



## OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY FOR INFORMATION

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OFFICE OF THE SPOKESPERSON

PRESS STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 4, 2026

### **Response to Government Statement Regarding UN High Commissioner Volker Türk's Reports on the Human Rights Situation in South Sudan.**

1. The United People's Alliance (UPA) issues this formal response to the recent statement by the Government of South Sudan, which seeks to dismiss and deflect the grave concerns raised by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr. Volker Türk, and the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan. High Commissioner Türk's report is not an attack on the nation, but a call to save it from a return to all-out civil war.
2. The UPA finds the Government's defensive posture deeply concerning. Rather than engaging in transparent accountability, the administration has once again chosen to characterize international human rights monitoring as an infringement on sovereignty, choosing to "shoot the messenger" rather than address the systemic human rights violations documented by the UN, a "continuation of a culture of impunity" that ignores the suffering of civilians in Jonglei, Unity State, Greater Ruweng Administrative Area, Lakes, Upper Nile, Warap, Western Bahr el Gazal and the Equatorias. We remind the Government that sovereignty carries the fundamental responsibility to protect its citizens—a duty that is currently being neglected.
3. High Commissioner Türk's report highlights a "flashing red" warning system for South Sudan. With over 267,000 people displaced in Jonglei State alone since the start of 2026, and reports of over 160 civilians killed in recent months, the scale of the crisis is undeniable.

4. We condemn the military operations and evacuation orders in Akobo and other densely populated areas. The destruction of medical facilities, including the MSF hospital in Lankien, and the poisoning of water sources are not collateral damage—they are potential war crimes that demand independent investigation, not government denial.
5. The UPA echoes the High Commissioner’s alarm regarding the 27 documented incidents of intimidation and arbitrary arrest of journalists and civil society actors. A transition to a democratic state cannot occur while the National Security Service (NSS) continues to be used as a tool for stifling political dissent.
6. The ongoing erosion of the Revitalised Agreement (R-ARCSS) and the systematic dismantling of security safeguards have heightened the risk of atrocity crimes. We condemn the recent massacre in Jebel Iraq alleged to have been planned and executed by hired assassins by people in power due to greed.
7. We categorically refute the purported accusation by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Relations alleging the killing of civilians in Abiemnom to have been carried out by “...UPA of Stephen Buay” which has been indeed confirmed to have been carried out by armed militias allied to SSPDF Division 4. The United People’s Alliance forces has so far never been involved in any killing of civilians in the Country.
8. The UPA remains committed to a peaceful, democratic South Sudan where human rights are not viewed as a threat, but as the foundation of our collective security.



**Bor Gatwech Kuany**

Secretary for Information and Official Spokesperson

United People's Alliance (UPA)