



# United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)

Media & Spokesperson Unit, Public Information Office

## PRESS STATEMENT

7 December 2012

### UN Mission Deeply Concerned about Killing of Leading Columnist

The United Mission in South Sudan expresses its deep concern at the reported killing of the independent columnist Diing Chan Awol.

Awol, a United Nations staff member during the civil war in the 1990s and a government official, was better known by his penname Isaiah Abraham. He is reported to have been murdered early 5 December by gunmen in front of his house on Juba's outskirts. President Salva Kiir Mayardit has now ordered a full and thorough investigation. This is of utmost importance.

In keeping with its mandate, UNMISS continues to provide extensive support to the South Sudanese police to make them better equipped to improve security in South Sudan, investigate such crimes as the reported slaying, and to bring the perpetrators to justice.

UNMISS re-iterates its strong support to freedom of expression as a cornerstone of democracy.

The United Nations conveys its condolences to all the members of late Diing Chan Awol's family.

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