



# UNMIS Press Release

01 May 2011

## **SRSR MR. HAILE MENKERIOS DISCUSSED SECURITY SITUATION AND ELECTIONS IN SOUTHERN KORDOFAN STATE**

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sudan, Mr. Haile Menkerios, arrived this morning to Kadugli where he had separate meetings with the governor of southern Kordofan Mr. Ahmed Haroun, his deputy Mr. Abdulaziz Al-Hilu and the members of the High Security Committee for Elections, responsible for ensuring security for the elections.

Mr. Haile Menkerios discussed various issues related to the security situation in Southern Kordofan State and the elections that will start tomorrow.

Referring to the clashes that took place in mid-April 2011 in Al Rashad locality, Mr. Menkerios said that *“such an incident should be investigated independently and those who are responsible brought to justice”*, adding that *“everything should be done to ensure the security of the election so that people could freely express their wish through the freedom of casting their ballots”*.

Expressing his concerns about maintaining a peaceful environment during the elections and after, he stressed that the two candidates *“should refrain from any provocative rhetoric that could fire up and increase the fear and risk of people facing violence or the threat of violence”*

With regard to the result of the elections, Mr. Menkerios disclosed that both candidates *“pledge to establish inclusive governments, whoever wins, that would reflect the political reality of the state”*.

Mr. Haile Menkerios reiterated the mission’s commitment to provide technical and logistical assistance to the process.

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