



U.S. EMBASSY JUBA, SOUTH SUDAN  
Office of Public Affairs

For Immediate Release

February 19, 2013

MEDIA NOTE

**Tension Along Disputed Border Areas**

The U.S. is deeply concerned regarding reports of recent clashes between Sudanese and South Sudanese forces in the disputed border areas between Upper Nile (South Sudan) and Blue Nile (Sudan) States, including reports of Sudanese helicopters crossing into South Sudan and the artillery bombardment by Sudanese armed forces of South Sudanese troops.

We strongly believe the tension underscores the importance of both Parties agreeing to immediately and without conditions to establish the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone (SDBZ) and deploy the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism (JBVMM) in accordance with the African Union's Peace and Security Council Roadmap and United Nations Security Council Resolution 2046.

Additionally, we are also very concerned about the increase in negative rhetoric, which together with these reports of military clashes is leading to a dangerous increase in tension along the un-demarcated border. Our concern is that this increase in tension could lead to an accidental confrontation that could quickly escalate. We would like to add that we have no evidence of an offensive build-up on either side of the border.

The U.S. urges both sides to refrain immediately from any actions that could further destabilize the border areas between South Sudan and Sudan.

###