



July 2009

United Nations Mission

In SUDAN

BLACK GOLD

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DIARY

- **16 June:** Armed gunmen attacked a convoy of 27 boats carrying UN food aid to 19,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) in Akobo County. World Food Programme Country Director Kenro Oshidari warned that a recent increase in inter-tribal fighting in Southern Sudan could derail recovery and rebuilding efforts.
- **18 June:** Adriaan Verheul, Chief of the Integrated UN DDR Unit, noted at a Khartoum press conference that more than 5,000 soldiers had gone through the disarmament and demobilization process launched in February, out of the 180,000 caseload to be given the opportunity of becoming civilians.
- **18 June:** The Geneva-based UN Human Rights Council established a one-year mandate for an independent human rights expert in Sudan, replacing the Special Rapporteur on human rights. The Council also called on the Government of National Unity to intensify its efforts in promoting and protecting human rights across Sudan.
- **23 June:** The Forum for the Supporters of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) concluded in Washington, D.C., with participants recommitting themselves to the agreement. The meeting was attended by the two parties as well as representatives of UNMIS and other organizations, who underlined the parties' responsibility to fulfill their obligations under the CPA.
- **25 June:** The latest round of African Union Panel on Darfur (AUPD) public hearings examining the origins of the ongoing Darfur conflict concluded. Over the 10-day session, the AUPD listened to Sudanese political parties, civil society representatives, rebel movements, Arab nomads, tribal leaders and IDPs in Khartoum and across Darfur, with the aim of advancing the peace process.
- **2 July:** The National Elections Commission (NEC) postponed the elections to April 2010. UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sudan Ashraf Qazi said UNMIS was ready to assist the NEC to deliver transparent, free and fair elections.
- **3 July:** African Union leaders voted to halt co-operation with the International Criminal Court over its decision to charge President Omar Al-Bashir with war crimes. Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Ali Al-Sadiq said that Mr. Al-Bashir was free to travel to any African country without fear of arrest, while Darfur rebels and human rights organizations condemned the decision.
- **3 July:** The Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) rejected the 2008 population census results as bases for allocating wealth and power sharing, after the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly refused to accept them the previous week. Responding to the GoSS cabinet's letter requesting the results not be used, the NEC said the Presidency had approved them.
- **6 July:** Following the kidnapping of two staff members -- an Irish and Ugandan -- of the international non-governmental organization GOAL on 3 July in Kutum, North Darfur, a delegation of Irish and Ugandan representatives arrived in El Fasher in an effort to secure their release.
- **7 July:** SRSG Qazi paid a one-day visit to Abyei where he met with the local administration to discuss issues pertaining to implementation of the CPA and the Abyei Road Map. He urged the parties to assure communities, in anticipation of the Permanent Court of Arbitration's decision on Abyei.



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InSUDAN

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Editor-in-Chief: Khaled Mansour

Managing Editor: Catherine Waugh

Associate Editor: Joseph Contreras

Assistant Editor: Eszter Farkas

Design: Sezar Amin

For comments and suggestions contact
unmis-insudan@un.org

FRONT COVER: Oil well and pumping station at Al Regad oil field north of Bentiu. Photo: UNMIS/Tim McKulka

BACK COVER: CNPC petrol station, Khartoum. Photo: UNMIS/Tim McKulka

A TALE OF TWO CITIES

Petrol stations abound in Juba, while Wau struggles with only one

When the government of Western Bahr El Ghazal State banned the roadside sale of petrol last May, motorists in the state capital of Wau were left with two remaining sources of supply -- the city's lone petrol station or a handful of fuel vendors still doing business in Lokoloko market.

The existence of only one petrol station to serve the rapidly growing city of about 75,000 people baffles some local residents.

The largest city in the greater Bahr El Ghazal region, one of the more conspicuous examples of Wau's development since the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2005 is the recently completed four-kilometer-long stretch of asphalt road.

"The only fuel station in town is always overwhelmed by the insatiable demand for the commodity," complained fuel vendor Kherrmis William Majak. "(This) poses a challenge to small-scale oil dealers, vehicle and motorcycle owners and general users."

State governor Gen. Mark Nyipuocho justified the prohibition of curbside fuel sales on grounds of safety, but some motorists mentioned other problems often associated with petrol bought from self-employed dealers.

"When you buy from roadside dealers, you are not sure of its quality," said



Oil dealers getting supplies at Lokoloko market, Wau. Photo: UNMIS/ Emmanuel Kackoul

motorcyclist Tom Esamillaa. "The unit of measurement is sometimes not so accurate, and it is expensive."

Stations too close to residents

For some residents of Juba, the regional capital of Southern Sudan has a diametrically opposite problem -- too many petrol stations located in or near residential areas of the city.

In the Kuwait Estates district on Juba's western outskirts, two petrol stations are currently operating in the vicinity of hundreds of residents and a Seventh Day Adventist church.

Three more

stations are open for business along the Ministries Road within a stone's throw of a bank, hotel and primary school.

"Fuel stations, especially those dealing in petrol and gasoil, should be located in an area where fire fighters are within reach and residential housing is far away," said Juba resident Mogga James. "But for Juba, one just installs (stations) without taking our lives into consideration."

The sometimes haphazard approach to urban planning in a

boomtown like Juba can be seen in the ruins of three filling stations lining one of the city's main arteries.

At the height of demolition operations in the southern Sudanese capital last March, wrecking crews from Central Equatoria State government were dispatched to buckle the pump island pillars of the stations, which apparently were deemed to be located too close to Juba International Airport.

The recent removal of a petrol station in Munuki *payam* along Juba -Terekeka road was welcomed by many people living near the business. The dangers posed by the retail fuel industry were brought home to one of Munuki's residents when she was living in Uganda during Sudan's long civil war.

"There was a petrol tanker that overturned near Nakivubo Stadium in Kampala, and a smoker who was passing by set the whole area ablaze and several



Closed and destroyed petrol stations in Juba after they were deemed unsafe to operate. Photos: UNMIS/Tim McKulka

people died," said Tamara Ide. "These people are playing with fire."

But such warnings seemingly have not reached the ears of the young men who position themselves opposite Juba's resort hotels on weekday mornings, waiting for a customer in need of the highly flammable, pinkish liquid they have poured into ribbed plastic water bottles. ■

Emmanuel Kackoul and Felix Waya Leju

A growing industry

Khartoum Refinery Company (KRC) is an impressive industrial complex 70 kilometres north of Khartoum. KRC refines 100,000 barrels per day (BpD), while a second Sudanese facility in Port Sudan has a capacity of about 24,000 BpD.

KRC, which lies on the east bank of the Nile, is owned by China National Petroleum Corporation and the Government of Sudan. An 8-member board divided equally between the two sides runs the KRC.

In addition to diesel, KRC provides the local market with kerosene, benzene, and cooking gas as well as other by-products. Some of the benzene is exported. The expansion of the refinery is meant to increase KRC's diesel-producing capacity to provide for the full needs of the local market.

Hundreds of Sudanese engineers, technicians and other professionals work for KRC. The refinery has a hospital, power plant, water treatment plant and an impressive forestation project in an otherwise arid area.

BLACK GOLD

Once a month, 10 men file into a conference room in a two-story villa overlooking the waters of the Blue Nile in Khartoum to sift the latest financial data of Sudan's most important industry.

Drawn from key government ministries in Khartoum and Juba, the participants sit on the Technical Committee for Oil Revenue Sharing. Although their monthly meetings are held without fanfare or publicity, they are among the most important parleys that bring together officials of the Government of National Unity (GoNU), led by President Omar al-Bashir, and the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS), headed by First Vice-President Salva Kiir Mayardit.

Established by presidential decree in February 2006, the committee is charged with the weighty task of apportioning the country's monthly oil income in accordance with the wealth-sharing provisions of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA).

Under the agreement, net revenues derived from oil wells operating in the 10 southern states are to be equally divided between the GoNU and GoSS after two per cent of the total income has been earmarked for individual states where rigs are located.

That sounds straightforward enough. Yet from the time that oil revenue sharing began four years ago, the process has been dogged by suspicion, public rows and the unresolved status of the oil-rich Abyei area.

Black gold, which the country began exporting in 1999, is big business for the Republic of Sudan. In recent years, the industry has consistently accounted for over 90

per cent of Sudan's total export income.

Current production levels hover in the vicinity of 450,000 barrels per day, making Sudan the sixth biggest oil producer in Africa.

Oil ups and downs

After hitting a five-year low last February, world oil prices climbed steadily throughout the second quarter of 2009 to peak at \$73 a barrel by the end of June. However, a spate of grim unemployment figures in the United States and Western Europe as well as mounting evidence that Americans are cutting way back on their summer holiday driving this year drove crude prices down to the \$60-a-barrel level during the initial days of July. Some industry analysts expect the downward trend to continue at a moderate pace in the coming weeks.

The industry is of even greater importance to Southern Sudan, where approximately 80 per cent of the country's producing oil fields are located.

The money accruing to the GoSS under the CPA's wealth-sharing provisions represents 98 per cent of the regional government's entire revenue base. By the end of last year, an estimated \$6.9 billion in oil monies had been transferred to the GoSS through its central bank, the Bank of Southern Sudan.

But as the new year dawned, the GoSS was still owed approximately \$265 million in delayed revenue payments. Most of that sum has been since paid out. As of early June, Khartoum owed less than \$7 million in arrears to the Juba-based regional government.

Ongoing disagreements over the allocation of oil revenues were among grievances cited by the Sudan People's Liberation Movement when it formally suspended its participation in the GoNU during most of the fourth quarter of 2007.

An Oil Revenue Stabilization Fund that was supposed to build up a cash reserve during periods of high market prices has been drained dry by both CPA signatories.

A new bone of contention surfaced at the start of this year when the GoNU began unilaterally deducting seven-figure sums from the GoSS' monthly share of oil income to cover expenses related to preparations for the 2010 national elections.

A total of \$52 million was subtracted for that purpose from the GoSS' cut of oil income during the first four months of this year, before the practice was ended by mutual agreement, said Yousif Ramadan, head of the petroleum unit of the GoSS Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning and one of five GoSS members of the technical committee on revenue sharing.

An accountant by training who has served as the GoSS' eyes and ears on oil revenue matters since he joined the regional government at the end of 2005, Mr. Ramadan hailed the committee as one of the most successful examples of north-south cooperation and described its proceedings as "transparent".

But others are not so sure. A dossier published by the European Coalition on Oil in Sudan (ECOS) in April 2008 questioned the inherent fairness of the oil revenue sharing mechanism.

"The production figures that the Government (of National Unity) gives

Petronas oil company headquarters, Khartoum.
Photo: UNMIS/Tim McKulka



cannot be verified," asserted the report. "There is suspicion that real production figures are higher."

An outside expert who was brought in to advise both CPA parties on the country's oil industry disagrees with the ECOS skepticism.

"There are unresolved issues related to outstanding arrears, deductions for elections, administrative costs, the Oil Revenue Stabilization Account and the revenues of the state-owned Sudapet company," said Anders Hannevik, a 25-year veteran of the international oil industry, who accepted an appointment as the Norwegian embassy's petroleum envoy in 2007.

"Still, we have no indications that the volumes that are being reported are incorrect and are not being allocated in a correct and fair way," Mr. Hannevik said.

According to the petroleum envoy, employees of the GoSS Ministry of Energy and Mining have been physically deployed recently at the functioning oil wells in Southern Sudan for training and to assist in verifying production figures supplied by the GoNU.

He said the biggest outstanding issue dividing the CPA partners is the sharing of oil revenue coming out of Abyei, the historic cradle of Sudan's oil industry, whose contested borders will be addressed by the Permanent Court of Arbitration in a ruling scheduled for this month.

During the first three years of the CPA interim period, the government in Khartoum kept all of the oil revenue coming out of Abyei, on the grounds that it had yet to reach a consensus with its southern counterpart on the area's borders.

Revenue sharing was formally introduced with the signing of the Abyei Road Map Agreement in June of last year. But by that point, the amount of oil income generated by Abyei that had poured into Khartoum's coffers stood at well over \$2 billion.

Also, under the terms of the road map agreement, Khartoum pledged to deposit half of its share of Abyei oil revenue into a Unity Support Fund that is intended to promote economic development throughout the north-south border areas. The GoSS agreed to donate one-quarter Abyei oil income to the same fund.

The GoSS has paid its share, which is automatically subtracted from its monthly transfer of oil revenue, said Mr. Hannevik. But the GoNU, he added, has yet to deposit any of the \$130 million it is supposed to have contributed to the fund by now.

The upcoming ruling by the Permanent Court of Arbitration on the long-running Abyei border dispute could have significant implications for the final disposition of oil income originating in the area that has been collected by the GoNU thus far.

But regardless of how the judicial process plays out in The Hague this month, there are strong indications that Sudan's oil industry may have peaked and is about to enter a period of steadily declining production.

Optimistic production forecasts in excess of 600,000 barrels per day in 2009 have failed to pan out. The ECOS dossier on the industry foresees a steady decrease to daily levels of approximately 300,000

barrels of crude by 2016.

None of the six holes drilled in the once promising Block 5B in Unity State has yielded a single drop of oil to date. Experts warn that only the discovery of a new field of truly world-class proportions could offset falling production in Abyei, which today accounts for about 15 per cent of the country's total output. ■

Joseph Contreras

Oil map provided courtesy of the European Coalition on Oil in Sudan
Website: www.ecosonline.org



Sudan launches first bio-fuel plant

Offering prospects for Sudan to increase oil exports and decrease air pollution, Kenana Sugar Company opened the country's first bio-fuel plant on 10 June in White Nile State.

The Brazilian-constructed plant, located 250 kilometres south of Khartoum near Kenana town, will produce 65 million litres of ethanol per year from molasses, a bi-product of sugar manufacturing.

The company will produce a blend of 10 per cent ethanol and 90 per cent gasoline called E10 by the end of this year, Marketing Research Officer Sara El Karib said, according to Kenana's agreement with the Ministry of Energy and Mining and the Ministry of Industry.

The rest of the manufactured ethanol will be exported, mainly to the European Union, and there are future plans for using 100 per cent ethanol for fuel.

Asked whether large-scale renewable energy production would compete with Sudan's oil industry, Ms. El Karib said bio-fuels would actually lead to increased exports of benzene no longer needed on the local market. "As we increase the percentage of blending, we increase the export of oil and decrease air pollution."

Although an environmentally friendly replacement of petrol, as it

can reduce carbon monoxide emissions by 20-30 per cent, the use of ethanol has been debated. Opponents claim that bio-fuels use up land for agriculture and could contribute to rising global food prices.

Molasses for ethanol, however, does not fall under the same category, said Ms. El Karib, because it is a bi-product of sugar production rather than a direct food source, although it could be fed to animals.

She added that Kenana, 35 per cent owned by the Sudanese government, was planning to increase ethanol production to 200 million litres in the near future. To this end, they will also step-up sugar cane farming and increase the existing land size of 168,000 acres.

As part of its development projects, including the management of hospitals and schools in the sugar factory's area, the company has started an "outgrowers project" encouraging local farmers to grow sugar cane on their land, with Kenana providing the necessary infrastructure, tools and know-how.

Eszter Farkas

LIVING ON JUBA STREETS

One of the lesser known legacies of Sudan's long civil war can be found in the streets of Juba, where hundreds and perhaps thousands of homeless children from the hinterland must fend for themselves on a daily basis.

Some left villages with their families to escape the fighting and were later separated from them, while others were orphaned by the armed conflict that killed an estimated two million people.

"We are here because we have no one to assist us," said street child Joseph Lonya. "We need food, we need clothes and we need someone to give us these."

UNICEF and some non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are now teaming up with the Central Equatoria State (CES) Ministry of Social Welfare to identify these children and send them back to their places of origin.

"We cannot establish their exact numbers, but we have many children in the streets of Juba," said Eluzai Leju, acting director general of the state government ministry. "We are working together to trace details about these children, their parents and relatives and where they came from so they can be reunited."

The Juba-based NGO Confident

Children out of Conflict (CCC) has registered over 30 homeless boys from the Eastern Equatoria counties of Kapoeta North, Kapoeta East and Kapoeta South who say they are ready to go back home.

"I am sure we have children from other counties who may need to be repatriated," said CCC Director Catherine Groenendijk, adding that UNICEF had supplied her organization with funding, clothes and other necessities for the children.

When officials determine that a family reunion might not be in the child's best interests on account of a past history of parental abuse or neglect, the youngster may be placed in an orphanage.

Another alternative is Living Water, a centre operated by the CES Ministry of Social Welfare with assistance from UNICEF, CCC and the Juba business community. It is host to 27 one-time street children who are now attending school with support from UNICEF.

"Working with the street children is challenging," noted Groenendijk. "We need to have a coordinated approach with the partners and the local authorities in addressing the issues of children in Southern Sudan if we are to succeed."

The Southern Sudan Legislative

Assembly passed a Child Act last year that spells out the roles and responsibilities of government institutions and individual adults in the areas of children's rights and protection.

One of the major challenges facing authorities is the high rate of mortality among Southern Sudanese children. To combat that UNICEF unveiled the Accelerated Child Survival Initiative (ACSI) in Eastern Equatoria State earlier this year.

The UN agency is working with the Government of Southern Sudan and other partners to implement the initiative, said UNICEF Southern Sudan Director Peter Crowley.

The ACSI will soon expand to the other nine southern states where it will deliver an integrated package of health services and products ranging from vaccinations against polio and measles to the distribution of anti-malarial mosquito nets and vitamin A supplements.

"We know what needs to be done," said Mr. Crowley. "And with just a little extra support, thousands of lives can be saved every year." ■

Emmanuel Kenyi

Children scavenge food and clothing from the Juba Municipal Garbage Dump. Photo: UNMIS/Tim McKulka



BEANS AND GREENS

Agencies helping to improve living conditions for Juba orphans

While still harsh, living conditions at Juba Orphanage have improved considerably since the days when two children died per week.

Undernourished and lacking medical care, orphans succumbed to illnesses ranging from malaria and typhoid to anemia and tuberculosis before 2000, according to orphanage supervisor Abdu Wajo.

“There is no choice of food ... we eat beans today, greens tomorrow, and back to beans the next day”

Since then, the death rate at the 65-children facility has dropped to zero, thanks to government support and assistance from international agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and businesses.

Through the Ministry of Finance, the orphanage now receives SDG 1,500 (\$625) per month. Juba traders have been supporting it for the past nine years with donations of sugar, rice, beans, biscuits, cooking oil, flour and sweets every Sunday.

UNMIS' Welfare and Counselling section has donated food as well as clothes, school uniforms, shoes, balls and toys during the Easter and Christmas seasons to orphanages in both Juba and Malakal, according to Staff Counseling Officer Jane Safary.

“Our priority is to equip the orphanages with the necessary basic materials and services to improve their living conditions,” Nebojsa Rankovic, head of Staff Counselling and Welfare Southern Region.

Conditions are still far from ideal at the Juba facility, as long-time orphanage resident Joseph Nuer was quick to point out. The 17-year-old youth is particularly distressed by the shortage of beds and monotonous, unbalanced diet.

“There is no choice of food ... we eat beans today, greens tomorrow, and back to beans the next day,” said the orphan. But he is pleased to be one of 46 children – all those who are old enough – the orphanage is sending to school, which will give him the chance of a better future.

Furthering their education, UNMIS Human Rights section has helped train 11 of the older orphans in carpentry,



Children at Juba Orphanage

construction and mechanics. The children use their new skills working freelance in the neighbourhood, earning enough pocket money to buy items like clothes and extra food.

The mission has also trained more than 40 peer helpers - of the orphans' ages or younger - who conduct regular visits to the orphanages every Easter and Christmas to interact with the children and make them feel at home.

Both UNMIS and the United Kingdom-based NGO Save Our Souls help older orphans trace relatives they could live with, said Ms. Safary. But most are unwilling to adopt them, as they themselves live hand-to-mouth and are unable to meet the children's basic needs.

The same poverty puts many of the children in the orphanage to begin with, abandoned by parents unable to feed them, noted Mr. Wajo. Others lose their parents to natural deaths or are orphaned by violent domestic disputes.

Many mothers give birth in tough

conditions without medical care and pass away after delivery, Ms. Safary said. As was the case with Joseph Nuer, whose relatives brought him to the orphanage at the age of one month after a difficult pregnancy killed his mother.

“When I grew up, I came to discover in my file that my mother died ... and that there was nowhere to be taken but the orphanage, where I could eat and drink,” Joseph said.

The extended nature of Sudanese families and the culture of polygamous marriages were a major cause of poverty and lack of family support, leading to high mortality rates for mothers, Ms. Safary noted.

As a result, some orphans arrive the same age as Joseph was, needing more care and attention in feeding, maintaining hygiene, health, and other needed assistance. ■

Story and photo: James Sokiri

ONLY ONE GUITAR

Musicians in Southern Sudan lack support to build up the industry

Budding musicians in Southern Sudan face an uphill struggle in an industry suffering a lack of funding, equipment and studios as well as stiff competition from outside performers.

A major obstacle to the southern music scene was the scarcity of funding from public or private sources, according to Joseph Lagu, president of the Juba-based Freedom Kings and Queens Music Squad, an offshoot of Freedom Boys, one of the most popular music groups in the region.

Musicians needed just a small amount to kickstart their careers, Mr. Lagu said, noting that some music groups were unregistered, as the fee of SDG 2,000 (\$840) per group was more than most could afford.

"We are very talented in music, but our talents will remain unexploited because of lack of support," said Felix Lukolo, the chairman of KK Contemporary Music Band.

Lacking money for modern instruments, many musicians were forced to use traditional ones like the harp, drums and local (guitar-shaped) *adungu*, the KK chairman said. "We are playing our music with only one guitar ... three microphones, no cameras. We have to depend on other video producers, who often charge us highly."

The music industry was also hindered by a limited number of studios, which often suffered power cuts, according to Mr. Lagu. "In this big city, there are only two studios. This forces musicians who can afford to travel to go to neighboring countries to record and produce their music."

Even when musicians had access to

a studio, recording was costly at SDG 300 (\$125) or about 250,000 Ugandan shillings per song, Mr. Lukolo said. "But 500,000 Ugandan shillings can record up to six songs in Uganda."

Stiff competition from external musicians and lack of support from the local population could also block a musician's climb to success, Mr. Lukolo said. "The negative attitude of the local population for internally produced albums grossly affects us, as the locals prefer buying foreign albums."

Mr. Lagu noted that only a few listeners turned up when local concerts were advertised, but that thousands came when external musicians like Jose Chameleon and Lucky Bismic were invited to perform.

The local population needed to be sensitized about the importance of enjoying traditional and local music and the positive impact it could have on their lives, he said.

Yei-based musician Kenyi Bam, in Juba seeking sponsorship, blamed the lack of local support on underdevelopment and spotty electricity. "The society we are in has just emerged from war. Lack of electricity is a major obstacle ... when we produce the CDs, local people never want to buy them because they have no power."



Lago Joseph of The Freedom Boys performing at Juba event

Mr. Lagu also decried the lack of local laws protecting musicians, especially during concerts. "Musicians are very often harassed by the local authorities while performing music due to a lack of recognition," he said.

As a further obstacle to southern music, cultural disagreements and tribalism erupt between the several different musical groups, unions and associations, leading to misunderstanding, disintegration, and subsequent fragmentation of groups, said Mr. Lagu.

Many musicians ended up leaving the field due to the lack of incentives to remain, the Freedom Kings president added. Only a few musicians had been able to support their performers through funding the community collects when they were called for a show.

"When we perform shows, I use the money collected to motivate my members so that they can eat and also wash their clothes," he said.

Mr. Lagu himself was helped into the industry by UN *Radio Miraya FM*, which aired some of his recordings for free after he began playing guitar in 2006.

The station has helped other musicians broadcast and also record their programmes without cost, according to

Miraya Radio Presenter Susana Abuk. And they were often invited to speak about their careers on the *Miraya* Achievers programme, which runs for an hour every week.

Despite the industry's hardships, Mr. Lagu is strongly committed to developing the music industry. "We want to achieve our goal of ensuring that our population is well-informed and entertained. We want to move forward and become like other musicians on the continent, such as the late reggae star Lucky Dube." ■

James Sokiri

Photos: Tim McKulka



Freedom Boys performing at Juba event

THE WAY CHILDREN REPORT

In Michael Kavanagh's experience, children often listen more to other children than to adults -- and he knows what he is talking about.

An award-winning multi-media journalist who cut his teeth in radio as a reporter and producer for the highly respected National Public Radio network in the United States, Mr. Kavanagh has previously worked with teenagers as a teacher and mentor on a New York City radio station's journalism programme for adolescents.

He has organized similar activities for young people in foreign countries. Now, Mr. Kavanagh has added Sudan to the list, after holding a six-day training course in radio journalism for 10 local teenagers with the help of UNICEF and a local station in June.

"I expect the children to tell well what being a child in Sudan is like," he said. "And more children will be interested in listening to them."

The course had three objectives: to empower children by transmitting their opinions, concerns and ideas over the airwaves; teach them how to think critically about the rights of children and related issues of health and education; and prepare a group of teenagers for future work with a youth radio program, so that they could later impart their knowledge to some of their peers.

Under Mr. Kavanagh's direction, the young participants fanned out across the Southern Sudanese regional capital to interview fellow teenagers on a variety of



Malish Alfred

topics ranging from the cost of living and teenage brides to the plight of street children and the high incidence of school dropouts.

Michael Lual was touched by the predicament of a boy who had to leave school because his widowed mother could not afford to pay his fees. "It was surprising for me to hear a story just like mine," said Mr. Lual. "It's unfair when students end up without our bright futures due to a lack of (money)."

Many girls in Malish Alfred's neighbourhood have married at a very young age, so the 14-year-old student

settled on that practice as the focus for his reporting.

One of the girls who spoke to Mr. Alfred tied the knot before her sixteenth birthday. Stella Steven's husband then abandoned her when she became pregnant, and after giving birth she moved back in with her father.

"Everything about my marriage was distressing," she told Mr. Alfred. "But the delivery was the most painful."

The precarious existence of Juba's street kids saddened Keji Manas. They told her how they begged passersby for money and scavenged garbage bins in search of food.

The only aspect of their lives that Ms. Manas found reassuring was the solidarity they showed towards each other. "They share what they get even though it is very little," she said.

The youngsters enjoyed the training course. Keji Manas and Michael Lual drew on their reporting to urge government officials in Southern Sudan to alleviate living conditions of street kids and allow poor teenagers to be exempted from school fees if they wish to pursue their studies.

Juba Radio co-sponsored the training course and aired the participants' first segments on 16 June, the International Day of the African Child.

The station's programme producer Sworo Charles Elisha worked with the trainees and saw some promising broadcasting talent. "They definitely will be of great help in producing children's programmes," he said. ■

Story and photos: Negus Hadera

"I expect the children to tell well what being a child in Sudan is like"



Malish Alfred

A SPECIAL



Svetlana Pencheva

During the three years she spent as UNMIS Civil Affairs Team Leader in Ed Damazin, Svetlana Pencheva witnessed the peaceful coexistence of Sudanese tribes in Blue Nile State. Now serving as Officer-in-Charge in Ed Damazin, Ms. Pencheva spoke with *In Sudan* about remaining challenges to the peace process.

In Sudan: What was your first impression of Damazin?

Svetlana Pencheva: When I arrived in Damazin on 6 August 2006, the place seemed rather modest, with only basic infrastructure and a few solid buildings. But the local people and my colleagues were quite friendly. I attended the one year anniversary of John Garang's death that day, meeting the Governor of Blue Nile State and other members of the cabinet for the first time.

What have been the main successes in Blue Nile State since the CPA?

Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan states were assigned a special section under Chapter V of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), also called the Naivasha Protocol.

The main provisions of the protocol have been fulfilled in Blue Nile, including establishment of the state government. The government comprises the governor, state council of ministers and local governments, with 55 National Congress Party (NCP) and 45 Sudan Peoples' Liberation

Movement (SPLM) representatives, alongside the state legislature, state courts and the state Assessment and Evaluation Commission (AEC).

The AEC needs to be strengthened, as it is an important CPA institution with its operation related to popular consultation [a democratic mechanism to determine how people of Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan view the CPA, to be held after the 2010 elections]. Even though good cooperation exists in Blue Nile State between the NCP and SPLM, they have a diverse understanding of popular consultation. This should be synchronized, keeping provisions of the CPA and Naivasha Protocol in mind.

What do you see as the area's main challenges?

The Naivasha Protocol also specifies national wealth sharing, which has not been achieved yet. In addition, much more development is needed in the state's localities to address basic needs, including schools, health centres, water, sanitation and road construction.

Another big challenge is that redeployment of the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Army (SPLA) in the area of Kurmuk and Baw has not yet been completed. This affects the development of some localities like Kurmuk, which has not been integrated into the state like other localities. The town's civil administration has not been fully established and the state has failed to support health, education and other development projects, leading to resentment by the population.

There are also concerns regarding the Joint Integrated Units (JIUs) in Blue Nile, which face various logistical problems, including a lack of vehicles, food, water, medical facilities and medicine. They need regular financial assistance from the federal government to become operational.

In addition to the pending issues of border demarcation and completion of SPLA redeployment, the State Land Commission needs to be established to address unresolved property disputes related to land use and housing of displaced populations.

How is the DDR process going in Damazin and Kurmuk?

On 10 February, UNMIS launched the Disarmament, Demobilization and

Reintegration (DDR) programme with a pilot project in Blue Nile State, which was a remarkable step in CPA implementation. We aim to demobilize approximately 5,000 soldiers in the state from both military forces, out of a total 180,000 in all of Sudan.

By the end of June, about 3,900 ex-combatants had been demobilized, including about 800 females. Some 67 per cent of the former soldiers were from the SAF/PDF (Sudan Armed Forces/Popular Defense Forces) and the rest from the SPLA.

The main challenge of DDR in Blue Nile is verification of genuine candidates, as fraud could occur by individuals wishing to acquire financial support from the programme. Also, bad roads hinder the movement of SPLA soldiers from Kurmuk to Damazin during the rainy season.

How are returnees faring in Blue Nile State?

Returnees have generally been amicably received by local tribes. Movements of returnees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) were facilitated by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) until the end of June 2009.

Some 500 IDPs, who were displaced to Khartoum during the war, returned on 23 March 2009 to Damazin and Roseires. Another successful project was the return of IDPs from the Maban tribe, 500 of whom returned to Upper Nile on 7 April 2009 with UNHCR assistance.

Being a peaceful place without major tribal hostilities or conflicts, Blue Nile is an attractive place to settle.

Have there been any main disruptions to peace in the sector?

Since the signing of the CPA, there have been no serious conflicts among tribes or between the two armed forces.

It is remarkable that more than 40 tribes have been living here together peacefully, and there have been only a few small-scale incidents between pastoralists and farmers during seasonal migration. Any tribal conflict is dealt with by the native administration and resolved peacefully.

How have any remnants of war in the area been handled?

We can still see signs of war in school

BLEND

buildings, mosques, health centres and other public buildings in Kurmuk and Geissan. International non-governmental organizations (NGOs), including the International Rescue Committee, PADCO (Planning and Development Collaborative International), and Mercy Corps have started projects in the areas of health, education, water and sanitation and local administration.

However, after the NGOs were expelled in March, some projects were halted, as the state government lacks funds to continue implementation.

UNMIS has carried out various projects around Damazin to benefit the local population. How do you think the mission is viewed?

UNMIS enjoys the sympathy of Blue Nile's population, as it has provided assistance to communities. The mission has conducted numerous awareness-raising workshops

on the CPA, basic human rights and gender issues. Three QIPs (Quick Impact Projects) have been implemented to renovate the Damazin and Kurmuk police station and rehabilitate the emergency ward of Damazin hospital.

Two other QIPs are under implementation to construct bathrooms at Blue Nile University and renovate the Training Hall in Ganees, Roseires locality.

The Pakistani contingent has regularly organized medical camps in all localities, providing treatment and medication free-of-charge. They have also assisted in repairing roads, which might be needed in cases of emergency during the rainy season.

What is your most vivid memory of Damazin?

The incredible landscape around Roseires, an area in the east along the River Nile, has left a great impression on me. Travelers have described this area as the

most beautiful place in Sudan.

The Nile valley has extreme charm, with orchards of huge and always green mango, orange, banana and grapefruit trees along the riverbank. The river offers delicious fish, although only small-scale fishing for the local market has developed so far. I believe that Roseires has great resources for developing recreation activities and becoming a powerful source for jobs and income generation in the future.

I also find that the ethnic mosaic, the variety of more than 40 tribes from many areas of Sudan living together in peace, gives the state a special blend of people. ■

Photo: Sheeza Zafar



HOME VIA KOSTI

Some 28 families – about 100 people – were waiting in June at the quiet way-station in Kosti, White Nile State, for the next barge to take them home to Southern Sudan.

Curious about their experiences, *In Sudan* spoke with some of the internally displaced persons (IDP), sheltering from the scorching heat with their few belongings under the way-station's large tents.

Adok from Kaka



Adok was sitting on the dusty floor next to a basic bed, where his elderly mother was lying. The 22-year-old man said he was taking the barge just to accompany his mother and her sister to Kaka in Upper Nile State.

The two families undertaking the journey had been living in Sennar since the 1980s, he said. Adok had been working as a driver at Kenana Sugar Factory, which offered financial security. "I want to keep on working there after taking my mother and aunt home ... my uncles are waiting for them."

Eva from Juba



Eva, 29, had been living in Khartoum for more than 15 years, selling tea.

"I have been in a tough situation," she said, struggling to support her four sons and three daughters while her husband

had been serving in the Sudan Armed Forces in Kassala.

Eva said she opted to take the three-week long journey back to Juba because she missed her family so much. "I will look

for a job very hard and take anything, be it cooking or cleaning," she said.

Aketh and Joseph from Bor



Aketh, a lady sitting on a woven mat in a colourful, smooth dress resembling silk, expected that the cruise to Bor, Jonglei State, would take two to three weeks. She was going home after living in Khartoum for more than 20 years, taking her daughter and grandchildren with her.

Aketh's son-in-law, Joseph, had been working as a technician at a telecommunications company in Sudan's capital city, on a temporary contract. "He hasn't had a paying job for three months," she explained, "so he's also returning to Bor with us."

John from Shambe

John, 47, wearing a sand-coloured t-shirt, was surrounded by two younger women, a boy about 10, and an old woman sitting on a bed. He said he had been living in Khartoum since 1983, where he studied at Comboni elementary school and then worked in a textile factory. Later, John worked at construction companies and a Khartoum hospital.

In 2005, he travelled to Shambe to visit his mother, who passed away two years ago. But he still wanted to return home with his family, his grandmother and mother-in-law. "There are no jobs here," he said. "I hope to find something when I reach home."



Story and photos: Eszter Farkas

IDP returns in 2009

Although joint north-south organized returns came to a halt in mid 2008, organized south-south returns have been taking place with financial support from the United Nations. Complementing spontaneous returns, some states and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement have also organized convoys, according to UNMIS Return, Reintegration and Recovery (RRR) Information Officer Bashir Balal.

A total of about 18,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) returned home through both organized south-south movements and state-organized returns in the first half of 2009, Mr. Balal said. In addition, more than 145,000 IDPs had returned to Southern Sudan and the Three Areas through spontaneous movements since January 2009.

Most IDPs returning south from the north pass through the Kosti way-station. Returnees are registered by the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), which also provides food for people in transit, and sanitation on the boat. The International Rescue Committee supplies the returnees with medication, while the World Food Programme provides three months of food rations at the returnees' final destination.

A tracking and monitoring project run by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in co-operation with ADRA keeps count of the number of returnees passing through Kosti. "The data then is analyzed by IOM and UNMIS RRR to provide relevant partners in different sectors with information and trends to assist the influx of returnees," Mr. Balal added.

The privately operated barge travels down the Nile from Kosti to Juba, stopping at Jebel Lain, Al Arrak, Malakal, Shambe and Bor. The trip commences when about 400-500 people gather at the way-station, generally every 2-3 weeks, said ADRA Protection Officer Yassir Abbas. The fare per person is 27 Sudanese pounds to Malakal and 79 to Juba, and is free for people under 18.

FROM HOES TO OXEN

Farmers in five counties of Central and Eastern Equatoria states are throwing away their labour-intensive hoes and putting oxen to work in plowing the land.

Tilling a 1.5 *feddan* (one hectare) plot of land takes about two weeks using a hand-held hoe, while oxen do the job in only a day, according to Augustine Bullen, a senior official of the non-governmental organization (NGO) Action Africa Help International (AAHI).

The NGO has 15 farmers' groups in its programme of food and income security, which was launched in the last quarter of 2007, said Mr. Bullen. "We have distributed 30 bulls (two for each farmers' group) and 15 ox-carts to selected contract farmers, whom we train in the five counties."

The farmers in the project, sponsored by the European Commission through the Interchurch Organization for Development and Cooperation, are looking forward to bigger harvests. "I am tired of digging using a hoe and yet producing not even enough to feed my family. I will be able to cultivate large fields and produce enough for both my home and for sale," said John Sebit Diko, Lasu *Payam* (township) Agricultural Extension Officer.

The two bulls and ox-plow cost SDG 700 (\$300) each, which the farmers will pay back in three installments after they have harvested and sold their products. The animals were bought locally in Yei and



Augustine Bullen standing in ground nuts field, Yei County

Kajokeji and the ox-ploughs from a Kajokeji blacksmith workshop.

"We opted to use oxen because we feel it is cheaper to buy bulls than buying a tractor ... we can buy and distribute many bulls ... instead of buying a few tractors," Mr. Bullen said. Farmers could be trained on an ox-plow in half a day and the oxen themselves in about two weeks.

AAHI has also distributed improved seeds for crops like maize, groundnuts, upland rice, beans, cassava and vegetables. "This is to ensure that any land cultivated is planted immediately ... some farmers don't have the seeds, although

they are able to cultivate," said the agricultural coordinator.

Project recipient Moses Chandiga of Yei County noted that Southern Sudan had enough fertile land to produce sufficient food for itself as well as export. "What we have been crying out for is the power to plow the land, improved seeds and technical guidance on how to produce the goods."

People had been tilling the land with hoes individually or communally, but had failed to produce enough food, observed Yei farmer Samuel Luete. "I think the introduction of oxen in farming will change the quality and quantity of food production in Southern Sudan."

Supplementing AAHI's work, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has provided 600 ox-plows this year through the state ministries of agriculture to farmers who already owned oxen, said FAO Information Officer Edward Ogalla.

It has also distributed maize, sorghum, rice, ground nuts and seminola, along with 290,000 hoes, machetes, and sickles to 107,000 households, of which 60 per cent are returnees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) and 40 per cent local inhabitants.

The use of oxen in farming is well developed in the east African Countries of Uganda and Kenya, particularly in the Machakos area, which are currently the major suppliers of agricultural products to Southern Sudan. ■



Farmers training oxen in Lasu *payam*, Yei County

Story and photos: Emmanuel Kenyi

NAIVASHA IN WAU



(Right to left) Elizabeth Ambar and Halawia Barnaba at Naivasha site

Elizabeth Ambar and her family decided back in 1992 that the time had come to escape the ravages of Sudan's second civil war and abandon the city of Wau for the relative tranquility of Khartoum.

Life in the national capital brought a fresh set of challenges. Steady work was hard to come by for many internally displaced persons (IDPs) from Southern Sudan. The Ambars moved into the already crowded home of Elizabeth's parents to wait out the remaining years of the conflict.

The Ambar family went back to Wau in 2007, two years after the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), only to discover that their former house was in ruins. As other recently returned families were in a similar predicament, they formed an organization to lobby local officials for some vacant land where they could put down roots and construct new dwellings for themselves.

Their two years of collective efforts bore fruit in June when the government of Western Bahr El-Ghazal State formally handed over a parcel of land on the city's outskirts.

"This is our homeland and I would like to be buried here," said Elizabeth Ambar at a colourful ceremony attended by the state governor, religious leaders and representatives of UNMIS, the World Food Programme and non-governmental organizations. "We thank all those who supported us here in Wau from the time we arrived till now."

"This is our homeland and I would like to be buried here"

The returnees' new settlement is called Naivasha Village in honour of the Kenyan town northwest of Nairobi, where a number of key accords establishing the cornerstones of the CPA were negotiated and signed.

It seems an especially fitting tribute for many of the newly resettled families. "Because of Naivasha, we managed to return home," said Anna Peter Ali, a 41-year-old mother of four who spent eight years living in Egypt as a refugee during the conflict before coming back to Southern Sudan in 2007.

The families' appointed leader echoed her words. "Naivasha means a revolution for all of us," said Hellary Clawdio, Secretary General of the Naivasha Returnees Association. "It gives us our

"Naivasha means a revolution for all of us. It gives us our freedom and everything that we wanted"

freedom and everything that we wanted."

Over 2,600 IDPs have registered for land plots thus far, according to Mr. Clawdio. The demarcation of property sites has been completed, and

residents of the new village are looking forward to the installation of basic public services in the coming months.

Five boreholes equipped with pumps have been drilled by the state government's ministry of physical infrastructure to supply water to 1,000 plots of land.

"We will open roads and we have spaces for schools, health centres and other things," said ministry Director General Marcello Daniel during the inauguration festivities. "We will send our team to Naivasha to help the IDPs construct their houses."

State Governor Gen. Marko Nyipouch Ubong promised to support the families and encouraged them to build a community worthy of their chosen name.

"Now it is your turn to build it and make it like the Naivasha where (provisions of) the CPA were signed," he said.

If their enthusiasm is anything to go by, the founding residents of Naivasha Village see a bright future for themselves and their families.

"Today we are going to have a plot where we can now settle," said Halawia

Barnaba, a 55-year-old native of Wau who was living in the Southern Sudanese city of Malakal with her husband when civil war erupted in 1983 and sent her to Khartoum. "I have five children, all of them are grown up, and I am very happy to have come back to my homeland." ■

Story and photos:
Hailemichael Gebrekrstos



Gen. Marko Nyipouch Ubong cutting ribbon at Naivasha ceremony

NEWS BRIEFS

Washington forum draws attention to CPA

The recent Washington conference on Sudan's Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) had created new momentum by refocusing international attention on the accord, Special Representative of the Secretary-General Ashraf Qazi said on 30 June.

Speaking at a Khartoum press conference, Mr. Qazi said participants at the "Forum for Supporters of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement", held under the auspices of the US Department of State and led by Special Envoy Scott Gration, had acknowledged that the CPA was at the crucial final phase of its implementation.

Delegates from international organizations and donor countries stressed the urgency of addressing outstanding issues, including disagreements over the census results, acceptance of the forthcoming Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) decision on Abyei's boundaries and accelerating border demarcation.

Participants also emphasized the need to maintain momentum for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration as well as measures to ensure the 2011 referendum was peaceful and post referendum stability guaranteed, regardless of the outcome.

Questioned whether UNMIS would take action to curb any violence in Abyei following the PCA decision, Mr. Qazi said the mission would support local authorities in maintaining peace. "However, this is the primary responsibility of the Government of National Unity and ... of the two national forces – the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Army (SPLA)."

Southern Sudan could face food crisis

Tribal conflicts and failing rains could lead to a food crisis in Southern Sudan this year, Regional Coordinator for Southern Sudan David Gressly said on 8 July.

The areas of main concern were Northern Bahr El-Ghazal, Jonglei, Eastern Equatoria and Upper Nile states, Mr. Gressly told journalists in Khartoum. "Insecurity may be one of the factors that had inhibited some crop production. I think the larger factor may simply be the weather."

An assessment was being launched by the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) in the four worst-affected states to determine the severity of the crisis, the regional coordinator said, adding that UNMIS had already airlifted nearly 150 metric tonnes of basic food supplies to Akobo in Jonglei State.

Addressing ongoing tribal conflicts, Mr. Gressly said an estimated 1,000 people had died since the beginning of the year, although UNMIS was unable to verify figures independently. He added that opening two temporary UNMIS operating bases in May in Akobo and Pibor, Jonglei State, had helped to avert renewed violence.

UNMIS had also been providing logistical support to the GoSS so that it could reach communities where security was fragile, the regional coordinator said.

"This is a very young government (...) at a very early stage in its own ability to reach all these communities to provide security," he said. "Often the only way they can get (to the communities at risk) is by our assistance."

Besides logistical support, UNMIS trained 250 Southern Sudanese prosecutors and legal advisors last year, and planned 225 training courses for members of the Southern Sudan Police Service for the next 12 months, Mr. Gressly said.

World Refugee Day celebrated in Khartoum



Honouring some 42 million refugees scattered around the globe, World Refugee Day was celebrated at Khartoum's National Museum on 20 June with exhibitions of photos and handicrafts as well as a performance by children.

UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) official Sunil Thapa praised Sudan for accepting about 280,000 refugees, including 185,000 from Eritrea and 16,500 from neighbouring Ethiopia, despite enormous challenges and shortages facing its own citizens.

He announced plans by UNHCR to launch a self-reliance programme in eastern Sudan later this year. The programme was designed to address livelihood problems and improve economic prospects "so that refugees living in the camps can sustain themselves and don't need to seek external assistance".

Under the theme "Real people, real needs", the event featured a photo exhibition of refugees in Sudan, a video message from UN High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres, speeches by representatives of UNHCR and the Sudanese government agency Commissioner for Refugees as well as a theatrical performance by Ethiopian and Eritrean children.

DDR moving forward, says UN official

Progress was being made in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) of Sudan Armed Forces and Sudan Peoples Liberation Army soldiers, a top UNMIS official reported on 18 June.

More than 5,000 soldiers had now gone through the demobilization process, which was launched in February, Adriaan Verheul, Chief of the Integrated UN DDR Unit, told a news conference in Khartoum.

"Some 180,000 members of the armed forces and women who have helped the armed forces will be given the possibility to make a living as a civilian. Any child soldiers will be reunited with their families," the DDR chief said.

The goal of reintegrating soldiers was two-fold, noted Mr. Verheul. One was to give people an exit from military life with a degree of dignity, and the other to contribute to stability, which would help generate greater trust and provide the foundation for peace and development.



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