



Strengthening Mutual Relationship between Media and Security

Media and security personnel from December 16-20, 2014, engaged in an open dialogue in Kuajok-Warrap State and Juba respectively. The dialogue came out with 17 recommendations and way forward as follow;

1. Accreditation of Journalists: both parties stressed to importance of complete accreditation of journalists to avoid the risk of arrest interference, including foreign journalists;
2. There is a need to figure out how security personnel could be identified by journalists;
3. There is a need for finding ways for identification and reporting of soldiers infringing on media work to their relevant authorities;
4. Media houses need to their internal shortcomings on reporting national issues;
5. More clarification of security standing orders;
6. Local media should be given priority of coverage and reporting;
7. Media need to be given the opportunity to seek reactions from officials to balance stories, especially on alleged corruption and human rights violations;
8. Encourage mutual cooperation and understanding and flexibility between journalists and security organs;
9. Both parties should adopt the spirit and attitude of professionalism and abide by ethics in their relations with each other;
10. Continued dialogue is needed;
11. There is a need to have better and convenient arrangements for specific locations for media and journalists during public occasions;
12. Need to identify journalists who are willing to take up military reporting;
13. Need for specialized training for both parties on issues connected to the operation and norms of the other party;
14. Closure of newspapers needs proper consideration as that might tarnish the image of the government in international circles;
15. Need for better arrangements during coverage of events involving the President: microphones, cameras, and connections, etc.,
16. Need for safety training for journalists;
17. Dissemination of outcomes of this dialogue to relevant institutions

With regards to the 2012 recommendations both parties agreed that the following issues should be given due consideration:

- 1- Issue of signs on military and prohibited areas; the signs have not been put in place;
- 2- Sensitization of security personnel;
- 3- Issue of identification of security in the process of arrest; confusion about different security organs remains a concern for media houses and journalists
- 4- The issue of hotline with the authorities;
- 5- Committee of stakeholders to spearhead the implementation;
- 6- Differences over what is meant by national interest continue to persist;
- 7- There have been cases of resisting summons by national security.

Finally, the dialogue ended with a practical step forward and decided to form a committee to follow up the implementation of both the old the additional recommendations as follows:

1. The National Ministry of Information shall be the secretariat for the committee's meetings and follow up the implementation of these recommendations;
2. Security organs, namely the National Police Service, the SPLA and the National Security, shall nominate one from each as members of the committee;
3. The committee shall include representatives from AMDISS, UJOSS and the National Editors Forum;
4. First Meeting of the representatives: January 15, 2015
5. AMDISS Secretariat will spearhead the coordination of the first meeting

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