



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN
GOVERNMENT OF JONGLEI STATE
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION
MINISTER'S OFFICE



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Press Statement on the killing and abduction of Returnees by GPAA criminals at Puot-Puotni area between East and West Akobo County.

The government of Jonglei State has learnt with great dismay about that inhumane ambush which was carried out by Greater Pibor Administration Area (GPAA) criminals between Akobo East and West in a place called **Puot-Puotni** in which they killed 12 people, 9 men and 3 women who were on their way to Akobo West, in Akobo County yesterday.

The perpetrators went away with five children, three boys and two girls together with different types of properties on Sunday, 17/9/2023.

The victims are the South Sudanese refugees who left Ethiopia due to hunger and insecurity and they were on their way to their home areas in Akobo West and the rest of part of Jonglei State.

It is very unfortunate that GPAA criminals failed to understand the suffering of our refugees are going through in the neighboring countries particularly Ethiopia for nearly four months without food or proper security.

Jonglei state Government would like to hear from its GPAA counterpart on how the two sisterly states will stay during this period of peace implementation if such grave activities are gone without accountability.

These types of activities will only add more oil on the already burning fire that the government of Jonglei State has and still trying to quench it flames for the sake of peace and harmony between the two communities.

Jonglei State Government is calling upon the Human rights organizations and the national Government to intervene in this situation and advice the GPAA to control its criminals to stop the heinous acts that are taking place when our refugees are supposed to peacefully return home in preparation for the upcoming general election.

On behalf of the Jonglei State government, we condemn the killing and abduction of innocent returnees in the strongest term possible. Therefore, we are calling on GPAA government to recover the abducted children.

Hon. Elizabeth Nyadak John

Minister,

Ministry of Information and Communication

