

We are surprised and extend our heartfelt sympathies and condolences to the families of the victims who are grieving the sudden and tragic loss. We are expressing our sorrow and frustration about the assault on the SSPDF barracks in Ayuok and the killings of the civilians surrounding Aneet in Twic Mayardit territory. We acknowledge that words do not adequately describe the pain you are experiencing. However, in this painful and heartbreaking moment, the Twic Mayardit Community stands with you in solidarity worldwide.

The origin of the violent conflict between Ngok and Twic Mayardit is the unlawful annexation of the Twic areas to the Abyeit Box. On October 12, 2022, General Pieng Deng Kuol admitted in the meeting that Aneet is a land of Twic in geographical, legal, and political terms. His statement about Aneet was circulated and shared online. General Pieng Deng Kuol declared, "I want to tell you this, my dear

Friday, December 1, 2023

Re: Condolences and condemnation letter regarding attacks in Ayuok and Aneet

INTERIM COMMITTEE OF TWIC MAYARDIT COMMUNITY IN THE UNITED STATES



elders: the truth is bitter, and the duplicities are expensive when they are visibly known and overlooked in a society like this. Today, I have chosen to say this out loud rather than watch over these young ones dying from elders' ignorance. I know you will all hate me for pointing out what I know about the land that has halted the freedom of Ngok youth for decades. Aneet is legally a land of Twic geographically and politically. I Intrinsicly blame my brother, General Kuol Deim, because he constitutionally missed the right way of doing things; the approach he used on the boundary of Aneet town isn't the right way of doing things at all. Assume if Twic had done the same in Abyei, would you all watch over them surveying your land without saying a word? I believe NO! Please, from today on, I strongly urge our youth who don't know anything about the history of Aneet to dissuade any violence calmly and first to ask Comrade Deng Alor how Ngok came to settle in this land." General Pieng Deng has the highest level of accuracy regarding Aneet and is the son of Abyei.

Why were the Abyei people excluded from the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) if they were South Sudanese? Musician Nyankol Mathiang Dut, in her song and a great daughter of Abyei, asked the South Sudanese people, President Salva Kiir, and the Abyei politicians, including Former United Nations Ambassador Dr. Francis Mading Deng, Former Foreign Minister Deng Alor Kuol, the late Edward Lino, and General Pieng Deng Majok, how Abyei was excluded. The title of her song in the Dinka language is "Abyei Yi Dong Wei," translated as Abyei was excluded from South Sudan. (Abyei Yi Dong Wei · Nyankol Mathiang Dut: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z6lWg7q-5aE>).

The repeated question is, why was Abyei excluded from South Sudan? The answer is that Chief Deng Majok took Abyei to Kordofan in 1905. The Abyei people should talk with the chiefdom of Deng Majok about returning Abyei land from Kordofan to the Bhar El Ghazal region. The facts are as follows: (1) The decision of Chief Deng Majok to take Abyei to Kordofan in 1905, (2) the 1956 map, (3) the CPA 2005, (4) the final ruling of the Hague in 2009, and (5) the recommendation of the Sudanese government in 2022 are our proven evidence that Abyei is the land of the Kordofan region. The Abyei Box was created in a way similar to how 32 states in South Sudan were created. When President Salva Kiir created 32 states, it resulted in the failure to form a Unity Government. In consequence, President Kiir changed his mind. For example, on February 15, 2020, President Salva Kiir returned the country to 10 states for peace and unity.

It is the same thing. The Ngok politicians, such as former United Nations representative to South Sudan Dr. Francis Mading Deng, Former Presidential Minister of Affairs Dr. Luka Biong, and Former Foreign Minister Deng Alor, created the Abyei Box, which annexed the land of the Bhar El Ghazal region in violation of the 1956 map and the Hague ruling in 2009. Therefore, the three elders and politicians from Abyei must change their minds for peace between Ngok and Twic Mayardit to accept the 1956 map and the Hague ruling in 2009, confirming the Kiir River as the international borderline between the Kordofan and Bhar El Ghazal regions.

Chief Administrator for Abyei, Dr. Choi Deng Alak, planned and organized the recent war between Ngok and Twic Mayardit. Chief Administrator Dr. Choi Deng (1) Assigned General Kuol Deng of the Abyei mission to lead the war against Twic in Ayuok and Aneet. (2) Former Commissioner Mayot Akundik was assigned as a second commander to General Kuol Deng to declare war against Twic around Aneet. (3) Ayuel Kiir was reappointed to be a commissioner of Rumarmer to declare war against Twic around Aneet. (4) Appointed Deng Bol as his security advisor and mobilized the Abyei militias to fight against Twic in Ayuok and Aneet.

Second, the trigger of war on November 13, 2023, was a soldier from Ngok who was a bodyguard of Commander Akol Tong, who escaped at night and joined the militias of Abyei. The escaped bodyguard came on the same night with the Abyei militias, and they killed Commander Akol Tong, who was from Awiel, and his soldiers in cold blood while they were sleeping. The Abyei militias killed everybody in the barrack and burned others in their houses, but they left unharmed.

Lastly, the trigger of war on November 19, 2023, was that the Abyei administration officials, chiefs, and spiritual leaders called Aneet Cleaning Day, and they ordered their Abyei militias to attack the Twic civilians who were very far from Aneet. You can watch the ritual video against Twic Mayardit: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=722685436088485>.

The killing of 43 armed militias from Abyei, which included former Commissioner Mayot Kuintik of Rumamer County, took place around Aneet because of declaring a cleaning day in Aneet and ordering the killing of the Twic civilians. In 2021, Mayot Kuintik ordered a survey of Aneet in Twic County of Warrap State, which caused a war between Ngok and Twic Mayardit in February 2022. The Abyei militias, driven in a heavily mounted land cruiser with machine guns, were repulsed and pursued by Titweng of Twic Mayardit throughout Agok, Juojok, and Awal-nom, where the initiator of the war, Hon. Mayot Kuintik, was killed. The unfair actions of Hon. Mayot Kuintik against Twic Mayardit claimed his life at last. You rest in peace, Hon. Mayot Kuintik.

After multiple attacks against Twic Mayardit and SSPDF soldiers in the Twic areas, the social media was filled up with misinformation and disinformation from the Abyei MPs, Abyei spoke person, and Chief Bulabek Deng Kuol. However, Major General Akuei Ajou denied, Twic County Commissioner Simon Aguek explained, SSPDF Spokesperson General Lui Ruai Koang repudiated it, The UNISFA statement clarified, The UNMISS Chief Nicholas Haysom illuminated, and the Troika statement corrected them.

On Monday, November 13, 2023, Major General Akuei Ajou of the SSPDF's Division 3 commander told Radio Tamazuj that armed elements from the Ngok Dinka from the Abyei Administrative Area and Nuer youth from Unity State attacked a military base in Ayuok. "A huge number of Ngok Dinka and Nuer youth attacked our base where we have the SSPDF's Abyei Independent Brigade and other units in the Ayuok area, which is situated between Ngok and Twic on Monday at 5 a.m. There have been disputes over Ayuok between Twic and Ngok Dinka communities, and that is why the SSPDF was deployed to maintain security. The Nuer mercenaries and Ngok Dinka youth have allied to capture the area from the national army and launch their attacks against Twic from there," Gen. Akuei explained to the media. (Radio tamazuj in Abyei and Twic County, November 15, 2023, Dozens of SSPDF soldiers killed in latest Abyei-Twic fighting: <https://radioitamazuj.org/en/news/article/dozens-of-sspfd-soldiers-killed-in-latest-abyei-twic-fighting>).

However, the paramount chief of the Ngok Dinka in Abyei, Bulabek Deng Kuol, declared that the deadly attack was connected to the frequent conflicts, invasions, and raiding organized by armed youth from Twic County. In addition, the paramount chief confirmed that the Ngok youth only attacked armed elements from Twic Mayardit when they were returning home and fell in an ambush coordinated by the SSPDF soldiers.

"If you were following, there have been consecutive attacks in Athony and surrounding areas where goods vehicles were attacked and looted, so our youth decided to investigate where the attackers came from. The whole process was done in collaboration with the army in Nyindeng Ayuol. Makuac Deng

Ayuel belongs to the Abyei Administrative Area, but UNISFA forces were deployed there to separate the Ngok and Twic, and Ngok citizens withdrew from the area. The area was then invaded by Twic youth, who launched hostilities against Ngok Dinka. Our youth discovered that Twic fighters were reinforcing in Makuac Lueth, situated west of Athony in Ayuok, so they went there and clashed with the fighters from Twic. And after they tried to come back, the army base in Ayuok ambushed them and shelled them from two sides, a move that forced our youth to break into the military base to secure their safety," Chief Bulabek explained and denied. (Radio tamazuj in Abyei and Twic County, November 15, 2023, Dozens of SSPDF soldiers killed in latest Abyei-Twic fighting: <https://radiotamazuj.org/en/news/article/dozens-of-sspdf-soldiers-killed-in-latest-abyei-twic-fighting>).

On March 21, 2023, President Salva Kiir met five chiefs from the Ngok of Abyei and six chiefs from the Twic Mayardit in Akon, Warrap State, and they discussed the genesis of the conflict and permanent peace between the two communities. Chief Bulabek Deng Kuol said, "Twic and Ngok lived peacefully for almost 200 years, but politicians ignited the current conflict" (Radio tamazuj in Akon, March 24, 2023, Twic, Abyei chiefs agree to end violence: <https://radiotamazuj.org/en/news/article/twic-abyei-chiefs-agree-to-end-violence>).

However, Chief Bulabek Deng Kuol contradicted himself when he claimed that there had been consecutive attacks in Athony and surrounding areas where goods vehicles were attacked and looted, so the Abyei youth decided to investigate where the attackers came from. The process was done in collaboration with the army in Nyindeng Ayuel, Makuac Deng Ayuel belongs to the Abyei Administrative Area. With a statement from Chief Bulabek Deng Kuol regarding the attack against the SSPDF soldiers in Ayuok, he is the genesis of the conflict between Ngok and Twic Mayardit rather than politicians whom he accused of igniting the current conflict.

Where is proof that goods vehicles were attacked and looted? Where is the evidence that Nyindeng Ayuel, Makuac Deng Ayuel belongs to the Abyei Administrative Area? Chief Bulabek Deng Kuol was conscious that the two rival communities had maintained a peaceful relationship for more than 200 years, and the Kir River was the boundary between the Ngok and Twic Mayardit. Chief Bulabek Deng Kuol started the war by organizing the Abyei militias to attack the Twic Mayardit in the Twic regions. Abyei militias assaulted SSPDF soldiers, and others burned to death in their homes at night. Unfortunately, Bol Koch, the Abyei information minister, admitted that the armed youth from Twic County were attacked because they established an illegal checkpoint in the Abyei territory of Ayuok, which the army tried to remove.

"What happened in Athony village is that armed youth from Twic County backed up by the militia of Gai Machiek created an illegal checkpoint at Ayuok sub-village in Athony area, and when SSPDF went there, they clashed, and 21 soldiers were killed and nine injured. The wounded soldiers were taken to Mayen Abun Hospital in Twic County, and the ones with serious injuries were referred to Wau Teaching Hospital. The communal conflict has now changed its nature and is now a national issue because SSPDF soldiers were killed. This is not good because this road is a lifeline for South Sudan and not only Abyei and Twic. A lot of looting has occurred on this road in the recent past, with armed Twic setting up checkpoints and charging drivers SSP 100,000 forcefully. We have been telling the authorities of Twic County in Warrap State to talk to their youth to end this senseless conflict in vain," Minister Bol Koch explained.

However, Twic County Commissioner Simon Aguek claims the attack was carried out in his area of jurisdiction by armed Ngok Dinka youth from Abyei, who killed 35 SSPDF soldiers and civilians.

“The armed youth from Abyei came to Atyok village in Twic County along the road leading to Aketch-Nhial and Abyei with heavy machine guns, and they attacked soldiers stationed there and killed about 35 SSPDF soldiers and civilians. You can interview some of the wounded soldiers and civilians and find out who attacked them. An army commander, Major John Akol Tong, and his bodyguards were killed in the clashes and that the officer’s body had been taken to Aweil in Northern Bahr el Ghazal State for burial.” Twic County Commissioner Simon Aguek explained. (Radio tamazuj in Abyei and Twic County, November 15, 2023, Dozens of SSPDF soldiers killed in latest Abyei-Twic fighting: <https://radiotamazuj.org/en/news/article/dozens-of-sspdf-soldiers-killed-in-latest-abyei-twic-fighting>).

On November 20, 2023, Minister Bulis Koch, who is the spokesperson for the administrative area, said that a Ghananian peacekeeper with the United Nations Interim Security Force Abyei, was among the dead. According to him, Malual Aleu saw the discovery of four dead attackers, and Rumaner County witnessed the discovery of two other attackers after the fighting.

“There was a confrontation on Sunday morning in two counties, but now it has calmed a little bit because UNISFA intervened and pushed back the SSPDF in Malual Village in Alal County, and the Twic armed youth from Twic together with their ally Gai Machiek were repulsed too. The total number of civilians killed on both sides is 32. Of this, 27 were killed in Rumaner County, including Mayot, the former commissioner there, and 5 others were also killed, including a Ghananian soldier from UNISFA in Malual Aleu village. 20 people sustained bullet injuries, 18 people were injured in Rumaner County, and 2 in Malual Aleu village. The former commissioner of Rumaner County died because of a road ambush by Twic youth, and their allied forces led by Gai Machiek in Wunpeth village,” Minister Bulis Koch explained. (Radio tamazuj in and Abyei and Twic county, November 20, 2023, 32 killed, 20 wounded in separate attacks in Abyei: <https://radiotamazuj.org/en/news/article/32-killed-20-wounded-in-separate-attacks-in-abyei>).

“Our soldiers did not attack any village. I am now at the SSPDF Division Three Headquarters in Wunyik near Aweil in Northern Bahr El Ghazal State, and I do not know about this incident. Our brigade is stationed at Machar Akoon under my command. Last week, armed youth from Abyei attacked the army’s Atyok military base, but there is no army attacking villages because SSPDF’s mandate is to protect the nation and civilians. I am not a tribal officer but a national officer. When I went there, I told the Abyei and Twic communities to desist from fighting, and I used to walk with Kuol Alor and talk about peace. I have no interest in Abyei or Twic. My relatives like Akuei Ayou and Ayou Ayou were killed in the conflict there, so how can I fight a civilian who does not know anything? I went to Ethiopia because of civilians. Now, how can I turn around and kill them?” General Akuei Ayou denied the involvement of his soldiers, explained, and asked. (Radio tamazuj in and Abyei and Twic county, November 20, 2023, 32 killed, 20 wounded in separate attacks in Abyei: <https://radiotamazuj.org/en/news/article/32-killed-20-wounded-in-separate-attacks-in-abyei>).

General Akuei Ayou, the SSPDF Third Division commander, denied the army’s involvement, declaring that his soldiers have been professional forces responsible for defending the country and her people. General Akuei Ayou accused Abyei officials of trying to drag him into the conflict. Yes, I agreed with him. Hon. Aisha Abbas, Hon. Tabitha Chol, and Hon. Margaret Victor have been trying to drag him into the violent conflict between Ngok and Twic Mayardit, which is unacceptable.

General Akuei proved that he was not involved in the violent conflict when he said, "I used to walk with Kuol Alor and talk about peace." Kuol Alor is from Abyei, and he knew that General Akuei used to preach peace in his presence. If there is any objection to his statement, Kuol Alor from Abyei will declare to the public that General Akuei was not with him. In addition, SSPDF Spokesperson General Lul Ruai Koang repudiated the statement released by the minister of information in the Abyei Special Administrative Area, accusing the commander of SSPDF Third Infantry Division, General Akuei, and other elements within the SSPDF of being involved in the deadly clashes.

"I would like to take this opportunity to announce to all the listeners of various radio stations and media outlets that SSPDF forces were not involved in the recurrent clashes between the two rival communities. We want to clarify that we are not involved in the recurrent clashes. On the contrary, we are victims. Four of our many bases got attacked by armed men, and we have not been issuing any statements accusing any of the rival factions, not because we do not know the prime suspects, but because we do not want to muddy the dirty waters. Even on November 13, 2023, Ayuk military base was attacked, and we lost dozens of security personnel, weapons were seized, and part of the barracks was overrun. I have just come to clear our (SSPDF) name again and say that we are not involved in the ongoing clashes because the accusations against us as SSPDF in general and the commander of the Third Division are not substantiated. Therefore, we dismiss it." General Lul Ruai explained and declared. (Radio tamazuj in Juba, November 22, 2023, SSPDF refutes allegations of involvement in Abyei fighting: <https://radioitamazuj.org/en/news/article/sspdf-refutes-allegations-of-involvement-in-abyei-fighting>).

The houses of their soldiers were burned down during the Ayuk attack. Still, the army desisted from issuing a statement accusing anybody elsewhere because the Abyei militias did it as the bodyguard of Major Akol Tong initiated the war when he left and brought the Abyei militias to kill soldiers in their military barracks at night.

"Since the conflict erupted last year, our youth have never initiated any attacks on Twic areas. They have consistently maintained a defensive stance and only repulsed Twic armed youth and their allied militia of renegeade Gai Machiek to their territory in the Twic area. Yesterday, an incident unfolded when Twic armed youth and their allied militias launched an attack on civilian settlements in Abyei box in the South of River Ktir in the areas of Malual Aleu, Anthony, and Ayuk of Alal County in Abyei Special Administrative Area. However, the attackers were subsequently repulsed by Abyei armed youth, who forced them into an illegal base established by the Twic armed youth within the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) Box. The claim that the people of Abyei are not South Sudanese is entirely unfounded. As national parliamentarians representing Abyei, we affirm that Abyei is an integral part of South Sudan as enshrined in the constitution of the Republic of South Sudan. The status of Abyei Box is not a creation exclusive to the people of Abyei, as claimed by the Twic MPs. It is an arbitration ruling established by The Hague in July 2009, endorsed by both the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and the government of Sudan. The African Union and the United Nations have also recognized and endorsed this ruling. We appeal to the government of South Sudan and President General Salva Kiir Mayardit to expedite the peace process between Twic and Abyei so that peace is promptly restored among the two feuding communities that have historically existed peacefully for centuries. (Yen La Abyei, November 14, 2023, press conference by Abyei MPs: <https://www.facebook.com/Yenlaabyei/videos/1400608437191451/>).

The claim from the Abyei MPs that the Abyei youth have never initiated any attacks on Twic areas is not valid. The Abyei youth came to Ayuk and killed Major Akol Tong and his soldiers at night in the Twic areas. The Abyei MPs claimed that Twic armed youth and their allied militias launched an attack on civilian settlements in Abyei box in the South of River Ktir in the areas of Malual Aleu, Anthony, and Ayuk of Alal County in Abyei Special Administrative Area. It is not valid. The places of Malual Aleu, Anthony, and Ayuk belong to Twic Mayardit. The three Abyei MPs must reread the 1956 map, the Hague ruling in July 2009, and the position paper of the Sudanese government in 2022.

It is not true that Twic youth established the illegal base within the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) Box. The Permanent Court of Arbitration didn't redraw the borderline between the Kordofan and Bhar El Ghazal regions. The Permanent Court of Arbitration confirmed the January 1, 1956, map to be the international borderline between the Kordofan and Bhar El Ghazal regions. The three Abyei MPs must prove their claim under the Hague ruling in July 2009. Due to their location in Kordofan region, the people living in Abyei are not considered South Sudanese.

At a press conference at the Abyei Commission offices in Juba on Sunday evening, Aisha Abbas, who represents Abyei in the TNLA, said lawmakers from Abyei collectively condemned the attack on the Area, which she said was carried out by armed Twic youth and SSPDF soldiers.

“The attack happened early morning on Sunday simultaneously in three places in Abyei. The people who executed this attack were the Titweng militia of Twic County, another militia group led by Gai Machiek, and the elements from the SSPDF’s Division Eleven and Division Three commanded by Maj. Gen. Akuei Ajou. This is not the first time Gen. Ajou has been involved in the fighting in Abyei, and he was implicated at the beginning of the conflict in 2022, just like this time. So, we appeal to the Chief of Defense Forces of the SSPDF, Gen. Santino Deng Wol, to expeditiously intervene and stop the bloodshed in Abyei. We also want to inform our constituents in Abyei that it is not the entire army, the SSPDF, that is fighting and killing them. Still, rogue elements because the army is there to protect the territory and people of South Sudan,” Aisha Abbas accused General Akuei and explained.

It is not true that the war happened simultaneously in three places in Abyei by the Titweng militia of Twic County. In three areas of Twic Mayardit, the war took place when the Ngok and Nuer militias attacked the Twic civilians. Gai Machiek is a civilian in Twic County. He is not the leader of any militia group. The claim that General Akuei was part of the fight between Ngok and Twic Mayardit is false. The Abyei militias killed his soldiers in cold blood at night, leaving General Akuei as a victim. In addition, Hon. Aisha Abbas has been aware that the SSPDF soldiers were not fighting and killing Ngok. They were defending the land and people of South Sudan. However, Hon. The Chief of Defense Forces of the SSPDF, General Santino Deng Wol, was requested by Aisha Abbas to take swift action and halt the bloodshed between Ngok and Twic Mayardit.

Yes, the silence of President Salva Kiir and General Santino Deng Wol has been causing death to our two rival communities. (1) President Salva Kiir and General Santino Deng Wol must speak about the violent conflict between Ngok and Twic Mayardit. (2) President Salva Kiir and General Santino Deng Wol knew how Ngok came to Aneet when we were fighting against the Khartoum government in the bush. (3) President Salva Kiir and General Santino Deng Wol knew the 1956 map between the Bhar El Ghazal and Kordofan regions, how the Abyei was excluded from the CPA in 2005, and the Hague ruling in 2009.

Tabitha Chol, a lawmaker representing Abyei on the Council of States, described the attack. "The assaultants attacked the villages of Angot, Wincuel, and Nyiel in Abyei. The attack this time was very different from previous attacks because elements of the army-backed up the armed youth from Twic County. We believe that the SSPDF is a national army that is there to protect all the people of South Sudan and not to be used in revenge attacks. The Chief of Defense Forces of the SSPDF remained in Gen. Ajou and removed him from Abyei because his name had been severely mentioned among the people destabilizing Abyei. It is not possible and right for civilians to fight with the army. Also, a former Abyei minister of infrastructure who also served as commissioner of Rumarer was killed in the attack. We hereby condemn the targeting of defenseless citizens. We want to reassure the people of South Sudan that the people of Abyei did not attack but defended themselves," Tabitha Chol charged and explained.

Hon. Tabitha Chol claimed that the assaultants attacked the villages of the villages of Angot, Wincuel, and Nyiel in Abyei. The claim that Angot, Wincuel, and Nyiel are located within Abyei is false. Those territories belong to Twic Mayardit. The Abyei militias strayed across the Kiir River and fought against the SSPDF soldiers and Twic civilians in the Twic regions. Hon. Tabitha Chol claimed that a former Abyei minister of infrastructure and former commissioner of Rumarer, Mayot Kuindik, was killed in the attack. Hon. Mayot Kuindik was a former SSPDF soldier and colonel in the SSPDF.

Hon. Mayot Kuindik, who served as commander of the Abyei militias in Aneet, was killed in the conflict with Twic civilians. Rest in peace, Hon. Mayot Kuindik. It is not valid for Hon. Tabitha Chol to claim that the people of Abyei did not attack but defended themselves. The Abyei militias crossed the Kiir River and attacked the Twic civilians in Angot, Wincuel, and Nyiel, which resulted in the killing of the former Abyei minister of infrastructure and former commissioner, Mayot Kuindik.

Meanwhile, Margaret Victor, a lawmaker representing Abyei in the Council of States on the SPLM-IO ticket, declared that the people of Abyei were surprised by the presence of SSPDF soldiers among the attackers. "We are here to sadly announce that our people in Abyei were attacked and killed by armed youth from Twic County who were backed up by the militia of Gai Machiek and the SSPDF. We thought the army was sent there to help contain fighting and maintain peace between Twic and Abyei until the issue is resolved. Unfortunately, news reached us that Gen. Ajou of the SSPDF's Division Three, on the contrary, directed the attacks on villages in Abyei, leading to 32 deaths and several injuries. Elements of Division Eleven joined the attack on Abyei, shocking us. Our question to the leadership of the SSPDF is how did they enter this conflict, and why did they kill civilians in Abyei?" Victor explained and asked. (Radio tamazuj in Juba, November 20, 2023, Abyei MPs condemn Sunday's attacks, killings in Abyei villages: <https://radioitamazuj.org/en/news/article/abyei-mps-condemn-sundays-attacks-killings-in-abyei-villages>).

Hon. Margaret Victor sadly announced that our people in Abyei were attacked and killed by armed youth from Twic County who were backed up by the militia of Gai Machiek and the SSPDF. It is not true that Twic County, Gai Machiek militias, and SSPDF soldiers attacked Ngok in Abyei. It was the Abyei militias who crossed the Kiir River and attacked the Twic civilians in Angot, Wincuel, and Nyiel, which resulted in the killing of the former Abyei minister of infrastructure and former commissioner of Rumarer, Mayot Kuindik. Gai Machiek is a civilian in Twic County. He is not leading any militias in Twic County.

Hon. Margaret Victor, your question to the leadership of the SSPDF was supposed to be how did the Abyei militias enter Ayuk and Aneet to kill the SSPDF Soldiers, and why did they kill civilians in

the Twic areas? It is unacceptable for the Abyei militias to cross the Kiir River and attack the Twic civilians in Angot, Wincuel, and Nyiel, which resulted in the killing of the former Abyei minister of infrastructure and former commissioner of Rumamer, Mayot Kuindik. The unfair actions of the Abyei militias in attacking the SSPDF and Twic civilians violated the international borders between the Bhar El Ghazal and Kordofan regions.

It would be best for Hon. Aisha Abbas, Hon. Tabitha Chol, and Hon. Margaret Victor to reread five documents: (1) the 1956 map, (2) the CPA in 2005, (3) the letter President Salva Kiir on the international borderline in 2006, (4) the final ruling of the Hague in July 2009, and (5) the recommendation of the Sudanese government in 2022.

On October 2, 2006, President Salva Kiir wrote a letter to Dr. Douglas Johnson in the United Kingdom about the international borderline between Sudan and South Sudan. President Kiir declared in his letter, "I am kindly requesting you to prepare for the government of Southern Sudan a technical background position paper that will: (1) Define and demarcate the north-south borderline as of 1st January 1956. (2) Define and demarcate the international borderline of Southern Sudan as of January 1, 1956. (3) Provide detailed cartographic and mapping references for the Southern Sudan borderline as of January 1, 1956." The letter can be retrieved from this link: https://www.facebook.com/messenger.media/attachment_id=226348499051778&message_id=m_id.%24gABIKN%Kb12GSP13DD2MDRhsITds&thread_id=7147060505335649.

This is where the Abyei box came from when Dr. Luka Biong was a minister in the office of President Salva Kiir. The letter asked Dr. Douglas Johnson to detail cartographic and mapping references for the Southern Sudan borderline as of January 1, 1956. The letter didn't ask for redrawing of the Southern Sudan borderline with Sudan. The 1956 map was the guided and proven map to be used.

On July 7, 2008, the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement signed the "Arbitration Agreement" between The Government of Sudan and The Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army on Delimiting the Abyei Area." In the Arbitration Agreement, the Parties agreed to submit for a final and binding decision, their dispute as to whether the experts of the Abyei Boundaries Commission (ABC Experts), established according to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed by the Parties on January 9, 2005 ("CPA"), exceeded their mandate.

On July 11, 2008, the Parties deposited the Arbitration Agreement with the Secretary-General of the Permanent Court of Arbitration. On October 30, 2008, the arbitral tribunal was fully organized and was comprised of the following members:

- (1) Professor Pierre-Marie Dupuy (Presiding Arbitrator)
- (2) H.E. Judge Awn Al-Khasawneh
- (3) Professor Gerhard Hafner
- (4) Professor W. Michael Reisman
- (5) Judge Stephen Schwebel

On December 16, 2008, the Parties filed their written memorials. On February 13, 2009, they submitted their counter-memorials. And they came back on February 28, 2009. Their oral pleadings, opened to the public and attended by over 200 Parties' representatives, were held at the Peace Palace in The Hague from April 18 to April 23, 2009. Under Article 9(1) of the Arbitration Agreement, the final award was to be rendered within ninety days from the closure of submissions, which was on

July 22, 2009. (Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in the Hague, July 22, 2009, Abyei Final Award: <https://unmis.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/PR-PCA-22Jul.pdf>).

The issues to be determined by the Tribunal were whether the ABC Experts had exceeded their mandate or not, which was 'to define the Abyei borders and demarcate the area of the nine Ngok Dinka chiefdoms transferred to Kordofan in 1905 as stated in the Abyei Protocol.

Having considered all relevant arguments, the Tribunal redraws the boundaries of the Northern, Eastern, and Western parts of the Abyei area as follows:

(a) Northern Boundary in respect of the ABC Experts' decision that "the Ngok have a legitimate dominant claim to the territory from the Kordofan – Bahr El-Ghazal boundary north to latitude 10°10'N. The northern boundary of the area of the nine Ngok Dinka chiefdoms transferred to Kordofan in 1905, runs along latitude 10°10'00" N, from longitude 27°50'00" E to longitude 29°00'00" E."

(b) Southern boundary regarding the ABC Experts' decision that "the southern boundary shall be the Kordofan – Bahr El-Ghazal – Upper Nile boundary as defined on January 1, 1956," the ABC Experts did not exceed their mandate. The southern boundary as established by the ABC Experts is therefore confirmed."

(c) Eastern Boundary in respect of the ABC Experts' decision that "the eastern boundary shall extend the line of the Kordofan – Upper Nile boundary at approximately longitude 29°32'15" E northwards until it meets latitude 10°22'30" N," the ABC Experts exceeded their mandate. The eastern boundary of the area of the nine Ngok Dinka chiefdoms transferred to Kordofan in 1905 runs in a straight line along longitude 29°00'00" E, from latitude 10°10'00" N south to the Kordofan – Upper Nile boundary as it was defined on January 1, 1956."

(d) Western Boundary in respect of the ABC Experts' decision that "the western boundary shall be the Kordofan – Darfur boundary as it was defined on 1 January 1956, the ABC Experts exceeded their mandate. The western boundary of the area of the nine Ngok Dinka chiefdoms transferred to Kordofan in 1905 runs in a straight line along longitude 27°50'00" E, from latitude 10°10'00" N south to the Kordofan – Darfur boundary as it was defined on January 1, 1956, and continuing [toward] the Kordofan – Darfur boundary until it meets the southern boundary confirmed" (Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in the Hague, July 22, 2009, Abyei Final Award: <https://unmis.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/PR-PCA-22Jul.pdf>).

The position of the Republic of Sudan on the status of Abyei stated, "The Republic of Sudan refuses to operate Anthony airport in the Abyei area, which poses a clear violation of national sovereignty and demands the cessation of all activities at the airport, including the cessation of unilateral measures taken by the Republic of South Sudan to operate Agok airport which is not under the sovereignty of the Civil Aviation Authority of the Republic of Sudan," (the Sudanese position paper on September 26, 2022, page 2).

The statement of the Republic of Sudan about the status of Abyei is evident. The operation of Anthony Airport in the Abyei area violated Sudan's national sovereignty and demanded the cessation of all activities at the airport. However, the UNISFA kept operating Agok Airport unlawfully for Ngok's interest, which fueled the violent conflict between Ngok and Twic Mayardit.

According to UNISFA in a statement, there was no loss of peacekeepers during the fighting. "Contrary to inaccurate information published in media and other reports, no UNISFA peacekeepers were killed or wounded during the incident. UNISFA leadership is also engaging with the Abyei Area Administration and Ngok traditional leadership and stakeholders in Juba to ensure peace and security are maintained in the Abyei area. UNISFA's Acting Head of Mission and Force Commander, Major General Benjamin Olufemi, reiterates the mission's commitment to protecting civilians and calls on all communities to refrain from violence and commit to ensuring sustainable peace in Abyei." The UNISFA statement clarified and illuminated. (Radio tamazuj in Abyei, November 21, 2023, UNISFA condemns Abyei attacks, says no peacekeeper was killed: <https://radioitamazuj.org/en/news/article/unisfa-condemns-abyei-attacks-says-no-peacekeeper-was-killed>).

On Monday, the Embassies of Norway, the United Kingdom, and the United States expressed their deep concern about the ongoing violence in Rumarner County, Abyei Administrative Area, and Twic County, Warrap State. "We call for calm and restraint and urge all those in a position to influence the communities involved to take all appropriate steps to prevent further escalation and push for an end to the violence. The Troika notes our particular concern at ongoing UNISFA reports of SSPDF presence in Abyei, increasing the presence of weapons in the region and threatening Abyei's demilitarized status. We renew our calls upon the Transitional Government to urgently withdraw its troops in line with its commitments under the 2011 Status of Forces Agreement," the Troika statement explained and declared. Radio tamazuj in Juba, November 22, 2023, Troika concerned about recurrent Abyei-Twic violence: <https://radioitamazuj.org/en/news/article/troika-concerned-about-recurrent-abyei-twic-violence>).

It is important for the embassies of the Troika to understand that the Abyei militias attacked SSPDF soldiers and killed civilians. The claim that the UNISFA reports about SSPDF presence in Abyei led to an increase in weapons in the region and a threat to Abyei's demilitarized status is not true.

The embassies of the Troika should know that the SSPDF soldiers were stationed at the international borderlines between Ngok and Twic Mayardit to reduce the tension between the two rival communities. In addition, the embassies of the Troika should listen to the SSPDF spokesperson, General Lul Ruai Koang, and ensure that SSPDF soldiers were not involved in the fighting. Due to attacks, the SSPDF were victims, and their chief, Akol Tong, was brutally killed by the Abyei militias.

"Mostly recently, we have been concerned by reports of violence in Abyei Administrative Area and Warrap State, which has claimed approximately 75 lives. Leaders of these communities need to recognize that repeated cycles of retaliatory violence will not solve any problem, and they need to use peaceful means to resolve issues. I call upon the government to investigate these attacks and killings and to do what is necessary to reduce the tension between affected communities. UNISFA has quite clearly indicated that none of their peacekeepers was killed, and they have gone public on that. Secondly, was SSPDF involved? I have noted that the SSPDF have denied they were involved, and I do not have any information. And in my view, this is something that the government should investigate. If the SSPDF were involved, given that the SSPDF should not be in the Abyei box, it would require some investigation as to why that took place," Nicholas Haysom, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in South Sudan, explained and asked the South Sudanese government to investigate the incident. (Radio tamazuj in Juba, November 23, 2023, UN urges government to probe killing of 75 civilians in Abyei: <https://radioitamazuj.org/en/news/article/un-urges-government-to-probe-killing-of-75-civilians-in-abyei>).

Nicholas Haysom, the Chief of UNMISS, confirmed that a UN peacekeeper was not among the 75 killed during the conflict. The government should investigate the attacks, the involvement of the SSPDF, and the killings of civilians by the Abyei militias, as suggested by UNMISS Chief Nicholas Haysom. In addition, UNMISS Chief Nicholas Haysom should know that the SSPDF were stationed in the territory of the Twic areas, and the armed militias from Ngok crossed the international border to attack the barracks in Ayuk and Aneet. The areas of Twic County were included in the territories belonging to the Abyei box.

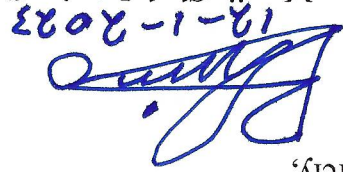
The lasting solution for the violent conflict between Ngok and Twic Mayardit must be as follows:

- (1) Ngok must acknowledge the map of January 1, 1956.
- (2) Ngok must accept that the final ruling of the Hague on July 22, 2009, didn't redraw the Southern border between the Kordofan and Bhar El Ghazal regions.
- (3) Ngok must acknowledge that the Kiri River is the international border between the Kordofan and Bhar El Ghazal regions.

- (4) Ngok must cross the Kiri River for peace between Ngok and Twic Mayardit.
- (5) If Ngok fails to recognize the Kiri River as the international border and refuses to cross the Kiri River to the north side, Twic County should be given the status of the administrative area to face the Abyei Administrative area for fair representation.
- (6) The land dispute between Ngok and Twic Mayardit will continue until President Kiri issues the presidential order that the Abyei Administration, Abyei Special Forces with its militias from the Unity State, and UNISFA should move to the north of the Kiri River.
- (7) If President Kiri refuses to issue the presidential order to let Ngok cross the Kiri River, we will file our case on Aneet against the South Sudanese government and Ngok politicians with the East African Court of Justice and International Criminal Court.

Hon. Aisha Abbas, Hon. Tabitha Chol, and Hon. Margaret Victor must reread (1) the 1956 map, (2) the CPA in 2005, (3) the letter President Salva Kiri on the international borderline in 2006, (4) the final ruling of the Hague in 2009, and (5) the recommendation of the Sudanese government in 2022.

Sincerely,



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