



APUK YOUTH UNION IN JUBA (AYU)

"Peace, Unity & Development"



Date: 7th May, 2025

Press Statement — For Immediate Release!

Subject: Condemnation of the Barbaric Attacks on Gogrial East County by Armed Criminals from Mayom County, Unity State

The Apuk Youth Union in Juba strongly condemns in the strongest terms possible the heinous and barbaric attacks perpetrated on the **6th of May 2025** by heavily armed individuals believed to be criminal elements from Mayom County in Unity State. These coordinated assaults targeted **Gokper Cattle Camp** located in **Mangol Payam, Gogrial East County, Warrap State**.

The unprovoked aggression resulted in the tragic loss of **22 innocent lives**, including **five girls**, and left many others wounded, eight of whom remain in critical condition. The attackers further committed acts of wanton destruction, including the deliberate killing of livestock, destruction of property, and the forceful displacement of thousands of civilians who were preparing for agricultural activities in this rainy season.

This brutal and premeditated act constitutes a gross violation of human rights and inter-communal coexistence efforts. It is a direct assault on the peace, security, and dignity of the people of Gogrial East. It is particularly distressing given that the youth of Gogrial East have remained disarmed since 2014, making them vulnerable to such armed hostilities.

As Chairperson of the Apuk Youth Union in Juba, and on behalf of its entire leadership and membership, I unequivocally denounce these barbaric actions and call upon the government at all levels to take immediate and decisive action. We urge:

1. The Governments of Unity and Warrap States, in collaboration with the National Government, to launch a thorough and impartial investigation into these attacks and ensure the perpetrators are apprehended and prosecuted in accordance with the law.

2. The South Sudan People's Defense Forces (SSPDF) to intensify efforts to disarm all civilians uniformly, including those in Mayom County, and ensure that no County remains a safe haven for armed criminals.
3. The security apparatus to provide urgent protection for the armless and vulnerable civilians of Gogrial East County.
4. Peace and Reconciliation Commissions to double their efforts to address the root causes of such hostilities and promote lasting peace between the Apuk and Bul communities.

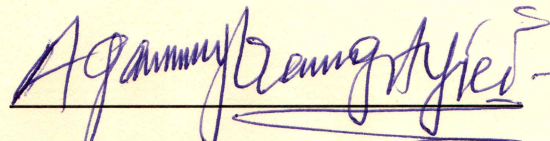
We also urge the youth of Gogrial East to remain calm and refrain from any retaliatory measures. This matter must be addressed by the appropriate state and national authorities. We reaffirm our commitment to peace and support the government's efforts to restore law and order.

Furthermore, we call upon the leadership of Unity and Warrap States to urgently convene a high-level inter-state peace and security dialogue to prevent further escalation of violence and to promote peaceful coexistence the two communities.

Lastly, the leadership of the Apuk Youth Union in Juba conveys its deepest condolences to the bereaved families who have lost their loved ones in this senseless violence. We stand in solidarity with the wounded and wish them a speedy and full recovery. May the souls of the departed rest in eternal peace.

For Peace, Justice, and Accountability.

Sincerely,



Agany Geng Ayiei Agany

Chairperson,

Apuk Youth Union in Juba

