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The South Sudan NGO Forum condemns the killing of a humanitarian worker during violence in Gumuruk, GPAA

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The South Sudan NGO Forum condemns, in the strongest possible terms, the killing of a humanitarian staff member during the latest outbreak of violence in the Greater Pibor Administrative Area and extends its sympathies to the friends, family and colleagues of the staff. On around 7th May, a South Sudanese security guard working for ZOA protecting humanitarian supplies was killed during fighting whilst travelling from Gumuruk to Verteth. The NGO Forum and its members stand in solidarity with all humanitarians affected by violence.

During early May, fighting broke out in the Greater Pibor Administrative Area, intensifying around Gumuruk. The violence led to the evacuation of humanitarian staff from the area, halting life-saving programmes. During the conflict, multiple humanitarian compounds were attacked and burned with significant amounts of humanitarian food stocks and other supplies deliberately destroyed. The Pibor area remains one of the most severely crisis-affected parts of the country with thousands of adults and children in catastrophic levels of food insecurity and caught up in recurrent violence and flooding. Attacks on humanitarian staff and facilities, and destruction of supplies, may put thousands of lives further at risk at a critical time.

“Aid workers must be protected at all times. Any form of violence against them is unacceptable.”

Joop Teeuwen, ZOA Country Director

Aid workers, most of whom are South Sudanese, put their lives at risk on a daily basis to deliver life-saving services in some of the most challenging parts of the country. Attacks on humanitarian staff, assets and offices have continued to escalate in recent weeks and months, directly harming those who are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance. This must stop. Aid workers must be able to operate safely and without fear in South Sudan to serve all those affected by crisis.

Note to editors

For further information, please contact the NGO Forum South Sudan: director@southsudanngoforum.org, +211 (0) 920 490 156

Press release from ZOA International: [ZOA staff member murdered in South Sudan - ZOA \(zoa-international.com\)](#)

WFP Statement on destruction of food supplies in Gumuruk: [WFP condemns looting of food assistance in greater Jonglei](#)