



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN
SOUTH SUDAN PEOPLE'S DEFENCE FORCES

Directorate of Media & Press

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For immediate release **Office of SSPDF Spokesperson**

Press release on Khor Galtan Attacks (Jebel Iraq)

On 28/3/2026, at 7:17pm, a combined force, composed of some elements from SPLM/SPLA-IO and NAS attacked Khor Galtan, in Central Equatoria State.

The surprise attack on innocent artisanal miners resulted in the following fatalities and injuries;

1. Twelve (12) SSPDF soldiers were killed in spirited defense of the area whereas three (3) other servicemen sustained gunshot wounds.
2. 24 civilians died and over 20 wounded. Those sustaining life threatening wounds are receiving treatment at ICRC's facility while the ones with less serious injured are being treated at Juba Military Referral Hospital in Giada, Juba.

Spontaneous response from SSPDF

In execution of own mandate, SSPDF soldiers from ground forces responded spontaneously by tracking down the attackers that were on retreat westwards.

On 29/3/2026, at 10:00am, own forces on hot pursuit caught up and made contacts with the retreating rebel fighters. The engagement resulted in the neutralization of eight (8) enemy combatants including the commanding



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Conclusion

It's good to underscore that, the initial discrepancies in death toll could be attributed to several factors; information gap, fog of war, uncertainties, anxiety and lumping up of those killed or wounded with those that temporarily went missing in the aftermath of attacks but later on resurfaced as survivors.

In conclusion and after thorough investigations were conducted with own main intelligence report as the basis, supported by several eye witness accounts as well as backed up by community-based reports on those killed or wounded, SSPDF is glad to announce that, the Khor Galtan death toll initially reported at 73 has now dropped to 36.

Signed



Maj. Gen. PSC (ET) Lul Ruai Koang,

Director for Media & Press and SSPDF Spokesperson,

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