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PRESS RELEASE

THE AFRICAN UNION CONCERNED AT THE ETHNIC VIOLENCE IN JONGLEI STATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN

Addis Ababa, 23 August 2011: The Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union (AU) has learned with shock and concern that an ethnically-based massive attack on two districts in Uror County, State of Jonglei, in the Republic of South Sudan, has led to the death of hundreds of people, while many others have been injured or abducted, including children, in addition to the destruction of property and stealing of cattle. The Chairperson presents AU's condolences to the bereaved families and to the entire people of South Sudan and its Government.

The Chairperson encourages the Government of the Republic of South Sudan to pursue and intensify the efforts being undertaken to prevent the reoccurrence of such devastating violence, bring the perpetrators to justice and promote lasting reconciliation among the concerned communities. He reiterates AU's commitment, in close coordination with UNMISS and other stakeholders, to assist in whatever way possible the efforts of the Government in this respect.