



**WORKING TOGETHER  
FOR PROTECTION**

## **GPC ALERT | PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS IN SOUTH SUDAN**

Renewed fighting broke out on Friday, 8 July. Since then, hundreds of people have been killed, rapes have been reported and tens of thousands of people have sought safety within or near UN bases across the country- joining the thousands already present from previous rounds of fighting. Humanitarian supplies have been looted and humanitarian aid workers are subject to restrictions on their movement, hindering access to those in need of assistance and protection.

The Global Protection Cluster is alarmed by reports of shooting of civilians trying to reach a place of safety, of summary executions, of gender-based violence against women in search of food near UN sites and of attacks against humanitarian aid workers. We remind all parties to the fighting of their responsibilities under international humanitarian law, human rights law and criminal law. We call upon the parties to the conflict to take the following specific measures :

- Commit to upholding the current ceasefire arrangements;
- Take immediate steps to ensure the distinction between military personnel and civilians is maintained;
- Commit to allowing civilians to move freely and access places of safety;
- Work proactively in reestablishing full freedom of movement which would enable displaced persons to have safe and unhindered access to humanitarian assistance and services and also allow them to choose the most appropriate solution to displacement;
- Ensure the dignity and security of the civilian population from sexual violence, including by holding accountable and prosecuting those who have committed rape and other forms of gender based violence or other human rights violations;
- Ensure the safety and security of humanitarian aid workers, assets and supplies as well as full access of humanitarian aid workers to the civilian population in need.
- Respect the civilian and humanitarian character of protected areas where civilians are currently accommodated