



# KAJOKEJI COMMUNITY ORGANISATION

(KCO)

SOUTH SUDAN

Office of the Chairperson

## **Kajokeji Community Organisation Press Release On The Periodic Clashes Between The SSPDF Of South Sudan And The UPDF Of Uganda Along Their Shared Border.**

In recent history, the relationship between the SSPDF and the UPDF have not been what it should have been. Given the close socio-economic and cultural ties between South Sudan and Uganda, this relationship should have been cordial!

Instead, the relationship between the two forces have been characterized by the following:

1. Continuous arrests and abductions of South Sudanese citizens who reside along the common border by the UPDF. The those abducted usually get released upon the intervention of the South Sudanese authorities.
2. In the month of June 2020, the UPDF killed four(4) SSPDF soldiers at **Nyainga Muda** village, Bori Boma, Kangapo Two Payam, Kajokeji County. This is the village the authorities of Yumbe District have renamed **Fitina Mbaya**.

The remains of the victims were officially handed over by the UPDF to the South Sudanese authorities at the common border.

3. In May 2023, the UPDF killed **MARY Kiden Wongo**, the Chairperson of Kangapo Two Payam, at **Lunyamiro** village, Bamurye Boma, Kajokeji County. She went to this village to protest against the registration of South Sudanese citizens, as Ugandan citizens, by the authorities of Moyo District during a national population census



exercise. The UPDF handed over her remains to the South Sudanese authorities in Kajokeji County.

4. During the month of September 2023, the UPDF abducted Chief Erasto Tumiya from his village in Bori Boma, Kajokeji County, and took him across the border into Uganda.

5. In retaliation against the abduction of Chief Tumiya by the UPDF, the South Sudanese police arrested 13 Ugandan nationals who were cutting down tree for charcoal inside Bori Boma. These were subsequently released to the Uganda authorities in exchange for the release of Chief Tumiya. What a cross border relationship!!

6. On 28.07.2025 another unfortunate and more deadly clash occurred between these opposing forces at Nyainga Muda village, Bori Boma, Kangapo Two Payam, Kajokeji County. This resulted in a lot more souls being lost on both sides.

7. Going eastwards across the Nile, along the common border, during the month of June 2024, Uganda game rangers shot to death 11 Didinga villagers in Kidepo National Game Park, Budi County, Eastern Equatoria State, South Sudan.

9. Again, in 2023 the UPDF clashed with the SSPDF at Owinyikibul Boma, Magwi County, Eastern Equatoria State. This resulted in casualties on the SSPDF side, including the abduction of some of them only to end up across the border.

10. In what has almost become a routine occurrence in recent history, farmers in Mugali Boma, Magwi County, Eastern Equatoria State, were subjected to particularly serious harassments by the UPDF for the most of the year 2024.

11. Villagers in Poge village, Magwi County, Eastern Equatoria State, have also been on the receiving end of UPDF harassments throughout South Sudan's history of political independence.

All these clashes and upheavals leave a trail of destruction in the form of human lives, public and personal properties, the disruption of peace and the creation of humanitarian crisis, on both sides of the common border.



At this juncture, we as the Community of Kajokeji, would like to offer our heart felt condolences to the families, on both sides of the border, who were forced to loose their dear and loved ones, as well as valuable properties.

The attitudes fermenting these violent incidences and clashes between the SSPDF and the UPDF along the shared border, leading to numerous losses of lives, the destruction of property and untold human suffering, are completely uncalled for, unnecessary and stand strongly condemned.

All these were avoidable, and would not have happened, if the following considerations were observed, practiced, or implemented on both sides of the border:

1. Respecting the basic tenets of the EAC Treaty of Establishment, which, among other things, obliges the Partner States to maintain cordial, friendly and cooperative relationships among themselves. Both South Sudan and Uganda are Partner States.
2. Respecting IGAD's key establishment principle which focuses on issues of food security, economic cooperation and peace and security in the region. Both South Sudan and Uganda are members in this block.
3. Implementation of the well laid down Roadmap of the AU for the peaceful and orderly resolution of border problems among its member states. This needs to be done immediately, and more so, to guarantee the establishment of sustainable peace between and among the communities along the entire length and breath of the common border.
4. Exercise of responsible leadership from the lowest level to the highest on both sides of the border.
5. Practice of responsible journalism, reporting, commenting and judgement, free from incitement and jingoism.
6. The respective communities on both sides of the border recalling to mind the fact, that since time immemorial, they have always lived together side by side, shared many things together, and that, infact they are relatives through intermarriages, long before the artificially drawn borders separated them from each other. And, that they will continue to remain where they are, as neighbours, long



after Africa has become a one borderless entity, through the process of Pan Africanism.



Aggrey Tisa Sabuni

Chairman

Kajokeji Community Organisation (KCO)



CC:

1. Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Republic of South Sudan.
2. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Uganda.
3. H. E. The Ambassador of Uganda to the Republic of South Sudan.
4. H. E. The Ambassador of AU to the Republic of South Sudan.
5. H. E. The IGAD Envoy to the Republic of South Sudan.
6. The Secretary General, EAC, Arusha, Tanzania.
7. Media Outlets.