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UNMISS SRSG Calls on Jonglei Communities to Start a New Chapter of Peace

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for South Sudan, Hilde F. Johnson, on Saturday 5 May, participated in the closing ceremony of The Jonglei All Community Peace Conference in Bor, Jonglei State, where representatives of the six main communities of the state (Dinka, Kachipo, Jie, Nuer, Anyuak and Murle) signed important resolutions to put an end to the cycle of violence and to implement durable peace in Jonglei.

“Today is the opportunity to say “No” to violence,” said SRSG Johnson in her address, adding that “we need to see peace reach the communities, the grassroots and the cattle camps.” She stressed that lasting peace can only happen when comprehensive solutions to the challenges of Jonglei have been found, when security institutions are being established, and protection for the people is in place.

The Special Representative commended the courageous decisions by the communities and reassured of the Mission's support saying “We are committed to help you open a new chapter in Jonglei, a chapter for sustainable peace.”

Referring to the civilian disarmament in Jonglei state, the chiefs of the communities also expressed commitment to complete the process and appreciation for the responsible conduct of the SPLA during the campaign. UNMISS SRSG pointed out the importance of peaceful disarmament for ending the cycle of violence in the state, commended the efforts so far and expressed hope that “the process would be completed the way it had begun.”

The signing ceremony took place at Bor town’s Freedom Square and drew a large gathering estimated at over 3,000. UNMISS SRSG Hilde F. Johnson, together with Governor Kuol Manyang, Archbishop Daniel Deng and the Minister of Justice and Legal Affairs John Luk, were among the dignitaries who appended their signatures to the document as witnesses. The whole ceremony was graced by the presence of President Salva Kiir Mayardit.