

REFERRED TO IN CHAPTER 7
Security Situation Report #4 Juba

Sitrep #4 Juba 9 May 2008

Overview

The political situation in Juba remains quiet but general discussions are still centered around how upsetting the death of the Minister of Defense and the Presidential Advisor in a plane crash last week are to the President himself. No incidents have been reported related to the end of the census this week but it is generally accepted that the census wrapped up on May 7 and this is another possible point of contention. Additionally we can expect ongoing build up of security personnel, body guards, etc. as the SPLM prepares to open its Congress next week on May 11. All of the leadership of the SPLM from all over Sudan will be in Juba for this event.

Criminal Activity in Juba

Further Information about attacks over the night of 7-8 May

On Wednesday night, a group of 10 men (6 of them armed with AK-47s) tried to convince the guards of the Joint Donor Team Office to open the gates, first using the excuse that there is an injured person outside and later that they are police on patrol and needed to check on the compound. Once they were unsuccessful they proceeded to the UN Mission in Sudan HQs and tried the same stories to get in there but were refused. The group then split up and one proceeded to Hai Jalaba neighborhood (adjacent to CRS) where they are suspected to have carried out the attacks reported yesterday at RA camp and MSF-Spain.

Criminal Activity over the night of 8-9 May

No attacks on INGO or international agency compounds were reported. However late today in the NGO Security Forum Meeting, the following were reported by INGO staff but not confirmed by UNDSS:

1. An attempted unsuccessful robbery of a private business in Hai Malakal at 430 am.
2. A second break-in at a private business adjacent to CHF International in Hai Malakal around the same time.
3. A break-in at Torit House shop.
4. A break-in and sexual assault at Palace Bar

It is important to note that these are not confirmed reports and more information will be available tomorrow from UNDSS.

Analysis:

1. It may be that many unsuccessful attempts at robbing INGOs are now forcing robbers to attempt private businesses but it is way too early to identify this as a trend.
2. The Host Government has asked the UN to impose a curfew for all agencies and UN Staff. The curfew is 11 pm to 5 am. It should be noted that the curfew for most staff is 10:30 and that 10:30 to 11 are allowed for drivers to get home after dropping off staff. The stated reason is that the SPLM Congress is coming up and could pose a risk with all of the security personnel from SPLA around. However it is likely that another reason is increased SPLA MP patrols at night are reportedly starting.

3. Current thinking by many stakeholders continues to indicate that these attacks targeting NGOs and ‘foreigners’ they could be politically motivated given the slow progress of the CPA and the many conflicts between the Southern Sudanese themselves (non-paid soldiers, slow integration of OAGs into the SPLA).
4. It is helpful that both SPLA Military Police and UNDSS have set up QRFs but these respond after the fact and do not prevent incidents from occurring.
5. Location of the CRS office next to the office of the Juba County Commissioner, who appears to have numerous guards, may be a deterrent from a robbery but this cannot be relied upon.
6. There appears to be some movement for public pressure to resolve this as there was an editorial in The Citizen newspaper asking the government to take action to end attacks against INGOs and NGOs in Juba.

Steps Taken as of May 9

1. CRS had imposed its own curfew but will now observe the UN extended curfew of 11 pm to 5 am.
2. CRS as a member of the NGO forum is advocating for the government to take action to address this problem. CRS is a signatory to a letter from the NGO Forum for Southern Sudan asking for a meeting with the President’s office to discuss this issue which will be submitted over the weekend.
3. Non-essential staff are now moved out of Juba to other Field locations.
4. CRS staff are in daily contact with UNDSS and other UN agencies on the issues and get information.
5. ACR MQ is now doing random radio checks with staff at the hotel in the evenings
6. ACR MQ is also doing random checks on the guards at the CRS office cum residence.
7. CRS continues to follow up having armed police stationed on the street where the office is located.

Benchmarks for Returning to Level 2 (No Change):

CRS staff in Juba have set the following benchmarks to allow for the return of non-essential staff to Juba. They include:

1. A two week period with no incidents
2. Effective and appropriate steps taken by the Host authorities to prevent such attacks (an increase in patrols, provision of armed guards outside NGO compounds)
3. Upgrading of the security measures in the CRS compounds including but not limited to:
 - a. Strengthening of gates of the office (completed)
 - b. Improved fencing of the compounds
 - c. Strengthening of the security doors in the office