
UN Chief urges South Sudan leaders cast Arms aside



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New York, March 28 (QNA) – UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has urged South Sudanese leaders to cast aside their arms and rise to embody the leadership their people rightfully deserve, warning of the looming specter of renewed civil war unless decisive action is taken.

Speaking at a press conference following the house arrest of First Vice President Riek Machar,

Guterres stated that South Sudanese leaders must heed a clear and unified message to lay down their arms and prioritize the citizens of South Sudan above all else.

Head of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) Nicholas Haysom warned that the deteriorating situation in the country could push it to the brink of renewed civil war.

He highlighted indiscriminate attacks on civilians in Nasir, Upper Nile State, which have resulted in significant casualties and injuries, forcing at least 63,000 people to flee due to worsening security conditions.

A week ago, armed forces detained First Vice President Riek Machar after the opposition faction of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (a component of the ruling coalition) announced its withdrawal from a key element of the 2018 peace agreement amid escalating tensions between President Salva Kiir Mayardit and Vice President Riek Machar.

The 2018 peace agreement ended a five-year civil war that claimed over 400,000 lives and displaced at least two million people.