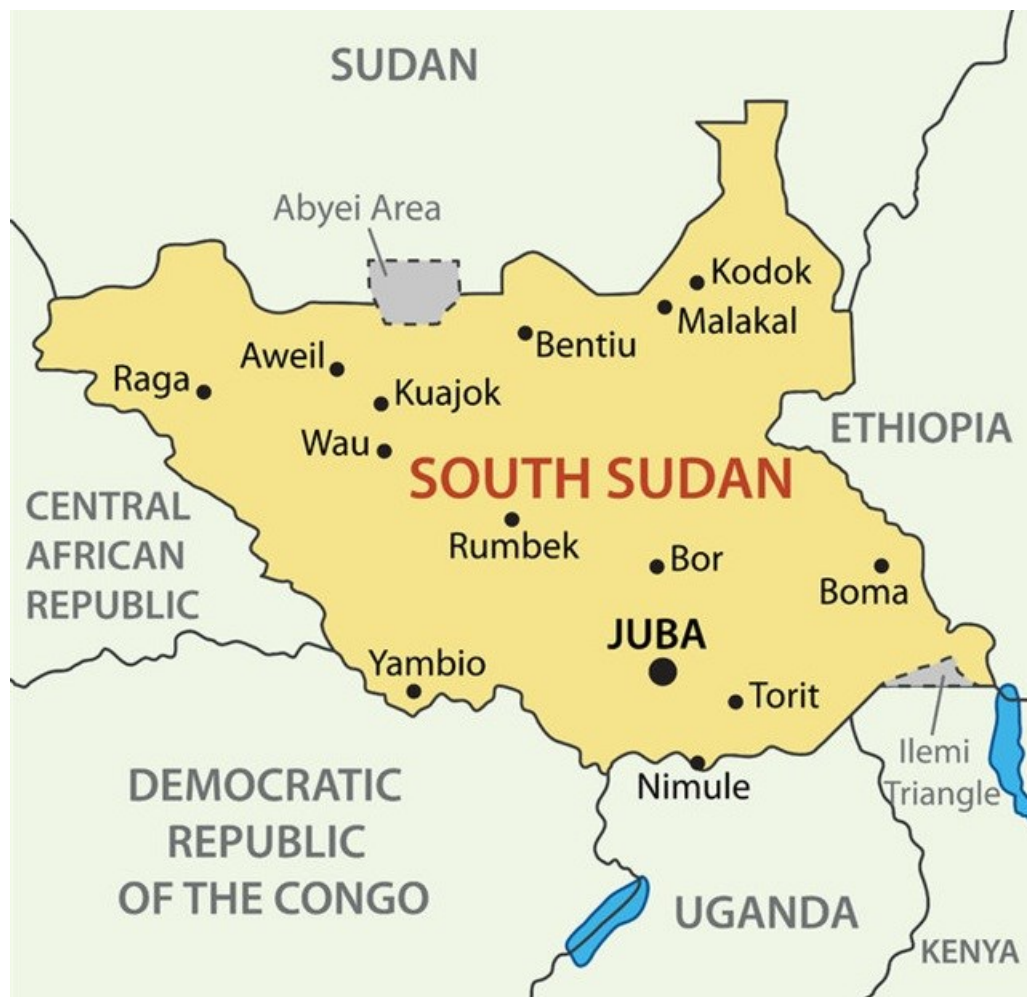


Al-Jazeera English suspended in South Sudan

Reporters Without Borders (RSF) condemns the decision by South Sudan's Media Authority to suspend the activities of the Al-Jazeera English bureau in Juba until further notice.



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The Media Authority, whose members are appointed by President Salva Kiir, issued its order on 1 May. The bureau's staff is banned from covering anything to do with South Sudan.

The ban follows a series of Al-Jazeera reports about the ongoing clashes between government forces and rebel troops. The [Qatari TV news channel reported](#) on 20 April that many civilians had been displaced by fighting in the southern county of Kajo-Keji. Its references to the significant losses sustained by the government forces in the course of this fighting seem to upset the authorities.

RSF regards the closure of the Al-Jazeera bureau in Juba as an attack on media pluralism and the freedom to inform.

South Sudan has fallen 30 places in [RSF's World Press Freedom Index](#) since the [start of the civil war](#) and is ranked 145th out of 180 countries in the 2017 Index.

This statement was originally published on [rsf.org](#).

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