



SOUTH SUDAN

Restoring Unity & Dignity of the People

National Salvation Front/ Army

OFFICE OF THE SPOKESPERSON

General Headquarters

Ref: NAS/OSM/09

Date: 19th August, 2024

For immediate Press Release

National Salvation Front NAS would like to inform the people of South Sudan and the International Community that at 08:05am, on 4th August 2024, South Sudan people's Defense Forces SSPDF troops who are known to be hungry and in desperate for food as they try to survive without their salaries- 9 months overdue, arrived at the Imatong area of Eastern Equatoria State in three Trucks. The following day, on 5th August 2024, they promptly began searching the homes of the local population, looting property, particularly food items and goats.

The local population bravely refused to surrender any of their properties and food items to these obviously starved SSPDF soldiers. Undisciplined as they are, the refusal of the citizens to give them food infuriated them and thus they reacted by burning down civilians' homes in two villages in Imatong area

Upon realizing this, the NAS Zone two (2) Commander Gen. Lima and his forces in the area countered by charging at the SSPDF looters to protect civilians and their properties. Running battles went on for two days from the 5th to 6th August 2024. The SSPDF enemy lost eight (8) soldiers in action, 15 wounded and evacuated for treatment in Torit. NAS forces, better familiar with the terrain, suffered one soldier wounded in action. In spite of having a base near the area, the SSPDF was successfully repulsed from the invaded area.

It comes as no surprise that this criminal behavior of attacking innocent civilians is due to the shameless excuse they utter: openly ordering people to give them food because they have not been paid their salaries.

NAS wishes the wounded gallant soldier a quick recovery, and takes this opportunity to assure the citizens and residents in South Sudan that NAS will always stand up to protect the dignity, lives and property of citizens wherever they live!

NAS appeals to the UN, AU, and IGAD to press upon the government in Juba to refrain from attacks and looting of civilians anywhere in South Sudan; and further pleads with these bodies to impress upon the government of Salva Kiir Mayardit that the days of impunity are over and that consequences are the only option left for the international community to take. Simultaneously. NAS appeals to the Humanitarian Agencies to always hasten to the rescue of civilians in dire need.

NAS proudly stands in solidarity with our people in Imatong area and all over South Sudan.

Suba Samuel Manase

Spokesperson,

National Salvation Front (NAS)

