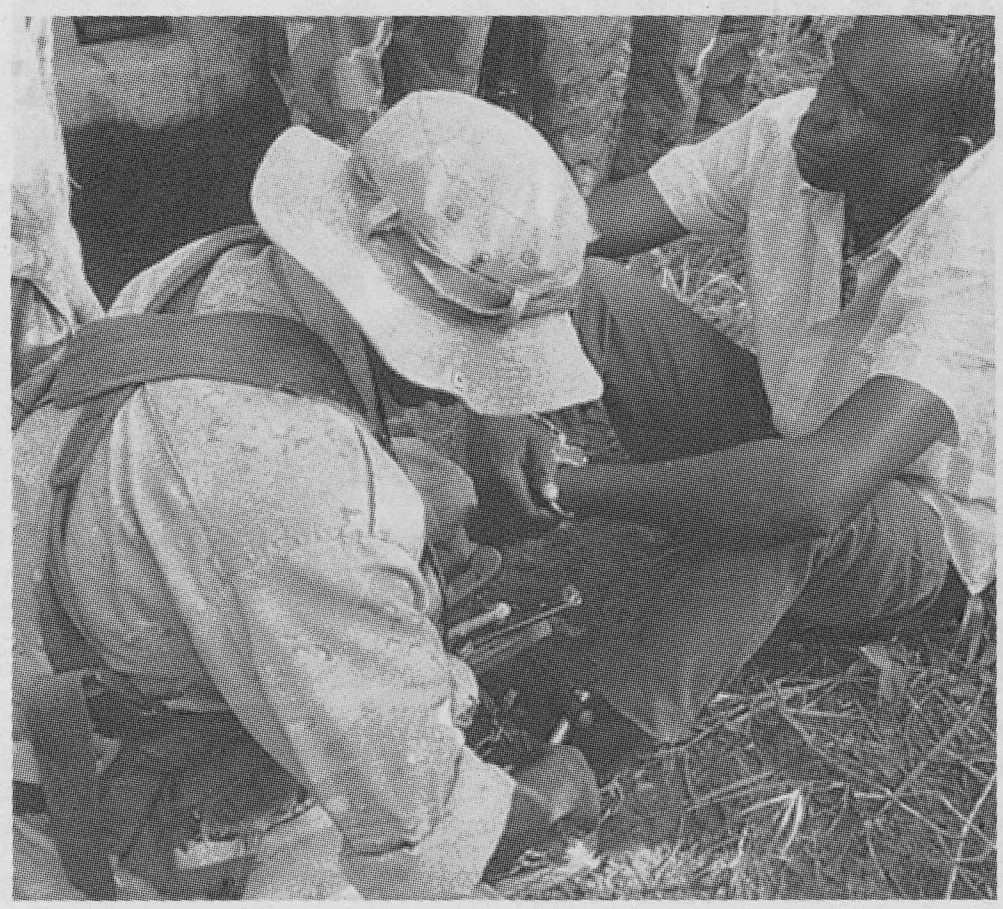
Oudo Youth Capture Murder Suspect in Torit



By, Ijoo Bosco

Oudo youth in Bur Payam have been praised for their role in strengthening community security after arresting a suspect linked to the murder of a man from neighboring Lafon County, highlighting growing cooperation between local communities and authorities in the fight against crime.

The suspect was handed over to Torit County authorities on Saturday by youth leaders in Omorwo Village during a visit by county officials aimed at easing tensions between Torit and Lafon counties.

Torit County Caretaker Commissioner Eddy William Ponsiano said the victim, identified as Albano from Pacidi Payam in Lafon County, had travelled from Torit through Omorwo Village before he was allegedly followed and attacked by two youths who had reportedly taken a firearm belonging to a resident.

Ponsiano said one suspect is now in custody, while security agencies and local youth continue searching for the remaining suspects.

He commended the Oudo youth for their swift response and cooperation with county authorities, describing their actions as a model of community-led peacebuilding.

He urged young people across Oudo Boma and Bur Payam to remain united and continue supporting efforts to maintain peace, security, and the rule of law.

Paramount Chief of Bur Payam, Joseph Lagu, also praised the youth for working closely with traditional leaders and security personnel, saying the successful arrest reflects the strong partnership that has long existed between communities in Bur Payam and neighboring Lafon County.

The latest arrest marked the fifth time Caretaker Commissioner Eddy William Ponsiano has overseen the capture of suspected killers in Torit County, reinforcing ongoing efforts by local authorities and communities to improve security and ensure justice.

A final cohort of Lawmakers in Juba were strengthened on judicial reforms, lobbying and advocacy and GBV prevention

Lawmakers pose for a group photo at conclusion of the workshop.

More than 50 lawmakers and officials from the Revitalized Transitional National Legislative Assembly (RTNLA), the Council of States, Central Equatoria State (CES) and representatives from both the National and CES Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare gathered in Juba for a three-day workshop that focused on judicial reforms, lobbying and advocacy and GBV prevention.

This training, marked the final series of workshops on lobby and advocacy to the third cohort of beneficiaries under the Empowered Women Influence (EWI) project in 2026. The workshop was convened by Peace Movement Netherlands Foundation (PAX) which is fully funded by the German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO) of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany.

The participants who included female parliamentarians and other officials along with their male allies, were trained on legal frameworks and international instruments aimed at preventing gender-based violence (GBV) and advancing gender equality.

Importantly, the workshop equipped lawmakers with the skills to legally advocate for legislation and to develop policies and bills that are responsive to South Sudanese, specifically in relation to the prevention of GBV and strengthening judicial and legislative reforms.

In his closing remarks and on behalf of the Country Director for PAX, John William, commended participants for their role in shaping Laws and strengthening the social fabric of the country. John further urged lawmakers to continue to legislate good policies. "You in this workshop represent other members ofour National Assembly as well as members of our state council, you are the voices of our people from the different constituencies. That's why it is very important for you to be able to acquire yourself with a lot of knowledge and skills from this workshop," John said.

Furthermore, John emphasized that lawmakers do more than legislation—highlighting oversight and budgeting responsibilities needed to translate Laws into action. For instance, the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare presents their proposals to the Council of Ministers, thereafter the parliamentarians' vet those proposals, and consequently, allocate money for implementation. Moreover, John also reiterated the importance of continued donor support for such capacity-building initiatives, adding: "Although the funding towards EWI is coming to an end this year, we are also doing a lot of consultation with them to request for another phase"

Noteworthily, the PAX Project Officer responsible for EWI project, Martina Kani, explained how the training program is structured across the four sessions. "In our plan we have four workshops for you and so far, we have delivered three workshops. We are remaining with one training session for this cohort around August 2026 or later month." Martina stated that the final workshop will cover psychosocial support, and trauma counselling, and concluding with awards of certificates to participants who have attended all sessions.

In his remarks, the workshop facilitator, Counsel Amanya Joseph, urged lawmakers to build effective networks for lobbying and advocacy in parliament. "As members of parliament, if you get this kind of opportunity to attend such an enriching training of importance to you… please, kindly take it to your heart…"

Counsel Joseph further challenged participants to communicate their parliamentary work to communities using modern platforms and existing channels. "There are now so many channels of communication… there are so many WhatsApp group of different communities… You can use the media to inform your people." He cautioned participants that the public will continue to demand accountability and asked them to translate knowledge into visible results: "The people will always question you because you represent them in Parliament…"

Remarkably, the participants expressed gratitude for the training, which was practical and the use of the legal approach.

Hon. Obed Taban Justin, a member of Parliament in the Central Equatoria State Legislative Assembly, representing Mugwuo Payam, said the workshop strengthened his ability to address GBV, corruption, and governance through advocacy and community engagement. "We learned actually something about gender-based violence… when I go home, I will actually try now to avoid some of the gender-based violence issues with my neighbours…"He also said he would promote legal accountability by advocating for a free and independent judiciary. "We are going to advocate for the free and independent judiciary, where the law leads…" Moreover, Justin added that instead of costly public rallies, he planned to hold discussions with community leaders, including chiefs and church leaders, to share the knowledge gained. "I will have honest discussions with the chiefs and then leaders of the church…"

Similarly, Honourable Domai Gatpan Kulang, a member of the Transitional National Legislative Assembly (TNLA), said the workshop was valuable for parliamentarians to understand their roles in budgeting, oversight and anti-corruption measures. "We learn about how to go about with reviewing the budget… the implementation, the oversight on the budget implementation."He also underscored the importance of exposure through media and civil society to deter corruption, describing corruption as a national challenge that requires persistent action.

Hon. Khadija Robo, a Council of States member representing Western Bahr El Ghazal, said she gained knowledge on how parliamentary budgeting works and how to ensure budgets reflect public demands. "Before she wasn't aware how the budget works in the parliament and what procedures to follow… Honorable Khadija Robo, intends to share what she learnt…"

A representative from the Central Equatoria State Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, and the Acting Director for Child Welfare Dina Louis Sabun, welcomed the training and pledged to disseminate the learning within her Ministry—especially on forced and early marriages and preventing GBV. "When I go back to the Ministry, I will share the knowledge I received, particularly issues of Forced and Early marriages and how to prevent Gender based violence against young girls and women…"

In conclusion, the EWI initiative aims to strengthen lawmakers' capacity to influence legislation and judicial reforms that protect women and children and promote gender equality. Interestingly, the participants indicated renewed determination to advocate for better policies, stronger oversight, and legal reforms that curb GBV and corruption at national and state levels.

On behalf of PAX, John extended his profound gratitude to the government of the Federal Republic of Germany for the funding PAX with the EWI project and the unwavering support to the people of the Republic of South Sudan. This support demonstrates true friendship in action and deeds.