



University of Juba

June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024

## Public Statement

The University of Juba wishes to make a statement to the University Community and the general public about the unfortunate incident that transpired in the Girls' Hostel on Wednesday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

1. At around 11 O'clock, the Deanship of Students received a distressed call from the Matron at the Girls' Hostel that three of them were being held hostage by some students in the Girls' Hostel.
  - a. The three were two female matrons and a female security guard.
  - b. The female security guard was with a small baby who was detained and locked up with the three.
2. The Dean of Students on hearing this went with some University security guards to see the situation for themselves and negotiate the release of the three female staff and the baby.
  - a. On arrival they found that the students were agitated, chanting while wielding sticks and armed with stones.
  - b. All attempts to convince the rioting students to open the gate and release the detained three female staff and the baby failed.
  - c. The students continued to pelt the Dean and the University security guards with stones and other things they could lay their hands on.
  - d. In the process a number of the University security guards were injured.
3. Fearing for the safety of the three female staff and the poor baby being held hostage, the personal safety of the security personnel, the potential damage to University property, the safety of the neighbours and the public who were innocently passing by, a request for the reinforcement of the forces at the scene was made.
  - a. When the reinforcement arrived, they tried to negotiate the release of the three female staff and the baby, but failed.
  - b. They were then forced to break open the barricaded gate and released the traumatized 3 female staff and the baby.
  - c. As they did this, they came under heavy pelting from the students.
  - d. In order to bring the situation under control, some of the most violent students were apprehended.
4. The apprehended students were removed from the scene and taken to Buluk Police Station to allow the situation to calm down.

- a. The University Administration declined to press charges against the apprehended students and demanded their release.
  - b. The Police complied and the students who were injured in the scuffle were taken to the hospital and the rest were brought back to the Hostel.
5. The general public has to know that part of the problem facing the Administration of the University is that some of the people residing currently in the hostels are not students or have already graduated. This issue was raised by a concerned citizen in article in the Citizen No 1 Newspaper of May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
6. The University shall be conducting a full investigation to find out exactly what happened and the genesis of the problems.
- a. All stakeholders will be able to present their side of the story to the Committee that shall be formed.
  - b. The general public shall be informed of the findings of the Investigation Committee.

## **The University Administration**