



Integrated UN DDR Photo Release

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Julud demobilisation centre goes operational

The Joint Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration Commission in Southern Kordofan has stepped up operations, with the launch of a second demobilisation centre in the State yesterday, 5 August.

Some 19 ex-combatants of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) were demobilised on the first day of operations in the new centre set up to demobilise approximately 2,300 SPLA ex-combatants in and around the locality.

Prior to Julud, the Joint DDR Commission in Southern Kordofan had operated one centre in Kadugli, catering to ex-combatants of the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and Popular Defence Forces (PDF).

More than 3,200 SAF and PDF ex-combatants have been demobilised in Southern Kordofan since the Joint Commission launched operations there on 11 May this year. About 18,000 SAF, PDF and SPLA ex-combatants are earmarked for demobilisation during the first phase of DDR operations in the State.

Demobilisation in Kadugli and Julud falls in line with the *Three Areas First* approach, in which the North and South DDR Commissions agreed to jointly process DDR caseloads in Blue Nile State, Southern Kordofan and Abyei, before expanding to other areas under the January 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) that ended the North-South War.

Besides Julud and Kadugli, the DDR programme runs centres in Ed Damazin and Juba. As of 5 August 2009, more than 10,000 ex-combatants had been demobilised in all four centres.

Overall, a total of 180,000 participants from northern and southern Sudan stand to benefit from the DDR scheme by leaving military life and reintegrating into society.

The programme is operationally managed by the North Sudan and South Sudan DDR Commissions, with technical and logistical support from the Integrated United Nations DDR Unit, which includes the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS), the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organisation (WHO).

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For further information, contact Ashraf Eissa, UNMIS Spokesperson, phone : +249 (0) 912392270, eissaa@un.org, or Kouider Zerrouk, UNMIS Deputy Spokesperson, phone: +249 (0) 912396539, zerrouk@un.org



SPLA combatant (standing) completes verification process at Julud demobilisation site

Photo: Olaide Omidoyi/UNMIS DDR