



We, the leadership and members of Pion Nyan Abyei, strongly condemn the recent attack that swept through Kolom and took the lives of at least 32 people, including 9 precious children. On the morning of Wednesday, January 22, 2020, armed militia attacked Kolom area, set fire to 22 homes and destroyed the local church and clinic, abducted 15 children and injured 18 civilians. The suffering is immense, and it is compounded by desperate conditions caused by recent flooding and the ongoing lack of basic services available throughout Abyei.

Pion Nyan Abyei is committed to supporting the creation of and strengthening institutions that improve the livelihood of the common citizen and protect their right to live in peace and prosperity. We recognize that this vision requires new institutions of justice that hold individuals accountable rather than allowing such crimes to fuel dangerous and divisive tribalism and endless cycles of revenge. A better Abyei requires a new way. To that end, we urgently recommend the following:

- Intervention by the international community to facilitate the immediate return of the children who were abducted.
- An independent international investigation into the crimes committed on January 22nd in Kolom for the purpose of identifying the criminals and bringing them to justice.
- An independent investigation into the reported conduct of UN peacekeepers, who urged villagers not to hide when rumors of an attack surfaced and who withdrew from protecting Kolom one hour before the attack.
- Providing an opportunity for consolation and compensation to the affected individuals and families.
- A conference, facilitated by the African Union, for the Ngok Dinka, Misseriya and other tribes in the area to discuss the crisis, to institute measures for the prevention of future violence, and to plan together a way forward to a better future.

Pion Nyan Abyei is a NGO with over 200 members and is organized for the purpose of empowering women with the information, partnerships and resources necessary to support comprehensive and sustainable development in Abyei. For more information, please contact Pion Nyan Abyei's Executive Director, Ashai Arop Bagat at ashaiarop1@gmail.com.

Our love and prayers are with the people of Abyei and with our family and friends in Kolom. We will never forget those who have gone before us. May we honor their memory with justice and peace.