



Security Council

Distr.: General
6 May 2013

Original: English

Letter dated 6 May 2013 from the Permanent Representative of South Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Murder of the Paramount Chief of the Ngok Dinka of Abyei

1. The Republic of South Sudan wishes to draw the attention of the Security Council to the fact that the cold-blooded murder of Kuol Deng Kuol, the Paramount Chief of the Ngok Dinka, by elements of the Messeriya Arab militia of the Sudan in Abyei on 5 May 2013, constitutes a flagrant violation of Security Council resolutions and other agreements. The act is in violation of resolution 2046 (2012), which calls for the cessation of hostilities. Furthermore, the mere presence of the elements that murdered the Paramount Chief is in direct violation of paragraph 20, on the demilitarization of the Abyei Area, of the agreement of 20 June 2011 (see S/2011/384, annex). Finally, the entire grisly episode represents a grave challenge to the mandate and tasks of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA), as spelled out in paragraphs 2 (a) and 3 (d) and (f) of Security Council resolution 1990 (2011). Needless to say, the killing of Paramount Chief Kuol, which occurred between Difra and Goli in the Abyei Area, also amounts to a brazen contravention of and a callous disregard for international human rights law and international humanitarian law. After all, the deceased Paramount Chief was never a combatant and at the time of his death was unarmed and entirely dependent on UNISFA for his personal safety and security. Before his murder, the UNISFA personnel under whose protection Chief Kuol was travelling had pleaded for almost five continuous hours with the Messeriya militia that surrounded the convoy not to harm the Chief. In fact, the Messeriya militia were demanding that Chief Kuol and the other Ngok Dinka accompanying him, including the Deputy Co-Chair of the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee, be turned over to them for execution. It is noteworthy that prior to the murder of Chief Kuol, a number of violent attacks by the Messeriya militia were recorded against both the property and the persons of Ngok Dinka returnees. A number of Ngok civilian returnees have lost their lives at the hands of the Messeriya militia, while others have had their livestock looted at gunpoint by that same militia.

2. The fact that the disarmament of the Messeriya Arabs and other elements of the regular forces of the Sudan in Abyei is yet to take place remains the root cause of the ongoing violence being perpetrated in Abyei against the Ngok Dinka. Unless and until Abyei is totally cleared of all manifestations of unauthorized armed presence, there is no guarantee that the tragic events that have just unfolded will not



reoccur. The consequences would be devastating. The return of the displaced Ngok Dinka civilians would stall and peace and stability in Abyei would founder.

3. Therefore, in order to forestall any further such occurrences in the future and keep the search for a peaceful resolution to the Abyei conflict on track, the Government of the Republic of South Sudan calls upon the Security Council to:

(a) Condemn in no uncertain terms the murder of Paramount Chief Kuol Deng Kuol of the Ngok Dinka and expeditiously take all necessary measures to have the culprits apprehended and brought to justice for this heinous crime;

(b) Ensure that the Abyei Area is fully demilitarized in conformity with paragraph 2 (a) of Security Council resolution 1990 (2011) and paragraph 20 of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement on temporary arrangements for the administration and security of the Abyei Area, concluded in Addis Ababa on 20 June 2011. This will result in all the armed Messeriya elements as well as other units of the security forces of the Sudan in Abyei being totally disarmed just like the Ngok Dinka, who bear no arms;

(c) Prevail upon the Republic of the Sudan to honour all past agreements and commitments it has voluntarily entered into with respect to the establishment of interim security administrative arrangements for Abyei, as well as the agreed-upon referendum as the mechanism for the determination of the final status of Abyei.

We would be most appreciative if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Francis Mading **Deng**
Permanent Representative
