



January 2009

United Nations Mission

# In SUDAN

## Sheltering DRC Refugees

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# DIARY

- **9 December:** The International Criminal Court's Pre-Trial Chamber I requested Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo to submit additional information related to an arrest warrant application for three Darfur rebel commanders no later than 26 January 2009. The rebel commanders are accused of war crimes against African Union peacekeepers in Haskanita, Darfur.
- **10 December:** The 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was observed countrywide. UNMIS Human Rights marked the day in Khartoum on 4 December by organizing workshops and other activities in collaboration with 33 civil society organizations. In Juba, UNMIS Human Rights organized a roundtable discussion with government and church representatives, traditional chiefs and civil society organizations.
- **12 December:** The Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) for Sudan, Ashraf Qazi, deplored a violent incident in Abyei involving members of the Joint Integrated Unit and the Joint Integrated Police Unit, in which one person died and 10 were injured.
- **18 December:** The Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) submitted their first written arguments to the five-member Abyei Arbitration Tribunal, hosted by the Permanent Court of Arbitration at the Hague. The Tribunal is mandated by the two parties to resolve the Abyei boundary issue.
- **18 December:** The last stockpile of Unexploded Ordnance (UXOs) located in the Joint Integrated Unit garrison in Malakal was destroyed by the Malakal-based UNMIS Cambodian demining company, in coordination with the UN Mine Action Office.
- **30 December:** The Secretary-General condemned in the strongest possible terms atrocities reportedly committed by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Southern Sudan. He urged forces on the ground from Uganda, DRC and Southern Sudan to coordinate with the humanitarian community and UN missions in ensuring the effective delivery of assistance to affected populations.
- **8 January:** The Government of Japan donated 1,575 billion yen (about \$17 million) in assistance to support the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Programme in Sudan through the UN Development Programme.
- **9 January:** Celebrations for the fourth anniversary of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) were held in Malakal and attended by the President of Sudan, Omar Al-Bashir, and First Vice-President and President of the Government of Southern Sudan Salva Kiir.
- **10 January:** The third and final reconciliation meeting in Misseriya nomadic villages north of Abyei took place in Um-Khaeir/Riang Wetadhik. A delegation made up of representatives from Abyei Area Legislative Council, Misseriya and Dinka traditional leaders, youth and women's groups as well as UNMIS briefed the community on the importance of the CPA, the Abyei Roadmap and the migration conference held in UNMIS on 5 December 2008. Approximately 400 Misseriya community members and leaders attended the function.



United Nations Mission

# InSUDAN

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**Front cover:** Congolese refugees in Makpandu camp, Southern Sudan. **Photo:** UNMIS/Johann Hattingh

**Back cover:** Traditional dancer performing with presidential band at CPA celebrations, Malakal. **UNMIS/Tim McKulka**



# PROTECTING THE CHILDREN



Young boys in Juba Prison

Instead of going to school, many young children in Juba work for a meagre wage washing dishes in restaurants, fixing the town's roads or collecting taxi fares.

Thirteen-year-old Felix Gonda, for instance, works as a taxi-driver's assistant, collecting fares from passengers at Customs Market. "The owner of the taxi gives me 20 to 25 Sudanese pounds (\$10-\$15), depending on our daily work."

A taxi-driver at Customs Market claimed he was keeping the children he employed from becoming thieves or joining gangs. "We don't have the intention to destroy the life and the future of these children ... we give them jobs so that they get money and go back to school."

Regardless of their intentions, taxi-drivers and other employers of young children are now running afoul of Southern Sudan's new Child Act, signed by President of the Government of Southern Sudan Salva Kiir on 13 October.

The Act protects children from abusive child labour practices, said UNICEF head of child protection Silvia Pasti, restricting the age for regular work to 14 years and

above and light labour to 12 years plus.

"This is only on condition that it would not likely be harmful to the health or development of the child and does not affect the child's attendance at school or capacity of the child to benefit from school," Ms. Pasti said.

She added that an independent child commission would be formed to work closely with the community, so that suspicions about children working illegally could immediately be reported to the Ministry of Labour, Public Service and Human Resource Development, which would investigate and take appropriate action.

"We expect people to report ... child labour to the government, as it's prohibited by the law, and the government will take measures against those people involved," said Regina Ossa Lullo, Director-General of Gender and Child Welfare at the Ministry of Gender, Social Welfare and Religious Affairs.

However, all levels of government must first be trained in order to be fully familiar with the provisions of the Act, and this knowledge passed on to communities,

Ms. Lullo said. "If this is done, all parents and stakeholders will know their roles and responsibilities in bringing up children and will avoid child labour and many other offences."

The Act also outlines parental responsibilities in upholding their children's right to an education. "We need to commit these children to ... their rights to education ... this law will change the way they behave," Ms. Lullo said.

In addition, the bill shields children from drugs, alcohol, tobacco products and other harmful and illegal substances, or from being involved in their production, trafficking or distribution.

"It is an offence to sell these products or any other substances harmful to children. The Child Act says whoever commits such an offence shall on conviction be sentenced to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 14 years," the Director-General said.

The Act prohibits any type of sexual work, or work in places such as bars, hotels, and places of entertainment, where a person may be exposed to immoral behaviours, Ms. Lullo said. It also protects children from early marriage (under 18 years old), forced circumcision, scarification, tattooing, piercing, and tooth removal or other cultural rites, customs or traditional practices likely to negatively affect a child's life, health, welfare, dignity or physical, emotional, psychological, mental and intellectual development.

Individuals convicted of committing such offences would also be sentenced to imprisonment of up to 14 years.

If a child breaks the law, the juvenile justice would aim to reform, socially rehabilitate and reintegrate the child into society, according to the Act. The bill emphasizes individual accountability for crimes committed as well as restoring harmonious relationships between the child offender and victim through reconciliation, restitution and compensation.

The Act sets the minimum age for criminal responsibility and prosecution at 12 years. Children under 12 are presumed incapable of committing an offence, as they lack the capacity to determine that the concerned action was wrong.

The government's role is to work on policies and monitor implementation of the Act, which need a collective response from all communities. "We expect the state government to take the lead in implementing these policies after dissemination," said Ms. Lullo. ■

*Story and photo by Ojja Bosco*

# CPA CELEBRATED

**T**he Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) was the biggest political achievement in the country since independence in 1956, Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir said at festivities in Malakal marking the accord's fourth anniversary on 9 January.

Speaking to a crowd at Peter Gatkouth Stadium, the President stressed the need to strengthen the National Congress Party (NCP) and Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) partnership, which had tackled disputed issues like Abyei, deployment of forces, north-south border demarcation and the census.

"Peace will not hold unless it is supported by five objectives -- national reconciliation and peaceful coexistence, resolution of the Darfur conflict, self-determination for Southern Sudanese, making unity attractive, and the organization of general elections before the end of the fourth year of the CPA," President al-Bashir added.

Also attending the celebrations were First Vice-President of Sudan and President of the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) Salva Kiir as well as GoSS Vice-President Riek Machar.

Mr. Kiir stressed that the SPLM was committed to its partnership with the NCP and the peace agreement. He further emphasized that the SPLM and NCP must fully implement the CPA, adding that no peace could be achieved without settling the Darfur conflict.

Pointing to differences over conduct of the census, he also highlighted the need to find a mechanism to manage its results and ensure consensus around them. "I call upon the National Population Census Council and Southern Sudan Population Census Council to build a common consensus over the results of the census prior to their presentation to the Presidency."

Other potential points of conflict included implementation of the Protocol of Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states (areas of central Sudan with a special protocol status), the First Vice-President said. He added that more development projects would be carried out in these two states in 2009.

"Failure to fully implement the protocol of the two areas and to provide peace dividends to the war-affected population ... poses a real threat to peace in Sudan," Mr. Kiir said.

President al-Bashir noted that development had progressed slowly in southern states due to donors' failure to meet their pledges as well as the prevalence of landmines and internal



President of Sudan Omar Al Bashir (R) and First Vice-President and President of the Government of Southern Sudan Salva Kiir (L) viewing CPA military parade

## No peace could be achieved without settling the Darfur conflict

displacement.

The President pledged to implement all development projects provided for in the CPA before the end of 2009, underlining his personal commitment to make all basic services available to people in southern states.

Dr. Machar praised the Upper Nile State government for development work it

had carried out in Malakal to prepare for the festivities. These included renovating Peter Gatkouth Stadium as well as improving roads and drainage. Electricity had been also been repaired and water pumps installed at several points in the town.

The UNMIS engineering section and Indian Battalion supported the celebration by helping the government clean up, refill with sand and compact 13 football fields, where football and volleyball games as well as marathons were held in an effort to build better relationships among the 10 southern states.

The mission also assisted with air and



Sudanese President Omar Al Bashir addressing CPA celebration crowd



# IN MALAKAL

ground transport for government officials from Juba and Khartoum to Malakal. UNMIS Radio Miraya FM broadcast the event live throughout Southern Sudan.

Throughout the festivities, which began on 3 January, the streets of Malakal were alive with people in colourful traditional dress, marching and dancing to music. Events included an exhibition by the Upper Nile State Ministry of Information and Communication and a display of natural resources and traditional handicrafts from the state's 12 counties. ■

*Imelda Tjahja and Francis Shuei  
Diu*

*Photos: Tim McKulka*



SPLA soldiers on parade at CPA anniversary

## NEUTRALIZING ARMED GROUPS

**W**hile millions of Sudanese were celebrating the fourth anniversary of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in January, another important milestone in their country's recent history was left largely unsung.

Unveiled in January 2006, almost a year after formal ratification of the CPA, the Juba Declaration neutralized most remaining armed groups in Southern Sudan who threatened to undermine the region's fragile peace.

The document also firmly established the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) as a force for reconciliation among formerly warring factions in the south.

The CPA, which was signed by the Sudanese government and Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) in 2005, left unresolved the status of various rebel forces that never took part in talks giving birth to the CPA.

Foremost among these so-called "other armed groups" were the South Sudan Defence Forces (SSDF), a broad if somewhat loose-knit coalition of guerrilla armies and militias, who had rebelled against Commander-in-Chief John Garang in 1991.

The SSDF fought Mr. Garang's forces throughout the 1990s. Its battle-seasoned fighters were well placed to destabilize the fledgling GoSS in initial months after the CPA's signing.

That scenario may have been partly

averted by the sudden death of Mr. Garang in a Uganda helicopter crash in July 2005. The demise of the SPLM/A's founder transferred the reins of power to his longtime deputy, Salva Kiir.

Within weeks of taking over as GoSS president, Mr. Kiir extended an olive branch to senior SSDF commanders during informal talks in Khartoum and unilaterally appointed some 20 of their comrades-in-arms as county commissioners and members of the regional government's newly formed Legislative Assembly in Juba.

Those confidence-building measures helped lay the groundwork for the Juba Declaration to be signed barely five months into Mr. Kiir's term as president of the GoSS. Under the terms of the agreement, the lion's share of SSDF commanders and soldiers affirmed their loyalty to the GoSS, and many were absorbed into the SPLA. SSDF leader Paulino Matip was installed as SPLA Deputy Commander-in-Chief with the rank of lieutenant general.

Experienced Sudanese analysts have hailed the deal as a resounding success. "The Juba Declaration... rescued a deteriorating situation in which widespread, renewed conflict between the SPLM/A and the SSDF was increasingly likely during the tenure of John Garang," wrote Canadian academic John Young in a 2006 paper published by the Geneva-based Small Arms Survey research group. "The Juba Declaration should be

recognized as standing not far behind the CPA in its significance to the peace process."

A leading Sudan scholar describes the Declaration as a personal triumph for Mr. Garang's heir. "For many southerners, the CPA was just half the deal," notes Alex de Waal of the New York-based Social Science Research Council. "Reaching peace among the southerners was equally important, and the Juba Declaration was Salva Kiir's greatest achievement."

GoSS chief and First Vice-President of the Government of National Unity Kiir displayed his conciliator's skills anew last month when he tapped former GoSS Regional Cooperation Minister Nhial Deng Nhial for the SPLA Affairs cabinet portfolio vacated by the death of Dominic Dim Deng in a plane crash last May.

The announcement caught many observers by surprise, as Mr. Nhial had openly challenged Mr. Kiir's SPLM chairmanship at the southern Sudanese ruling party's national convention earlier this year.

Though it may receive short shrift in beginning-of-year festivities to commemorate the CPA, the Juba Declaration's place in history is assured as one of the genuine success stories of postwar Southern Sudan. ■

*Joseph Contreras*

# DDR GETS \$17 MILLION



DSRSG Ameerah Haq (second from left) and Ambassador Yuichi Ishii (second from right) exchanging signed grant notes

In a gesture that could not have been more timely, the Government of Japan donated 1,575 billion yen (about \$17 million) to the Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) Programme in Sudan on 8 January.

Set to discharge some 180,000 combatants of the north-south war and progressively reintegrate them into civilian life, the programme is an integral part of Sudan's post-conflict healing process and a key component of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

The North Sudan DDR Commission (NSDDRC) and Southern Sudan DDR Commission (SSDDRC) are implementing the programme with technical and material support from the Integrated UN DDR Unit,

comprised of UNMIS, the UN Development Programme (UNDP), UNICEF and the UN Population Fund.

The assistance from Japan arrived at the height of preparations for the launch in Ed Damazin, Blue Nile State, of the DDR venture in Sudan.

Addressing the grant-signing ceremony at the Al-Salam Rotana Hotel in Khartoum, the heads of the North and South DDR Commissions expressed optimism that the project would start within the first quarter of the new year. SSDDRC Chairman William Deng Deng even hinted at 10 February as a possible kick-off date.

"There are difficulties, but with your support we shall overcome and show the international community that we're committed to peace in Sudan," he assured an audience of UN representatives and members of the diplomatic corps.

NSDDRC Commissioner Dr. Sulafeldeen Salih Mohammed concurred, noting that the stakes were high.

"We are dealing with the hopes and expectations of thousands of combatants who endured years of fighting on the frontline."

The Japanese grant will be channelled through the UNDP. The grant provides limited financing for reintegration operations in what has been dubbed the "Three Areas", a strategic belt that includes Blue Nile State, South Kordofan and Abyei.

With the cost of reintegration for the Sudan DDR programme estimated at \$430 million, more funding is urgently needed to ensure smooth implementation of the programme in 2009 and subsequent years.

Signing the grant for his government, Japan's Ambassador Yuichi Ishii expressed hope that it would play "a catalyst role for substantial assistance from the international community". He urged authorities in Sudan to exert themselves against challenges besetting the DDR programme.

Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General Ameerah Haq, who also serves as UN Humanitarian and Resident Coordinator as well as UNDP Resident Representative, signed for the agency. Insisting that the process "forms a cornerstone of the CPA," and is "a clear requisite" for implementing other priorities of the agreement, Ms. Haq warned of the potential for a relapse to insecurity if reintegration support in the DDR programme was slow in coming. ■

*Napoleon Viban  
Photos: UNDP*

## Sudan's DDR Programme

Among other provisions, UN Security Council resolution 1590 mandates UNMIS to assist in the establishment and implementation of a Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) programme in Sudan, under the auspices of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) ending the country's north-south war.

After three years in gestation, the programme is expected to go fully operational this year. Over a period of at least three years, some 180,000 combatants will be disarmed, demobilized and reintegrated into civilian life, starting with 50,000 participants – 25,000 each from the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and the Sudan Peoples Liberation Army (SPLA) – in the first phase. Approximately 6,000 women and 17,500 people with disabilities will participate in the DDR scheme.

Even as it pulled its bearings together for a full roll-out, the Programme had demobilized about 1,300 children associated with either of the armed forces or their allies by the close of 2008.

The DDR process progresses in three stages. Combatants are first dispossessed of their weapons and then discharged from the military. The third and final phase, reintegration, seeks to increase the potential for demobilized persons to economically and socially reintegrate into civil society. They are counseled on available opportunities, and then choose from options like agriculture, animal husbandry, vocational training, formal employment, education or micro-business.



UNMIS DDR staff conducting mock demobilization exercise, Ed Damazin



# CIVILIAN DISARMAMENT STILL FRAGILE

**Collection of guns from civilians being reassessed, as results remain mixed**

Efforts by Southern Sudanese states to forcefully collect arms from civilians have succeeded in some areas, while they have led to violence, deaths and increased insecurity in others.

Government of Southern Sudan President (GoSS) Salva Kiir directed all southern states last June to disarm their populations by the end of 2008. But no government policy on disarmament existed, leaving implementation to state governors and opening up the exercise to possible abuse.

According to the Geneva-based Small Arms Survey, a gradual approach was adopted, leaving disarmed people defenceless from armed communities and forcing them to rearm.

"Disarmament inspired demand for firearms as well, resulting in hundreds of deaths in states such as Jonglei in 2006," said Claire McEvoy, manager of the survey's Sudan project. That year, a disarmament campaign collected about 4,000 guns, but prompted skirmishes and clashes in which 1,000 people reportedly died.

Disarmament sparked less resistance in some areas than others. Under the guidance of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), some 1,700 firearms were peacefully collected in Pibor and 1,500 in Akobo by December 2008, said Malick Cessay, head of UNMIS Bor office, Jonglei State.

In Warrap State, a total of 15,000 illegal weapons had been handed over to the state by late 2008, disarming up to 70 per cent of civilians, according to Acting State Governor and Minister of Health Achuil Akoch. UNMIS Civil Affairs Officer Anthony Agyenta noted that Eastern Equatoria had collected about 1,000 small arms by January 2009.

Some individuals still felt unsafe without weapons, while others remained armed, according to Mr. Cessay. To overcome resistance, some states were pursuing influential leaders to help sensitize the population about the importance of disarming.

"We have to start to work together with the community. Instead of using force to take arms away from the people, it should be done through the community, the leaders, chiefs, elders of the villages," said David Pokier, Deputy Inspector-General of Police in Warrap State.

Deng Leek, Member of Parliament for

Bor, called for better planning. "It is a difficult process. When someone has a gun for a long time, it becomes a part of him or herself," he said. "To take it is to take away his life. You have to plan so that you don't expose those who have been disarmed."

**Instead of using force to take arms away from the people, it should be done through the community, the leaders, chiefs, elders of the villages**

According to the Small Arms Survey, ownership of small weapons is extremely prevalent in Sudan. Preliminary estimates from 2007 indicate that between 1.9 and 3.2 million firearms are in circulation, of which two-thirds are in civilian hands.

"Firearms protect people's communities and livelihoods from outside attacks (by other pastoralist groups and armed groups like the Lord's Resistance Army) as well as facilitating attacks on other communities in a vicious cycle of retributive violence," said Ms. McEvoy.

As a result, civilian disarmament is being reassessed. In October, the Council of Ministers set up the Bureau of Community Security and Small Arms Control under the Ministry of Internal Affairs to develop and coordinate a policy for small arms control.

The bureau will coordinate with Sudan's neighbours and northern authorities. An

eight-hour gun battle in July between hundreds of Murle and the Ugandan army confirmed the need for a regional approach, according to officials.

Analysts believed that disarming only the Toposa, for example, would make them feel insecure and raise fears that the Murle could attack them. Disarming the two communities of Murle and Toposa living close to the border could allow the Turkana from Kenya to attack them. Similarly, disarming the Dinka and Nuer, who both live on the border with North Sudan, could create room for the Misseriya to attack.

In July, dozens of protesters marched through Juba calling for a gun-free community, with the chairman of the Southern Sudan Action Network against Small Arms, Bishop Paul Pitia Yugusuk, calling the 2006 Jonglei disarmament "disastrous".

The network proposed raising awareness of the dangers of illegal weapons, rather than paying compensation for arms as an incentive. "The time to disarm our population is now - before the elections, before the referendum so that we maintain peace, law and order, and security," police chief Pokier said.

UNMIS has been assisting civilian disarmament by providing much needed containers to store collected arms. The mission has donated four containers to Warrap State as well as two each to Jonglei, Unity and Lakes states. ■

*IRIN News, with inputs by James Sokiri*



Guns collected in Pibor County during civilian disarmament. Photo: UNMIS/Tim McKulka

# 2008

The past year marked a mid-point of the six-year interim period for implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), which brought an end to Sudan's 22-year civil war.

The CPA is holding, despite unfortunate clashes in the Abyei area in May, and the two sides have shown their commitment to remain at peace. The national census, an important step towards elections and better planning for social services, was conducted in April.

In early May, the donor community met in Oslo, pledging billions of dollars to support Sudan's humanitarian and development needs and reaffirming international support for Sudan's peace process.

A major milestone was reached in July when the Election Law was passed. Another was passed with establishment of the National Election Commission in November.

The country celebrated the fourth anniversary of the CPA in early January 2009, amid renewed hope that remaining challenges until the end of the interim period in 2011, as well as the referendum in Southern Sudan and Abyei, could be tackled peacefully.

It was not an easy ride in 2008 and the road ahead could have many obstacles, but the determination to overcome them is there.

# A GLIMPSE AT

The UN helped with logistical arrangements for the census in April. The results of the census will help in implementing other parts of the CPA, including elections. The census is also important for policy planning to provide health, educational and other social services.





Fighting that erupted in Abyei between the Sudan Armed Forces and Sudan People's Liberation Army in May seriously threatened the CPA and led to the displacement of up to 50,000 people. Most travelled south, where UN agencies and non-governmental organizations helped provide them with basic humanitarian needs.



The Abyei road map agreement signed on 8 June was a positive step, providing a framework for moving forward in finding a mutually acceptable solution for the dispute. UNMIS praised the agreement and provided support to the Joint Integrated Units and the Joint Police Integrated Units in the Abyei area.



The legacy of the civil war is heavy, including a huge number of unexploded ordnances (UXOs) and vast areas with land mines. The UN lent a hand in removing some of these destructive items.



People from Southern Sudan continued to head back home, indicating their confidence in the CPA.



Recurrent flooding in various parts of South Sudan still displaces thousands of people.



Photos: UNMIS/Tim McKulka

# DEBATING PRESS FREEDOM

Last autumn witnessed several protests in Khartoum against restrictions to press freedom.

Article 39 of the 2005 Interim Constitution offers citizens freedom of expression and guarantees freedom of the press. Censorship was officially abolished after the Comprehensive Peace Agreement was signed in 2005.

Despite Article 39, there have been media crackdowns since it became official.

Journalists bemoan this restricted media environment and the delayed national press act. Yet the authorities argue that these regulatory restrictions are a means to safeguard and support the national interest. Authorities and journalists alike are in agreement on the need for an effective journalistic code of ethics.

"We have suffered in recent months from pre-publication censorship, and have started to protest against (it)," said *Ajras Al-Hurriya* Editor-in-Chief Murtada Elghali, commenting in an interview on limits to press freedom in Sudan.

On 4 November, more than 150 journalists carried out a one-day hunger strike and several dailies - *Ajras Al-Hurriya*, *Al-Maidan* and *Royal Al-Shab* - shut down for three days.

Some 60 journalists who gathered in front of the National Assembly on 16 November to protest media censorship were subsequently arrested. Authorities cited lack of permission to assemble as justification for their detention.

Human rights activists and media professionals voiced concern at a recent workshop about harassment suffered by journalists in Southern Sudan as well. Nhial Bol, Editor-in-Chief of *The Citizen*, was arrested in October 2008 and held at a police station for three days after criticizing high salaries in Southern Sudan's legal ministry.

As Alfred Taban, Editor-in-Chief of the southern-oriented English language publication *Khartoum Monitor* told *In Sudan*, censorship had been instituted and abolished in phases. It was lifted in July 2005, but with the killing of journalist Mohammed Taha and the ensuing public uproar, it was reinstituted a year later.

Mr. Taban added that censors had called editors to warn them about the security sensitivity of writing on certain topics at the time the Darfur conflict intensified. "When JEM (Justice and Equality Movement) attacked Omdurman ... they imposed complete censorship in May 2008."

Censors appeared at editorial offices

and removed articles they disagreed with, a practice which continues until the present day, according to Mr. Taban. "Later, with the ICC (International Criminal Court) announcement, this intensified. Any mention of Bashir and the ICC were scrutinized and often removed, and still are."

Mr. Elghali, editor of *Ajras al-Hurriya*, noted, "It is difficult to specify certain issues or articles. They took some articles about health, refugees, dams, politicians, about corruption, about local governments - there are no criteria."

Media reports cited *Ajras Al-Hurriya* General Manager Saleh Elhag as saying that the paper had been ordered to remove so many articles at times that entire editions had been pulled since its launch last April.

Minister of Information and Telecommunication Consultant Rabbie Abdelatti refuted this claim, stating that National Security had never censored such a large amount of any newspaper's content. The main reason for publication suspensions was in his view due to financial restraints.

Lack of finances might also result from censorship, as even some advertisements had been pulled, said Mr. Elghali. According to him, the government also pressured companies to refrain from advertising with certain papers, thus controlling the publications' income.

Compounding matters, the new national press act has been delayed, and Southern Sudan has no media law in effect.

Faisal Elbagir, Coordinator of the National Roundtable dealing with press legislation, noted that the Consortium on

## Media laws

Sudan is party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which protects the right to freedom of expression. The country also ratified the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, which protects the right to receive information and express and disseminate opinion.

The signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2005 opened the way to more democratic media ownership and practice. The 2005 Interim National Constitution grants citizens unrestricted right to free expression.

However, the 2004 media law, which many media practitioners, human rights activists and politicians believe does not abide by the interim constitution and international conventions, is still in force. Other laws, such as the National Security Act and the Criminal Procedures Act, are used to regulate and restrict freedom of the press.

The country's pending media law has become a contentious issue. Several bills have been drafted by different groups, including the Future Trends Foundation with support from the UN Development Programme and the National Democratic Alliance. As of January 2009, none had been tabled in parliament.

the Development of Democratic Media Legislation in Sudan had drafted an appeal to the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) at the beginning of December 2008. The appeal urged the GoSS to pass four draft media bills it should have submitted to parliament in December 2007.

The four draft bills - the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Organization Bill, Southern Sudan Public Service Broadcasting Bill, Independent Broadcasting Authority Bill and Right to Information Bill - had already been submitted to the Ministry of Communication and Information in Southern Sudan and the Ministry of Legal Affairs.

"I don't believe in censorship, but I also don't believe in absolute freedom," stated Mr. Abdelatti, stressing that national interest was a priority. "If the material to be published affects national security,

## Media in Sudan

The first newspaper in Sudan, the Egyptian-owned *Al Sudan*, appeared in Khartoum in 1903. *Rayid Al Sudan*, owned by two Greek residents, was issued in Khartoum in 1912. The first Sudanese newspaper owned and run by Sudanese, *Hadarat Al Sudan*, was established in 1919.

Currently, there are 24 daily newspapers, in addition to some economic and sports publications. All publications combined average a total circulation of 450,000 copies countrywide. Most papers are published in Khartoum in Arabic, but English language newspapers are also issued.

Over the past few years, the Sudan Radio and Television Corporation (SRTC) and the National Communication Corporation have granted licenses to eight FM radio stations. The most popular channel is *National Radio (Radio Omdurman)*.

UN radio *Miraya FM* (101), run by UNMIS in partnership with the non-governmental organization Foundation Hironde, has been broadcasting in Southern Sudan since June 2006. For over a year, it has also been airing *Miraya Short Wave* (15650 khz, 19 metre band) three hours per day.

A main news source is the government-sponsored *Sudan News Agency* (SUNA), established in 1971, and another is the *Sudanese Media Centre* (SMC). In the south, the Juba-based *Southern Sudan News Agency* was established after the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.



policies of the state, or if it criticizes personalities or policies, then the press should be restricted.”

Saif Eddin Al Bashir, Editor-in-Chief of *Sudan Vision*, voiced a similar view. “Sudan is not secure, not safe and stable enough,” he said, adding that the country was a “premature nation state” with much religious, ethnic and racial diversity.

According to Mr. Al Bashir, this diversity, the fragility of the nation and lack of professionalism could lead to opinion pieces, including those voicing extreme religious views, which influence readership in a harmful way.

“Censorship is the worst reality for a journalist ... But we have not reached the moment to allow our full press freedom,”

said the *Sudan Vision* editor. He said censorship currently functioned as a protective mechanism and that press freedom should happen gradually.

President of the National Press and Publications Council Ali Shummo disagreed with the *Sudan Vision* editor's views. “Sudan is a full-fledged country,” he said, and journalists were aware of their profession's responsibilities. The Press Council had recently held meetings with National Security and editors-in-chief to achieve the lifting of censorship, Mr. Shummo said.

Participants had drafted a code of ethics and proposed it to the government. “We know that we have to adhere to certain rules and it is a post-conflict area

and there are sensitive issues, but there is no justification for direct censorship,” commented *Al-Ayam* newspaper's Chairman of the Board of Directors, Mahjoub Mohammed Saleh.

All parties emphasized the importance of passing the new national press bill before this year's elections. “Without endorsing the press act,” said the governmental consultant, Mr. Abdelatti, “the election will be very difficult ... there would be a lot of restrictions.”

Mr. Elbagir was optimistic that the draft media bills in the south would also be ratified before elections. At the same time, he called upon the GoSS to expedite their passage. ■

## IN NEED OF A PRINTING PRESS

**P** rivate media in the south are being hampered by a lack of adequate facilities in the region, relying entirely on Khartoum and neighbouring Kenya or Uganda for printing.

*The Citizen* newspaper explored printing in Kampala. But, according to the paper's managing editor, Nhial Bol, high costs as well as time for transport made the move unfeasible and the paper resumed printing in Khartoum.

“The printing of our newspaper in Kampala was very expensive, given our limited resources,” said Mr. Bol. “Sometimes the paper reached Juba late ... as a daily newspaper, it would have lost meaning at the end of the day.”

He said *The Citizen* had brought consultants to Juba to push forward a printing press for the south. “By May, we will be able to print here in Juba. This will be an important achievement ... and will encourage more southern papers to print here.”

The media in Southern Sudan are a vibrant, rapidly growing industry. Currently, there are over eight newspapers and magazines, up from only two when the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) was signed in 2005. However, lack of a printing press has frustrated efforts to expand and increase production.

Even printing newspapers in Khartoum increases costs considerably and presents huge logistical challenges, including transportation and distribution, according to Isaac Billy, Managing Editor of the *Juba Post*. The paper often experiences production delays, sometimes by up to a day, and suffers high shipment costs.

“In one instance, an airline demanded 50 per cent of the total production cost to fly in the newspaper from Khartoum to Juba. How can the paper make any profits with such expenditure?” he asked.

Having a printing house in Southern Sudan would not only cater to printing of newspapers, but books and teaching materials. It would also allow the GoSS to print newly enacted legislation and other government documents.

As the county prepares to implement key milestones of the CPA, including the 2009 elections and subsequent referendum, calls for the acquisition of a printing press for the south have been gaining momentum.

During a meeting with media managers last November, Minister of Information Gabriel Changson assured them that plans were at an advanced stage to revive Juba's stalled Nile printing press.

Paul Jacob, GoSS Director for Information, said funds had already been secured from the European Commission to revive the government-owned Nile printing press. Established by Norwegian Church Aid in the early 1970s, the press has been out of operation for years, despite various efforts to revive it.

“The Government recognizes the importance of having a printing press in Juba and plans are at an advanced stage to install one here,” said Mr. Jacob. “What we are waiting for is the approval of the budget, which will provide additional funding to money that has been provided by the European Commission.”

In addition, a joint initiative led by the Association of Media in Southern Sudan,

which brings together journalists in Juba, is putting together plans to secure funds for a private printing press in the south to complement the government printer. ■

Antonette Miday  
Photos: Emmanuel Kenyi



Technician checking Nile printing press, Juba



Juba Post Editor-in-Chief Isaac Billy



Karen Tchalian, UNMIS Kadugli Head of Office.  
Photo: UNMIS/Johann Hattingh

**S**outhern Kordofan State, which lies in the heart of Sudan, features prominently in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) as one of the three Protocol Areas. To learn how the state has fared since the signing of the CPA, **In Sudan** spoke to Karen Tchalian, Head of Office of UNMIS Sector IV (Kadugli).

**In Sudan: What have the main achievements in Southern Kordofan been during the first half of the interim period?**

**Karen Tchalian:** The most important area of progress is successful implementation of power-sharing arrangements prescribed in the CPA, with 55 per cent National Congress Party (NCP) and 45 per cent Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement (SPLM) representation in the state executive and legislature. The first governor of Southern Kordofan was SPLM, while the current one is NCP.

Through joint efforts, the NCP and the SPLM are addressing probably the most difficult issue facing Southern Kordofan, and specifically the Nuba Mountains, which is the integration of areas around Kauda and Julud, formerly under exclusive SPLM control, into the political and administrative infrastructure of the state. A key objective of this process is the creation of a unified civil service, police service and judiciary. As an example, 1,500 former SPLM police personnel are undergoing training at police facilities around Sudan prior to enrollment.

The SPLA have withdrawn from Sector IV AOR (Area of Responsibility) to a single assembly area at White Lake/Jaw. Joint Integrated Units, another CPA requirement, are gathering strength and are being deployed at various locations

around the state.

**What are the current challenges of CPA implementation in the state?**

As you can imagine, challenges facing Southern Kordofan following the conclusion of probably the longest civil war of the 20th century are many and varied. It will take the state considerable time and effort to recover from human and material losses suffered during the conflict.

We believe that the greatest challenge is for the NCP and SPLM to continue working together for the benefit of the people, to demonstrate goodwill and build up mutual trust, which are the foundations of durable peace and stability. This is not an easy process, but no one expected it to be. UNMIS will continue to provide full support to its Sudanese friends and partners to achieve goals set by the CPA. The objective is not a long ceasefire, but irreversible peace that will hold after the mission is gone.

**Could you explain the process of popular consultation?**

This will take place in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states. Popular consultation calls for the CPA to be "subjected to the will of the people of the two States through their respective, democratically elected legislatures". This means that elected

**"History tells us that there is no inherent hatred between the ethnic groups that populate Southern Kordofan. Tribal, cultural and religious differences exist all over the world, but there is no reason why they should be a cause for fighting"**

representatives will assess and evaluate implementation of the CPA in their respective states. At the same time, an independent commission established by the Presidency will assess implementation of the CPA in these states. Both of these bodies will submit reports to the national as well as Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile governments.

The states will use the reports to rectify procedures to ensure faithful

# TO MAKE

implementation of the CPA. Their legislatures would then again vote to endorse the Agreement. The legislatures can negotiate with national government measures aimed at rectifying shortcomings in the constitutional, political and administrative arrangements of the CPA, but only within the framework of the Agreement. Popular consultation is not a referendum on self-determination.

**What are the main contributions of UMMIS in the effort to resolve tribal conflicts?**

UNMIS, especially its Civil Affairs component, is extremely active in this area, mainly by assisting bilateral and multilateral peace, mediation and reconciliation efforts undertaken by the state government and the signatories. In the two and a half years of my tenure, our data indicates a steady decrease in tribal conflict and incidents of politically motivated violence.

Seasonal nomadic migrations have become noticeably more peaceful, although there are of course occasions when nomads and farmers clash over water, grazing and damage done to crops. In the buildup to a migration, the majority of UNMIS Kadugli personnel from substantive sections are out in the field working to make the process safe. I must commend the excellent effort of all state government bodies which served to make the last two migrations through Southern Kordofan almost incident-free.

Constant vigilance and hard work on the side of the signatories and the state government is needed to maintain this positive trend. The potential for violence remains – not an unusual phenomenon for a place where the civilian population is heavily armed as a result of many years of fighting.

UNMIS provides logistical support, mostly in the form of vehicular and, most importantly, air transport, to various bodies of the state government on reconciliation missions. This needs to be stressed because many reconciliation events would have much weaker participation and therefore reduced impact without this kind of assistance.

**Do locals involved in such long conflicts enlist international help or do they want to solve them their own way?**

Both. The social and economic dislocation caused by civil wars is such that whatever we can achieve is a significant step forward. If the UN and its local partners succeed in introducing peace into the



# PEACE IRREVERSIBLE

fabric of society and into the mentality of the people, they will have succeeded. In the final evaluation, this is what a peacekeeping mission is all about.

## Is this achievable with such a long history of tribal conflict?

Of course. History tells us that there is no inherent hatred between the ethnic groups that populate Southern Kordofan. Tribal, cultural and religious differences exist all over the world, but there is no reason why they should be a cause for fighting. It is extremely important not to allow what I would term normal societal frictions or competition for water, grazing and other natural resources to be politicized by groups or individuals pursuing selfish agendas.

## How does UNMIS inform the local population about the aim and process of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR)?

DDR is a very complex issue and should not be confused with civilian disarmament. After lengthy and complicated discussions, very useful cooperation is developing in Southern Kordofan between DDR bodies responsible for the process on

both sides of the 1-1-56 boundary line. A joint office has been formed, which is a significant step forward. We are talking to our Sudanese partners to define timelines for the disarmament and demobilization of nearly 19,000 individuals from both sides.

## What do we know about the reported but still unconfirmed armed groups and recent recruitments in the region?

Every day, dozens of UNMIS personnel are involved in checking the veracity of reports on the subject through the many-layered early warning and monitoring mechanisms we operate jointly with our Sudanese partners. For example, the sides bring their mutual complaints or suspicions to the Area Joint Monitoring Committee, which is a body chaired by the UNMIS Sector Commander. Every such approach is investigated by our military personnel through air or road patrols lasting several days, if necessary. We report the results to the sides and to UNMIS Headquarters.

Based on information at our disposal, we have no reason to believe that there is a presence of other armed groups in our area, or that recruitment is taking place. This is not to say that there are no

incidents of common banditry, but that is a police matter.

## There have recently been reports that conditions in Southern Kordofan State are supposedly deteriorating. Is Southern Kordofan the next Darfur?

The UN system has around 2,000 civilian, military and police personnel physically on the ground in UNMIS Kadugli's area of operations on any given day. And these are not individuals given to complacency. Based on our knowledge of the area, we do not see the situation in Southern Kordofan as sliding towards renewed conflict. The strongest foundation for peace in this area is that its people, irrespective of their ethnic origins or political persuasion, have had enough of war.

As mentioned previously, the number of incidents of tribal and political violence is actually decreasing. Tensions fuelled by the differences between the sides remain, but as long as they do not manifest themselves in violence, especially in organized violence, they should be regarded as part of a normal political process in a post-conflict environment. ■



# SHELTERING DRC REFUGEES

**Following LRA strikes in December, UNHCR and other agencies have been assisting the thousands of victims**

A ruckus of screams and smashing doors coming from neighbouring houses first sounded the alarm for Gudunga Tangurungo.

For several months, Ugandan rebels belonging to the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) had been wreaking havoc among villages dotting the remote northeast corner of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), where 17-year-old Gudunga lived.

When the girl realized that LRA fighters were descending on her family's hamlet of Bitima, Gudunga grabbed her younger sister Yonike and fled in the direction of the border with Southern Sudan.

"We escaped upon hearing the LRA was looting," she recalled three months later at Makpandu refugee camp in Sudan's Western Equatoria State. "I did not know where the LRA was headed, but God finally took us to a safe place in Sudan."

The Tangurungo sisters were among thousands of refugees who began streaming out of the DRC last September when LRA rebels staged a series of attacks on their communities.

The refugees' ranks had swelled to about 8,000 by mid-January 2009, following a joint military offensive led by the Ugandan armed forces a few weeks earlier that targeted several LRA camps in northeastern DRC. Rebel units retaliated with brutal raids that have reportedly killed hundreds of civilians. The exodus of terrified Congolese mobilized a major relief operation in December by several UN agencies in Western Equatoria, where most of the refugees have been living.

As the anti-LRA strike began on 14 December, officials of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) were already preparing to move 4,200 Congolese nationals away from the border to Makpandu camp, 25 miles from the state capital Yambio.

"It is advisable to move the refugees far away from the border conflict area," said UNHCR field coordinator Dina Sinigallia.

A concerted effort by Southern Sudanese government security forces to seal off the Congolese border and prevent LRA incursions hampered the refugee relocation operation at first. Security restrictions denied relief agencies access to large numbers of refugees clustered in and around Sakure, James Diko, Sangua and three other communities in Western Equatoria.



Congolese refugees in Makpandu camp, Southern Sudan. Photo: UNMIS/Johann Hattingh

However, aid officials managed to move about 180 people living in the village of Gangura to Makpandu, as of 9 January.

UNHCR officials vowed to step up refugee relocation as soon as possible. "All the refugees from seven different locations will be relocated to the new site as soon as the security situation becomes calmer in those areas," Ms. Sinigallia said.

A wide array of UN agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) participated in the relief operation. UNMIS provided UNHCR officials with transport and water purifiers.

UN Military Observers attached to the peacekeeping mission furnished updated information about security conditions in affected areas of Western Equatoria to the UNHCR.

Initial supplies of cooked food were delivered by the local Roman Catholic diocese of Tambura/Yambio and the NGO Catholic Relief Services. The NGO World Vision also shipped in food provisions donated by the World Food Programme.

UNICEF plans to drill two new boreholes at the Makpandu camp and repair an existing one to meet the needs of the local population and new arrivals.

The state government based in Yambio assigned police units to escort the refugee convoy and provide the camp with protection. It also renovated an existing health clinic and plans to assign a full-time nurse to the facility to treat local residents and camp inmates.

While Deputy State Governor Joseph

Ngere expressed support for the offensive launched by Ugandan and Congolese military units against LRA rebels and their leader Joseph Kony, carnage was continuing on both sides of the international border with no end in sight.

LRA guerrillas have been spotted in various parts of Western Equatoria. One group reportedly killed six Sudanese during a Christmas Eve raid in the vicinity of Maridi and Rasulu. Inside the DRC, officials of the Catholic aid agency Caritas accused Ugandan rebels of massacring over 400 people since December 25, including 215 alone in the Congolese village of Doruma.

Some of the worst bloodletting occurred in the hamlet of Duru, where nearly 75 people were murdered, and some of the victims were hacked to death, according to the Catholic aid agency Caritas. Former residents of that ill-fated village were among the first group of refugees to be moved to the Makpandu camp.

Also relocated to Makpandu were Gudunga and Yonike Tangurungo. Gudunga said she was satisfied with the camp, but the sisters' thoughts are with their mother, who fled the LRA onslaught in a different direction and has not been heard from since.

"I am only thinking about my mother's whereabouts," the teenager said sadly. ■

*Paiyo Charles Angelo*



# NEWS BRIEFS

## UNMIS holds media workshop

UNMIS Human Rights conducted a workshop on "Freedom of Expression and the Media" from the 11 to 13 December 2008 in Zara Hotel, Juba.

The workshop was attended by 17 professionals from various media, including *the Citizen* and *Sudan Tribune* newspapers, *Miraya FM*, *Bakheita FM*, *Capital FM*, *Southern Sudan Radio* and *Southern Sudan TV* as well as representatives from the Government of Southern Sudan Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Presentations were conducted on international and regional human rights protection mechanisms, with discussions focusing on topics relating to freedom of expression and the media, journalism and ethics, government duties in promoting and protecting freedom of expression and the media, and the role of media in promoting and protecting human rights.

Participants' concerns included harassment suffered by journalists from security organs, such as the confiscation of equipment, general insecurity when travelling to the field, difficulties in accessing information, rampant unemployment, lack of training institutions and adequate equipment, and lack of a legal media framework.

The workshop recommended that the passage of media legislation be expedited to create an adequate working environment ensuring access to information as provided in the CPA and Interim Constitution of Southern Sudan. They also urged the government to lower license fees to encourage media development across the south, and to establish a training centre as well as community-based radio stations.



## Malakal JIU gets advanced first aid



From 10 to 28 November, the UNMIS Indian Contingent held a two-week refresher training course for Malakal's Joint Integrated Unit (JIU) in first aid and prevention of endemic diseases.

The goal of the Advanced Paramedic Course was to refresh and enhance participants' knowledge and skills acquired during a basic training conducted by the Indian Field Hospital last June. Some 26 soldiers attended the session, which covered treatment of burns, snake bite, prevention of malaria and HIV transmission.

During the course, Lieutenant Colonel Rajendra Kumar, Commanding Officer of the Indian Field Hospital in Malakal, donated essential medicines and dressing materials to the Malakal JIU Military Hospital.

## Schools to include HIV and AIDS in curriculum

A new curriculum for northern Sudanese schools on risks from HIV and AIDS was launched at Khartoum's Friendship Hall on 14 January, as part of efforts to improve knowledge of the virus among young people.

The curriculum, developed by the Ministry of General Education with support from the Sudan National AIDS Control Programme (SNAP) and UNICEF, aims to reduce risks from HIV and AIDS among adolescents. Some 2.5 million children from 10 to 18 years of age in primary and secondary schools of the 15 states of North Sudan will benefit from the curriculum.

The curriculum design was funded by the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the UN Development Programme and UNICEF.

## UNMIS demolishes final UXOs in Malakal

The last stockpile of Unexploded Ordnance (UXOs) located in the Joint Integrated Unit (JIU) garrison in Malakal was destroyed on 18 December by UNMIS military.

The explosive stockpile consisted of 550 mines, 230 grenades, 1,700 mortars, 725 rockets and 7,000 artillery shells, in addition to more than 12,000 kilograms of small arms ammunition. The explosives were demolished by the Malakal-based UNMIS Cambodian demining company in coordination with the UN Mine Action Office.

## UNVs clean up Kadugli market



The Southern Kordofan UN Volunteer (UNV) group mobilized local people in a clean-up campaign for International Volunteer Day on 31 December (celebrated elsewhere on 5 December).

The half dozen UNVs handed out 80 rakes to residents eager to join in community work and clean up Kadugli market. Sudanese volunteers drove two dump-trucks picking up rubbish that the international and local volunteers had collected.

The community project "made the locals aware that there is more to the UN than the uniformed version, which they are more used to", said UNV Derek O'Rourke, who participated in the event. "It was heartening for us volunteers to see locals join in, from old women to young boys," he added.



