

Southern Sudan Police News

7 November 2007 (IRIN)

Southern Sudan's government has sent a team to Yambio in Western Equatoria State to investigate a weekend attack on a police station which left three senior officers dead, local officials said on 7 November. Fighting erupted when members of one of Southern Sudan's Joint Integrated Units (JIUs) raided a police station seeking to free one of their own who had been arrested over the death of a soldier. Set up under the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), signed in 2005 by the Khartoum government and the southern-based Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army, JIU's are made up of troops drawn from both the former rebel group and the North's regular army. Most of the fighting was between soldiers and policemen - a brigadier, a lieutenant-colonel and a major - were shot dead and the JIU looted a guesthouse in the town. The JIU allegedly killed the officers after they refused to release the suspect, who was arrested after police discovered the corpse of a local official's bodyguard. Local newspaper reports said Yambio residents were angered by the behaviour of the JIU, whose members are mostly Dinka, the ethnic group of Southern Sudan President Salva Kiir Mayardit. Noting that the policeman killed were indigenous Equatorians, some called on the SPLM government to pull the JIU out of Yambio.