





UNISFA remembers Christina

Ms. Christina Banluta - Suba joined UNISFA Public Information Office in Abyei on 30 July 2016 and brought on board exceptional expertise and organizational skills that were felt, not only in public information section where she served, but essentially every component of the Mission. Christina will be particularly remembered for her enthusiasm, kindness and drive, and her important role in the welfare of UNISFA staffs.

She unfortunately succumbed to malaria fever on 20 December 2019 in her home country, the Philippines while on Christmas

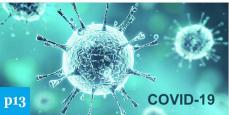
A memorial program was jointly put together by UNISFA Public Information Office, Staff Welfare & Recreation Committee, the Filipino community and the Roman Catholic Church to honour her, as a dear colleague and friend.

She will be missed.

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Beacon

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Insecurity in Abyei: Security Council Press Statement on Abyei

The members of the Security Council reiterated their full support for UNISFA, and their disappointment that the Governments of Sudan and South Sudan have obstructed full implementation of UNISFA's mandate, contrary to resolution 2497 (2019), especially concerning the deployment of police and the civilian deputy head of mission.

The members of the Security Council called on both Governments to provide full support to UNISFA in the deployment of UNISFA personnel, including by removing any obstacles that hinder UNIFSA's work to protect civilians in Abyei. They underscored that continued

cooperation between the Governments of Sudan and South Sudan is critical for peace, security, and stability in Abyei and the broader region.

The members of the Security Council also encouraged the African Union, the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel (AU-HIP), and the UN Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa to intensify their mediation roles with the Governments of Sudan and South Sudan to establish temporary administrative and security arrangements for Abyei and to achieve a political solution for the status of Abyei.



USG for Peace Operations visits Abyei

The Undersecretary General (USG) for the United Nations Peace Operations, Jean – Pierre Lacroix, accompanied by the Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa Mr. Parfait Serge Onanga-Onyanga recently paid a two-day visit to Abyei. He was welcomed by the civilian and uniformed officers of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) led by the Acting Head of Mission and Force Commander, Major General Mehari Zewdu Gebremariam.

Mr. Lacroix met with UNISFA leadership where he was briefed by the Acting Head of Mission and Force Commander, on the security and operations situation in Abyei as well as law and order issues related to the deployment of Individual Police Officers and Formed Police Units in Abyei Box. He was also briefed on Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism (JBVMM) operations, mission support and political developments in Sudan and South Sudan with their implications on the Abyei Box

The USG later met with the Ngok Dinka Administration, community and traditional leaders including women and youth leaders in Abyei, He consoled with the Ngok Dinka people over the January 22 armed attack in Kolom village were 33 people were killed. He acknowledged the improved relationship between Sudan and South







Sudan since his last visit two years ago and prayed that it will have a positive impact on Abyei towards a political solution to the Abyei conflict.

Mr. Lacroix reiterated that although UNISFA has a security mandate, the mission is operating under several challenges, stressing that the cooperation and support of the communities is very crucial. He emphasised that it was to address those challenged that the UN Security Council took a decision to make some changes including authorising the deployment of Formed Police Units (FPU)

Also speaking, The Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa, Mr. Parfait Serge Onanga-Onyanga, commiserated with the Ngok Dinka over the Kolom killing and said it was a matter of great concerns not only for the UN Secretary General, but also the Security Council and the African Union.. He said that the African Union is working very hard to build a culture of peace, adding that his presence in Abyei was an indication of how the regional organization feels about their situation.

The USG also held Town Hall meetings with UNISFA staff members and, UN Agencies, Funds and Programs (AFP) including UNMAS staff members where he intimated them of certain reforms and assured them of Headquarters' support in their operations.

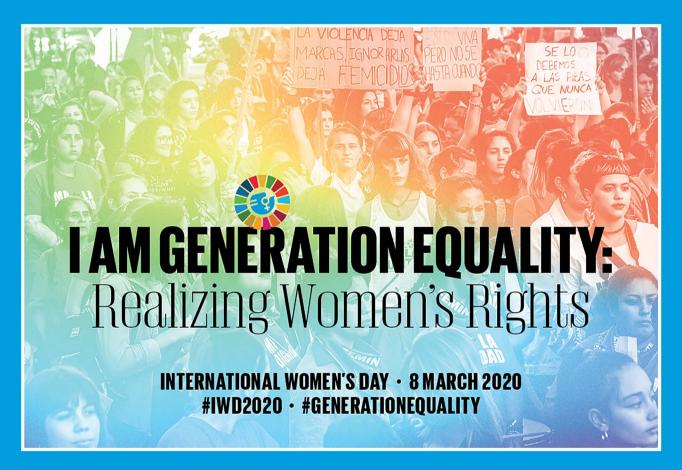


International Women's Day

in-tər-'nash-nəl 'wi-mənz dei |

noun

- 1. A time to celebrate and reflect on the progress made on women's rights.
- 2. A day to call for an end ro gender inequality.











Women, Peace and Security

Launch of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence in Abyei and Diffra

On 25 November, UNISFA in collaboration with Women Associations of Abyei and Diffra held activities in the two locations to launch the 16-Days of Activism against gender-based violence campaign. The campaign will run from 25 November to 10 December under the theme of "HeForShe – Men Against Gender Based Violence". The theme was decided upon by the women from Ngok Dinka and Misseriya communities to engage men in the fight against gender-based violence (GBV). Approximately 400 persons including traditional leaders, women and youth leaders, school children, and members of Community Protection Committees attended the event in Abyei and about 200 persons including traditional leaders, youth and women leaders as well as CSO representatives attended the event in Diffra.

Launching activities included reading of the SG's speech by the Senior Police Advisor in Abyei and by the Principal Officer in Diffra. The Senior Police Advisor also conveyed a message from Ag, HoM/FC in which he noted that the fight against GBV in Abyei was a journey which he hoped would end by 2030 in line with the UN's target to end violence against women. The Ag. HoM/FC further encouraged community members to report GBV through established mechanisms and share information with UNISFA and UN agencies in Abyei in a timely manner. The Principle Officer called for concerted action by every member of society to help eliminate violence against women. Other activities included dissemination of GBV information fliers to some 400 persons, songs and drama presentations depicting GBV in Abyei including a presentation by children, and presentation of Ashenda aid to some 20 vulnerable women in Abyei and 20 others in Diffra from funds collected by the Ethiopian Military during the Ashenda Ethiopian celebration in Abyei area. Women and youth leaders, local administrators and

traditional leaders also made remarks at both events.

The women leaders from both Abyei and Diffra thanked UNISFA for its support towards women's empowerment, protection and efforts to promote their human rights in Abyei area. They also highlighted the importance of preventing violence against women and girls and called on community leaders to join efforts and the campaign towards prevention of violence against women. Women leaders and a civil society representative from Diffra further requested the international community for support in terms of access to education, economic empowerment, and improved healthcare for women and girls. The Abyei Chief Administrator and the Acting Paramount Chief in their remarks noted the importance of the 16-Days of Activism campaign and called for the commitment of all community members in the prevention of GBV and also called for equality between men and women at all levels. The Chief Administrator acknowledged the presence of GBV in Abyei area and called for the apprehension of perpetrators. A civil society representative from Diffra highlighted the need to promote gender equality with men and women as equal partners in the community. The Abyei Acting Paramount Chief closed the event in Abyei by calling on everyone to join the campaign and other efforts towards prevention of GBV.

This year's launch of the campaign is marked by UNISFA's call for "meaningful, inclusive and comprehensive actions" across all levels of society to empower communities and individuals to take steps to end GBV. UNISFA in partnership with Women Associations, local and traditional leaders, youth and civil society in Abyei area raised voices together to demand that the prevailing discriminatory attitudes and practices impeding the advancement of women be challenged in order to end GBV.



Chief Mission Support shores logistic support for JBVMM

Chief of Mission Support for the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA), Robert Kirkwood undertook a two-day logistical assessment of the four team sites of the Joint Border Verification Monitoring Mechanism (JBVMM)

According to Mr. Kirkwood, the trip which took him and his team to Kiir Adem/Safaha, and War Abar was to ensure up to the moment real time situational awareness of the progress at the four JBVMM team sites, stressing that the mission has taken the decision to make these remote sites fully sustainable including having personnel in prefabs rather than tents, proper ablutions, mess and recreation facilities as well as the full suite of communications and Information Technology.

"To achieve this in the very short window of the dry season, in these remote locations, in this extremely non-permissive environment is an enormous task that comes at the same time as the dry-season deployment in the box", the CMS said, adding that the only way to manage these competing demands

is for MSD to be fully engaged in the deep field to maintain focus and momentum as well as adjust priorities in the interests of mandate delivery.

There is no doubt that the Mission Support Division has lived with the challenges of tackling several competing demands in its quest to improve both staff and office accommodation and facilities with inadequate manpower - a task which has proved a logistical nightmare. The CMS is however convinced that his dedicated team has what it takes and is determined to see that much is achieved before the return of rains. It is in light of this determination that the team has embarked on a logistical assessment of all the team site for the second time to ascertain the extent of tasks accomplished and areas that need additional attention.

The JBVMM border mission is to work in an area defined as a "safe demilitarized border zone" (SDBZ) and the sites are to facilitate effective monitoring, verification, and investigation of the (SDBZ).



To achieve this in the very short window of the dry season, in these remote locations, in this extremely non-permissive environment is an enormous task that comes at the same time as the dry-season deployment in the box.

Robert Kirkwood UNISFA CMS







UNISFA's initiatives at de-escalating tension within the Abyei Box

The movement of Misseriya nomads southward of the Abyei Box, in search of fodder for their cattle, has historically been a source of conflict between the Ngok Dinka and Misseriya communities. The mandate of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA), therefore, extends to ensuring a peaceful migration process. At the start each migration cycle, UNISFA in collaboration with UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes including IOM and FAO facilitate the pre-migration dialogues with the aims to strengthen peace community level dialogue for the prevention and management of conflicts between the two communities.

In anticipation of clashes following the late harvest and pressure on the herders to respect the disengagement lines, UNISFA pre-empted urgent pre-migration dialogues along the 3 main transhumance corridors in line with the Joint Communal Peace Committee (JCPC) decision of 9 January 2020. The objective was to support the two communities to commit to peace agreements swiftly and agree on rules of engagement and consequently allow herder to move southward. This was to climax into a more significant Peaceful Co-existence Conference where the two parties would sign a peace agreement on migration flows.

Despite some problems in coordinating the dialogues, UNISFA managed to kickstart the talks with a meeting in Noong along the Western

Corridor, on Monday, 13 January 2020. Amid a throng of Misseriya and Ngok Dinka participants, the community leaders pledged to ensure peaceful coexistence during the migration season especially regarding resource sharing and how the seasonal movement of herds of cattle by the herders could be carried out without infringing on the rights of the residents along the corridors in Abyei.

Cognizant of the delays in the movement, the Misseriya leaders also called on the cattle herders to exercise patience for the next five days to enable the Ngok Dinka side to organize themselves. But the leaders warned too, that they could no longer restrain the herders from entering the area if the peace agreement(s) was not concluded. The second and third dialogues took place in Dungop and Tajalei respectively, both in the central corridor. In both meetings, there were far-reaching resolutions from both sides to bury their grievances against each other and work towards a peaceful migration season through respect for each other's customs, traditions and cultural values while stressing on the need for continued dialogue to achieve sustainable peace and peaceful co-existence. Both applauded UNISFA's support in facilitating the important meetings, including UNISFA effort to provide security during the sessions and in the migration areas.

While the attack of 19 January came as a rude shock given the modest progress made at ensuring a peaceful

migration season, it was not completely a surprise considering the undue pressure and insistence by the Misseriya herders to continue their journey southward of the box.

It is evident that, even before the attack of 19 January, UNISFA had been engaging with the Dinka and Misseriya communities at the various migration corridors to discuss the rules and modalities of the migration season to prevent tensions and conflict. The Mission stepped up its engagement at the community-level after the 19 January attack and met with Misseriya leader to de-escalate tensions and prevent retaliatory attacks.

UNISFA also increased its protection of civilian's efforts to prevent further attacks, including intensifying patrols in the Rumajak, Nai Nai, Bongek, Kolam, Makir, Noon and Alal areas as well as maintaining a presence in the Kolom area through the night. It is unfortunate that the attackers took advantage of the period of the change of patrol to perpetrate the attack in the early hours of 22 January 2020 in Kolm, where 33 people dies (including women and children), propoert was destroyed and over 4000 people were left displaced.

Five people were apprehended in connection with 22 January incident. While the UNISFA troops continue their robust posture, the mission also convened an internal integrated team to investigate the incidents. In addition, UNISFA has re-adjusted its

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UNPOL at work



UNISFA UNPOL continues to be proactive in engaging with the community through community-oriented policing such as joint interactive patrols, conducting crime awareness campaigns, training and mentoring CPCs/JPC, attending peace meetings, liaising with community leaders, interacting with women groups, youth and children. They also engage with the traditional leaders on law and order and gender related issues.

UNISFA has three Detention Centers in Agok, Amiet and Abyei town which are manned by CPCs/JPC under the direct supervision of UNPOL Correction Services and supported by relevant team sites. UNPOL whose responsibility among others is to assess the detention facilities, provide technical advice, mentoring and ensuring that detainees are treated in a humane manner without infringement to their rights.

UNPOL visits detention centers on daily basis to ensure that good correctional practices are observed and supervise the way detainees are handled as well as the nutrition and hygiene aspects including physically inspecting the correctional facilities.

Furthermore, UNPOL liaises with the Public Prosecutor, Traditional Court Judges and Local Administration to help in tackling challenges in detention centers such as overcrowding and feeding the detainees among others. UNPOL also engages other stakeholders such as IOM, QIPs, CLO and the Mission at large to assist in addressing predicaments faced in detention centers.















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deployment plan including setting up Temporary Operating Bases (TOBs) in Shegeg, Leu and Rumamier; establishment of checkpoints and re-activation of Joint Military Observer Committee/Teams (JMOC/JMOT) curb incidents of violence, including those perpetrated by armed groups in view of the emerging conflict dynamics. These plans have been discussed at a political level with both the Governments of Sudan and South Sudan as well as community level with the Senior Traditional Leaders as well as the JCPC.

Waste Separation at Source starts in Abyei HQ

In the last week you might have seen blue-white cages being placed around MSA 2, 3, 4 and Senior Staff Accommodation in Abyei HQ. These cages are not a beautification project, but the first step in moving towards Waste Source Separation in UNISFA. In the past years, DPKO has moved away from the laissez-faire approach of waste disposal towards an integrated policy of waste management. Two important high-level Documents, the Environmental Policy for UN Field Missions Environmental Policy and the Waste Management Policy for UN Field Mission, specifically call for missions to establish practicable measures for Waste Segregation as does the UNISFA Waste Management Plan.

The important operational word for us in Abyei is "practical measures". Unfortunately, most recycling options available in developed economies rely on complex industrial processes and are not available to us in the Abyei box. Consequently, we will implement source separation tailored to the conditions and disposal methods available in Abyei.

The cages are equipped to hold four different waste bins, for the four waste streams that we will separate. The cages will also play in important role in diminishing the bird population in our camp as our Marabou friends have the rather annoyinghabit of plundering the open waste bins and throwing litter around. The steel mesh cages will prevent this and help to keep the camp cleaner.

In the final deployment stage, the cages will have four different bins. These bins will either be color-coded or labelled according to the four waste streams. One bin is for "Green Waste". This waste will be composted at the Waste Management Yard, and the resulting compost will be used to improve the soil within Abyei. All organic kitchen waste, food waste and small amounts of grass clippings or flowers can be put into this bin. The second bin will be labeled "Glass". Beer bottles of all colors, empty jam bottles, and other glass containers should be deposited in this bin. No plastic bottles please! The third bin will be labelled: "Metal / Aluminum". All kinds of drink cans, tins and other small metal containers should be deposited in this bin. Empty food tins should be rinsed out with hot water before throwing them into the bin. This will limit unpleasant smells. The fourth bin will be "Mixed Waste" In this bin you should deposit all plastic, paper, cardboard, plastic bottles, textiles, in short, all burnable materials. While the first three waste groups will be recycled or go in intermediate storage, the "Mixed Waste" will be burned in the incinerator to reduce landfill usage and dispose of it according to the DPKO guidelines in a controlled way.

The cages with their separate bins will be rolled out gradually. As they are placed throughout Abyei, the currently existing individual bins will be withdrawn.



Winning the hearts and minds of Abyei communities through sports

Sport is no doubt a social phenomenon that brings even feuding people or communities together. It has been observed all over the world that during sporting events, people forget their differences, even if just for a moment, to share commonality of interests. Sometimes, it is a team they both support or even an individual like Lionel Messi of FC Barcelona or Christian Ronaldo presently of Juventus Football Club.

Understanding the value of sports in peacekeeping, the General Assembly of the United Nations has established April 6, as the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace, with the aim of recognizing the contribution of sport to the realization of peace through the promotion of tolerance and respect. As the eight Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon stated: "Sport promotes health and well-being. It fosters tolerance, mutual understanding and peace... It empowers, inspires and unites."

During the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, the world watched the host nation South Korea marching side by side with their neighbors North Korea under the Korean unification flag in a powerful gesture of friendship, peace and togetherness.

In peacekeeping, Sports can build confidence with the local communities, win their goodwill and support for the work of the peacekeepers and the peacekeeping mission. It can create a shared responsibility and ownership of the mission including its programs and activities aimed at bringing peace and security in the area. Sports, especially football (soccer) is very critical especially for the youth who are oftentimes exploited by enlisting them in the conflict theatre. Sports can therefore positively and constructively engage their creative energies and make them an asset to the nation.

It is in light of the above that United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA has been engaging, and will continue to engage the youth withing the communities in sporting activities that will create in them appositive values such as tolerance, teamwork and a healthy relationship with one another that may graduate into a larger spirit of coexistence between all people and communities.

On Monday 02 march, UNISFA's 21st Ethiopian Battalion organized a football match between its team and the Amading football club played at Banton football field, a facility provided by the battalion for the community to promote sports and take the young people away from petti crimes.

According to the Battalion Commander, Col. Amsalu Kumsa Roro, sporting activities have created good rapport and confidence between his battalion and the local community, adding that the youth are constructively and



Sport promotes health and well-being. It fosters tolerance, mutual understanding and peace... It empowers, inspires and unites.

Ban Ki-moon Former UN Secretary General





positively engaged and have no reason or time for crimes and other social vices.

UNISFA recognizes the importance of sports as a source of inspiration for youth, bearer of positive values such as tolerance for differences, fellowship, teamwork, and their relationship with others, not as enemies, but as rivals in a recreational and peaceful space.



Message from the Head of Mission and Force Commander

Dear Colleagues,

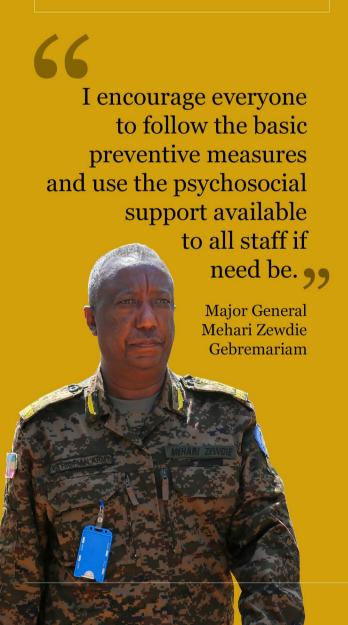
We have now entered the fourth month since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Currently, there are no confirmed cases in UNISFA, although a suspected case in Kadugli is being investigated by the WHO. Colleagues, these are unprecedent times, and I urge each and every one of you, to remain vigilant in the fight against the spread of the Covid-19.

I will continue to ensure that the Mission takes all necessary measures and steps to prevent the spread of the virus. I encourage everyone to follow the basic preventive measures and use the psychosocial support available to all staff if need be.

In line with the UN Secretary-General's appeal for a global ceasefire, UNISFA continues to facilitate inter-communal dialogue and reconciliation, albeit in a reformatted arrangement. The objective is to encourage parties to come together urgently and resolve their differences. You will receive regular updates on what the Mission is doing in this regard.

I wish to thank you all for your support and vigilance.



UNISFA Covid-19 Task Force

Mission's response to Covid-19 pandemic

In a short time, the coronavirus pandemic has become an all-consuming global crisis that continuously yields unprecedented societal and business upheaval. In the hope of changing the course of this pandemic, many countries have taken urgent and aggressive action to control and suppress community transmission. This is no less true for UNISFA which has set up a Covid-19 Task Force that spearheads the planning and implementation of preventive and remedial measures ensuring the safety of all its staff and continuity of operations in the midst of this COVID-19 outbreak.

To date, the task force has undertaken the following actions:

- ☑ Halted travel in accordance with the travel advisory of countries.
- Established a designated isolation/quarantine location.
- Made provisions for continuous supplies of hand sanitizers in addition to the general WHO guidance on hand washing with regular soap.
- Made provisions for medical supplies to be delivered to Abyei and other Mission locations.
- Ocontingency plan to ensure relocation of vulnerable staff to locations where they can access level 3 health support.
- Continuous outreach and sensitization of the contractors on ground to ensure they adhere to the WHO guidance and other mission directives with regard to COVID-19 prevention, mitigation and response.
- Adequate stock of food and other supplies for the cafeteria and PX for up to 4 months.

Additionally, it has reassured the communities of its continuing implementation of its protection of civilians mandate and sensitizing them on precautionary measures.

Considering that the Covid-19 is a shared threat that demands communal action, all staff are required to cooperate and get familiar with the above plans through official broadcasts and publications.

For Questions

Kindly send an email to the UNISFA COVID-19 Task Force :

UNISFA-COVID-19-Task-Force@un.org



Protect yourself and others from getting infected

احمي نفسك و الآخرين من الاصابة Tit rat ku kac kok ten tuany አርስዎን አና ሌሎችን በበሽታው ከመጠቃት ይከላከሉ

UNISFA COVID-19 AWARENESS

Preventive Measure

Wash your hands

اغسل بدیك Piny Chinku گاگاگاگاگاگاگا





Before eating בּיִל ועלׁצׁל Ka ki yin Jok a Cham

After coughing or sneezing بعد السعال او العطس Ka chi yin كا ku chi yin tiim





After using the toilet بعد الذهاب إلى المرحاض Ka chi laa kou معمر هغر هغر المرحاض المرحاض المرحاض المرحاض

When caring for the sick عند ر عایتك بالمرضی Ka chi yin raan tuany tiit





When your hands are visibly dirty عندما تکون یدیك متسخة Ka de yin chin achoul کچی مرابط کی شری ایکان میکان میکاند.

Before, during and after preparing food

قبل و أثناء و بعد أحضار الطعام Ka loiyin mieth ku ka chi yin thok thaat

thok thaat ምግብ ከማዘጋጀት በፊት፣ እያዘጋጁ እያለ እና ካዘጋጁ በሃሳ





