

Security Advisory: South Sudan

Executive Summary

Since 7 July 2016 (Thursday), intense fighting has been ongoing in the capital Juba, with more than 200 people said to have died in clashes between forces of rival leaders President Salva Kiir and first Vice President Riek Machar. It is believed that the violence initially broke out over a disagreement at a checkpoint between rival soldiers, which led to a shootout on Thursday night in which five soldiers died. This quickly escalated into serious fighting from Friday (8 July) onwards. On 11 July, the President and first Vice President ordered a ceasefire. While heavy gunfire continued to be heard in the capital after the President's ceasefire order came into effect at 1800 local time (1500 GMT) on Monday, on Tuesday (12 July) the ceasefire appeared to be holding.

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As of 12 July, reports have indicated that the capital city has been quiet, with no reports of helicopters or tanks. Some shops have reopened and there is some movement in the streets. So far there have been no reports of looting or violence. There are fewer numbers of soldiers seen in the streets of the capital however checkpoints may be set up on main roads leading in and out of the city. The airport in Juba has reopened however commercial flights are still suspended. Land borders remain closed. The United Nations has reported that 36,000 people have fled the violence and are seeking shelter at camps in Juba. Aid workers have also reported that the humanitarian situation in Juba is dire, with shortages of food and clean water.

The security situation in Juba can deteriorate again with minimal notice. Over the past several days, there have been reports of a number of incidents, including gunfire, and tanks in the streets of the capital. Embassies have placed their staff members on lock down and have significantly reduced their services. We advise that anyone who does not have a pressing need to remain in the country should consider leaving if it is safe to do so. If safe passage to the airport is not available, we advise anyone in Juba to remain inside in safe accommodation and to take appropriate precautions until the situation has stabilized.