



CENTRAL EQUATORIA STATE CIVIL SOCIETY NETWORK-CESCSN

PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE!

21/02/ 2026

The Renewed Cattle-Related Violent Conflict in Lainya and Yei River Counties, the Fatal Inter-Clan clashes in Terekeka County-Central Equatoria State; Our Humble and Solemn Call for Action.

Troubled by the ferocious loss of tens of innocent lives of citizens in February 2026 during cattle-herders' clashes in Lainya, allegedly between Mundari and Bor armed cattle herders in which at least 16 casualties were reported by the Lainya County authorities and other media outlets on 11th February 2026, and during the inter-clan clashes between the Kogi and the Yari sub-communities where at least 27 casualties were reported on Wednesday 19th February 2026, in addition to the Garbu Village-Mangalla Payam incident in Juba on Friday 20th February 2026 where armed criminals allegedly attacked and destroyed farmlands, assaulted farmers and erected tukuls (rukubas) and the subsequent displacement of local populations in the affected respective areas,

Mindful of continued unjustified loss of human life, looting and vandalizing of property among the already vulnerable communities, distracted Agricultural activities and the possibility of increased spillover impact across the state,

Cautious of forced food insecurity, hunger and starvation, unemployment and habitual poverty among farmers- especially the youth who are already venturing into commercial Agriculture, yet their farms and plants are being destroyed in Yei and in Lainya by the armed cattle herders amidst the onset of the first Agriculture season of 2026,

Concerned with the continuous road ambushes along Yei-Kaya Road, the forced displacement of people in areas of Morobo, Lainya, Yei and Terekeka among others due to military tensions, looting of property and continued abduction of humanitarian workers especially in Yei and Morobo counties, and the land dispute at Romogi Trading centre between Karuk and Madi clans in Kajo Keji,

Overwhelmed by the need to promptly end this baseless wave of violence and the successive restoration of sanity, peace and social cohesion among the affected populations and across CES,

Acknowledging and appreciating the top priorities of the Central Equatoria State government; peace, security stabilization and social cohesion (priority 1) and Economic Recovery through Agriculture and Cooperatives (priority 3), and the CES government's ongoing effort to peace works, enhancing the governance architecture of the CES leadership to effectively deliver to the people of CES and beyond and trusting in the visionary leadership of the state and the national government, the passion for peace, social cohesion and economic recovery,

The Central Equatoria State Civil Society Network (CESCSN) do hereby seriously draw to the attention of, and strongly call for a speedy, coordinated and sustainable end to these peace and security setbacks, to be addressed by the able leadership of H.E. Emmanuel Adil Anthony Wani, the Governor Central Equatoria State (CES) and the support of the national government.

We therefore, with due honour and spirit of peace, do recommend the following.

1. Immediate or sufficient deployment of police and other relevant security forces to protect civilians and deescalate the ongoing violence in the affected areas, accompanied by regular patrols on hotspot areas.
2. Immediate constituting/reinforcing/following of an inclusive investigation committee to assess the scale of the destruction and damage inflicted on the affected communities and individuals, to ensure accountability by the perpetrators.



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3. The CES and the National governments to immediately conduct a state and nation-wide Radio/TV briefing on the current peace and security situation to restore calm, hope and emphasise punitive measures against the perpetrators, in order to deter further escalation.
4. Immediately organize/facilitate county-level dialogues between the armed cattle-herders (from Terekeka, Bor and the Ambororo) with host communities in Yei and Lainya, in order to reach consensus on resource sharing or peaceful return to ancestral lands with the help of Hon. Commissioners and peace partners.
5. Ensure scaling up of efforts on peaceful, transparent and immediate return of looted cattle and other property forcefully looted/raided from communities in Yei, Lainya, Morobo and other affected communities by the armed cattle herders and possible other criminal groups.
6. The CES government supported by the National government and their peace partners to convene a high-level inter-state dialogue between Central Equatoria State and Jonglei State to amicably address the recurring cattle-related conflict between these states for long-term peace and stability.
7. The law makers at the CES Transitional Legislative Assembly in liaison with the National Transitional Legislative Assembly should develop/review and enact cattle migration laws and a robust early warning system to address these conflict loops across the country.
8. The CES government to kindly enhance coordination between the CES Civil Society Network-CESCSN, including the faith-based groups in CES, in order to improve joint planning and response, in conducting wider local community peace outreaches and early warnings to restore trust, social cohesion and peace across the state.
9. The CES government to follow on the issue of the reported brutal murder of some civilians, including a form 3 student of Immanuel Model Secondary school, who was brutally murdered at Hai Nyakama early December 2025, whose case has remained silent to this day despite civil society call for justice for the family of the deceased.
10. The CES government to mobilize and support local chiefs, traditional leaders and custodians of culture in Terekeka to enforce ceasefire between the worrying groups and conduct reconciliation dialogue as soon as possible.
11. We call upon all stakeholders involved physically or remotely in any of these conflicts to immediately desist from instigating violence and join peace works.
12. We strongly recommend the National government under the leadership of H.E Gen. Salva Kiir Mayar Dit to prioritize the life and safety of the citizens by implementing demilitarization of cattle herders and other armed civilian populations across the country.
13. We call upon the CES government to support the Kajo Keji county authorities in implementing the Feb 19th 2026 resolutions on the Kasurak-Madi land dispute to ensure sustainable peace between them.

CC-Office of the president-HE Gen. Salva Kiir Mayar Dit
CC-H.E. Emmanuel Adil Anthony Wani, Governor CES
CC-H.E. Paulino Lukudu Obede, Deputy Governor, CES
CC-Office of State Security Advisor, CES
CC-Office of Hon. Commissioners for Morobo, Yei, Lainya and Terekeka
CC-UNMISS-CES Field Office in Juba
CC-file

The End

