76 percent increase compared to the same quarter in 2024. During the reporting period, men comprised the majority of victims (77 percent, or 1,241 individuals), followed by women at 12 percent (195 individuals), and children at 11 percent (112 boys and 59 girls). Concerningly, UNMISS HRD documented a 50 percent increase in the number of child victims compared to the previous quarter (from 114 to 171 individuals).



The primary form of harm perpetrated against men was killing (52 percent), followed by injury (43 percent) and abduction (five percent) – largely as a result of indiscriminate attacks targeting civilians attributable to community-based militias and civil defense groups in the context of inter/intra-communal violence, as well as the conventional parties to the armed conflict and other armed

groups. UNMISS HRD has reasonable grounds to believe that CRSV affecting male survivors is grossly underreported due to social stigma.

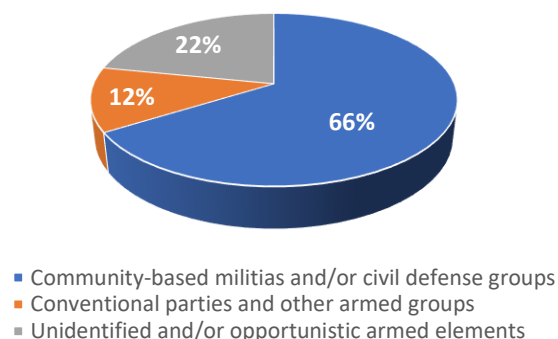
The primary form of harm perpetrated against children was injury (44 percent), followed by killing (25 percent), abduction (21 percent), and CRSV (10 percent). Injury was the leading form of harm perpetrated against boys, whereas abduction and CRSV were the leading forms of harm perpetrated against girls. Among child victims, 42 percent were attributable to community-based militias and/or civil defense groups, 20 percent to the conventional parties to the armed conflict and other armed groups, and 38 percent to unidentified and other opportunistic armed elements. The highest number of child victims were documented in Central Equatoria State (62 individuals), followed by Jonglei (37 individuals) and Warrap (15 individuals) States.

The primary form of harm perpetrated against women was injury (33 percent), followed by killing (29 percent), abduction (26 percent), and CRSV (11 percent). UNMISS HRD has reasonable grounds to believe that many abducted women and girls were also subjected to CRSV. Among adult female victims, 82 percent were attributable to community-based militias and/or civil defense groups, and 18 percent to the conventional parties to the armed conflict and other armed groups. The highest number of adult female victims was documented in Jonglei (23 individuals), followed by Western Equatoria (19 individuals) and Central Equatoria (nine individuals) States.

PERPETRATORS

UNMISS HRD identified three major categories of alleged perpetrators involved in conflict-related violence affecting civilians: i) community-based militias and/or civil defense groups; ii) conventional parties to the armed conflict and other armed groups; and iii) unidentified and/or other opportunistic armed elements. During the first quarter of 2025, the majority of victims were attributed to community-based militias and/or civil defense groups (66 percent or 1,063 individuals), followed by unidentified and other opportunistic armed elements (22 percent or 351 individuals), and the conventional parties to the armed conflict and other armed groups (12 percent or 193 individuals).

Civilian casualties by type of perpetrators



Community-based Militias and/or Civil Defense Groups

Compared to the previous quarter, UNMISS HRD documented a 34 percent increase (from 160 to 215) in the number of violent incidents and a 59 percent increase in the number of victims (from 668 to 1,063) attributable to community-based militias and/or civil defense groups. Warrap State experienced the highest number of victims attributable to these groups (690 individuals), followed by Jonglei State (158 individuals), and Eastern Equatoria State (121 individuals). In these three States alone, community-based militias and/or civil defense groups were responsible for a total of 969 victims, representing 60 percent of all victims documented across South Sudan. Among violence attributable to these groups nationwide, the highest number of victims were attributable to armed elements from Dinka sub-groups in Warrap State (54 percent or 571 individuals), followed by Murle armed elements from the Greater Pibor Administrative Area in Jonglei State (12 percent or 131 individuals). The primary form of harm perpetrated by community-based militias and/or civil defense groups was killing (57 percent), followed by injury (33 percent), abduction (eight percent), and CRSV (two percent).

Unidentified and/or other Opportunistic Armed Elements

Compared to the previous quarter, UNMISS HRD documented a 21 percent increase (from 28 to 34) in the number of violent incidents, and a 663 percent increase in the number of victims (from 46 to 351) attributable to unidentified and other opportunistic armed elements. Central Equatoria State experienced the highest number of victims attributable to this category of perpetrators (183 individuals), followed by Northern Bahr el Ghazal (55 individuals), and Warrap (31 individuals) States. Notably, UNMISS HRD documented 303 victims attributable to unidentified armed protestors in the context

of civil unrest in response to the alleged killing of South Sudanese nationals in Sudan by the Sudan Armed Forces. Further, compared to the previous quarter, UNMISS HRD documented a 340 percent decrease (17 to 5) in the number of violent incidents attributable to unidentified armed elements in Western Equatoria State in the context of inter-communal violence between the Azande and Balanda communities.

Conventional Parties to the Armed Conflict and other Armed Groups

Compared to the previous quarter, UNMISS HRD documented a concerning 40 percent increase (from 45 to 63) in the number of violent incidents and an 27 percent increase in the number of victims (from 152 to 193 individuals) attributable to the conventional parties to the armed conflict and other armed groups. Central Equatoria State experienced the highest number of victims attributable to this category of perpetrators (77 individuals) followed by Upper Nile State (37 individuals), and Western Equatoria State (28 individuals). Among the conventional parties to the armed conflict and other armed groups, the highest number of victims were attributable to transitional government security forces (49 percent), followed by NAS splinter groups (36 percent), and the SPLA-IO (11 percent). Notably, SSPDF airstrikes in Nassir, Longochuk, and Ulang Counties in Upper Nile State allegedly resulted in at least 30 civilians killed and seven injured.³ Further, UNMISS HRD has reasonable grounds to believe that the UPDF supported SSPDF operations against the SPLA-IO and White Army militia, and may have directly participated in hostilities. The primary form of harm perpetrated by the conventional parties to the armed conflict and other armed groups was killing (39 percent), followed by abduction (31 percent), injury (22 percent), and CRSV (eight percent).

³ UNMISS HRD has reasonable grounds to believe that the number of civilian casualties is likely underreported. UNMISS HRD's capacity to verify civilian casualties was hindered by limited access to the affected areas due to the security situation.

Location of Violence Affecting Civilians in South Sudan
January – March 2025

SUDAN

ETHIOPIA

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

UGANDA

KENYA

Legend

- Country capital
- State capital *
- County capital *
- Military airfield
- Major river
- Canal
- Primary road
- Secondary road
- International boundary
- Undersecretary boundary **
- State boundary ***
- County boundary ****
- Administrative boundary *****
- Abyei Region *****

* State and county boundaries and administrative divisions as of 1 October 2011
** First boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined.
*** Final status of the Abyei area is not yet determined.

N
Scale 1:2,000,000
Datum: WGS 84
Projection: Geographic

Not all contents of this product have been field verified. Caution should be exercised when making measurements. Spelling of names may conflict with local or other usage.

This boundary and the names shown are the design used on this map do not imply official endorsement or assistance by the United Nations.

GIS UNMISS

Production Agency: UNMISS Unit
Finalization Date: July 2014
Map User Update: March 2016
Data source:
Internal boundary: SNNRS
Other: UNHCR, UNMISS GIS

Any corrections or amendments should be addressed to:
UNMISS GIS Unit
Juba, South Sudan
E# 190-2287 Mobile+2119121170127

To measure scale check number

Community-based militias and/or civil defense gps	Conventional parties	Opportunistic violence
1 - 3	1 - 1	1 - 2
3 - 8	1 - 3	2 - 7
8 - 18	3 - 5	7 - 20
18 - 60	5 - 13	20 - 35
60 - 224	13 - 24	35 - 175

THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN



**Response of the Government of South Sudan to UNMISS, Human
Rights Division Brief on Violence Affecting Civilians from
January to March 2025**

1. Introduction

The Government of South Sudan has perused the Brief Report for January to March 2025, prepared by UNMISS- Human Rights Division. The Quarterly Brief is to present an overview of trends in conflict-related violence affecting civilians. The Report is mainly based on secondary information gathered during the UNMISS-HRD fields missions and collaborations with other UNMISS units.

The data used in accordance with the writers of the Brief Report is non-exhaustive due to procedural challenges faced by UNMISS-HRD in conducting investigations making the Brief Report suffers from procedural errors, which includes, hearsay and unwillingness of the alleged victims to testify. Thus, making the allegations unverified, and falling short of the required standards for admissibility.

2. Addressing Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) Trends

As it was previously stated, the Government through Mobile Courts, General Court Martial and the Gender-based Violence and Juvenile Courts, prosecuted several cases. On 18th May 2025, the Mobile Court in Leer, Unity State, which was funded by UNMISS and other multi-partners, including the Norwegian Embassy, concluded its proceedings. The proceedings started on 15th April 2025, and about fifty-seven (57) criminal and civil cases were prosecuted. The cases include murder, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) as well as forced early marriage cases. The Court also tried thirty-two (32) criminal cases with twenty-eight (28) convictions and eleven (11) acquittals. Among the cases tried and convicted by the Mobile Court eight (8) were security personnel who were accused of SGBV offences. The court in Leer further, released nine (9) people who were wrongly detained.

On 13th March 2025, the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs and the Judiciary of South Sudan, with support from UNMISS, and other development partners, dispatched a mobile court to Pibor Administrative Area. The Court prosecuted and tried four hundred and thirty-four cases (434), which substantially reduced the overcrowding in the detention facility, and was a positive relief on the prisons service authorities in Pibor.

It is to be noted that the Government establishes mobile courts to handle cases in the remote areas of the country, with support from UNMISS and the development partners. This Government action demonstrated that access to justice for all is vital in reducing violence, resolving grievances, ending abuse and exploitation of women and children.

3. Efforts to Resolve Violence by Conventional Parties to the Armed Conflict and other Armed Groups Trends

The insecurity situation in Western Equatoria State was triggered by internal communal violence between the Azande and Balanda communities in Yambio and Nagero Counties and the resistance of removal of illegal check points along Yambio-Wau road, by the SPLA-IO forces, deployed in Western Equatoria. This indiscipline, led to administrative measures taken by the Government to dismiss the then Governor of Western Equatoria State and Head of SPLA-IO forces, who was involved in communal conflicts and commission of human rights abuses. The aforesaid Governor with his SPLA-IO forces rebelled against the Government causing numerous human atrocities in the State.

Similarly, the insecurity in Bazia and Boo River Bridge in Western Bahr El-Ghazal State was a spillover of resistance of check points removal and subsequent rebellion by the SPLA-IO forces in Western Equatoria State. To de-escalate the situation, the national Government had to take measures to contain insecurity situation, including the dismissal of the Governor of the State who was also from the SPLM-IO.

In Upper Nile State, the insecurity was caused by the SPLA-IO forces with its affiliated White Army militia. The SPLA-IO forces and its White Army militia attacked the South Sudan People Defence Forces (SSPDF) positions in Nasir, Ulang and Fagak Counties resulting in loss of civilian lives, killing of SSPDF Personnel, including the killing of the SSPDF Commander of the army garrison in Nasir and several SSPDF personnel and distraction of properties. In an attempt to evacuate the SSPDF personnel, UNMISS helicopter was fired at resulting into killing of one civilian crew member and seriously injured other two crew members.

One of the main functions of the Government is to maintain a strict rule of law by ensuring that law and order and the security of the population is preserved, protected and maintained.

Array of reports indicated that National Salvation Front (NAS) has been involved in human rights abuses, including abductions and killing of civilians in Yei River and Kajo-Keji Counties of the Central Equatoria State. However, since the cases are known to the UNMISS-HRD, the Government urges the relatives of the victims and any concern person/citizen to report any human rights abuses to the authorities. The Government will take necessary measures to safeguard and protect the population.

Conclusion

The Government would like to update UNMISS-Human Rights Division that some of the alleged human rights violations were already addressed and resolved either through trials or administrative measures taken as in the case of the Governor of Western Equatoria State and rests.

The Government would like to further encourage any victim of human rights violations or abuses to come forward and report such violation(s) to the authorities. More importantly, the UNMISS-HRD should share its findings with the Government, for verification and prosecution of the alleged human rights violations.

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Dr. Wek Mamer Kuol, MP
Minister
Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs
Republic of South Sudan
Juba.

