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United Nations Mission

# In SUDAN

*Marks our identity*

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**FRONT COVER:** Member of Murle tribe.  
 Southern Sudan. Photo: UNMIS/Tim McKulka.  
**BACK COVER:** FIFA World Cup poster. Photo:  
 FIFA.

# Diary

**14 June:** Speaking to the Security Council, Special Representative to the Secretary-General (SRSG) Haile Menkerios urged the international community to take a more active role in promoting democracy in Sudan after April's national elections, particularly ahead of next year's referendum. Joint Special Representative of the African Union-UN Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) Ibrahim Gambari called for support in ensuring a ceasefire in Darfur, where almost 450 people died in May alone.

**15 June:** A re-run of the population census scheduled to end on 30 June kicked off across Southern Kordofan State. The two partners to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) agreed on the exercise before the national elections, so that state executive and legislative elections could be conducted in the state at a later date.

**16 June:** Rebel leaders Abdallah Banda Abakaer Nourain and Saleh Mohammed Jerbo Jamus, accused of the September 2007 South Darfur attack that resulted in the death of 12 peacekeepers, arrived voluntarily at the International Criminal Court (ICC). With their appearance, all suspects to be prosecuted in connection with the attacks on Haskanita camp have appeared in front of the ICC.

**16 June:** UNMIS congratulated the CPA partners on forming a new government and called for "credible referenda" in Southern Sudan and Abyei, slated for January 2011, as well as popular consultations to be carried out in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states.

**21 June:** Three blue helmets were killed and a fourth seriously wounded when some 20 assailants opened fire on Rwandan UNAMID soldiers as they were providing security to civilian engineers working near the West Darfur village of Nertiti. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, later joined by the UN Security Council, deplored the attack which brought the number of peacekeepers murdered in Darfur to 27.

**22 June:** After a two-day meeting, the CPA partners signed a Memorandum of Understanding on a road map for post-referendum arrangements in the Ethiopian city of Mekelle. The parties agreed to form a 12-member joint team to conduct negotiations on issues like citizenship, security and natural resources.

**23 June:** Newly-appointed Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) ministers were inaugurated in Juba. GoSS President Salva Kiir Mayardit reportedly warned his cabinet against misuse of public funds, corruption and abuse of power.

**24 June:** UNAMID said it had received reports of tribal clashes in West Darfur that led to several deaths and injuries, and called on the parties involved to cease hostilities. UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Sudan Georg Charpentier expressed concern about the increasingly insecure environment there, which is "not only affecting the population but directly targets the humanitarian community".

**28 June:** The National Assembly endorsed Southern Sudan Referendum Commission members. The commission is a national body that will conduct the January 2011 referendum, when the people of Southern Sudan will confirm the country's unity or vote for secession. The next day SRSG Menkerios welcomed the endorsement in a statement and urged the CPA partners to form the long overdue Abyei referendum commission.

**29 June:** UNMIS Force Commander Maj. Gen. Moses Obi met with Lt. Gen. Ismat Abddarhman Zain El Abdeen to congratulate him on his new appointment as Sudan Armed Forces Chief of Staff and discuss the current security situation in Sudan.

**2 July:** Due to increased tension in Pibor, Jonglei State, the World Food Programme evacuated by helicopter to Juba four staff, who had returned to the area after the relocation of 10 staff at the end of May. The following day, two Sudan People's Liberation Army trucks were ambushed at Gumuruk, Jonglei State, resulting in fatalities and casualties, some of whom the UN medically evacuated to Juba by helicopter on humanitarian grounds.

# Trumpets, drums and copper sheets

**A**s a part-time English-language newscaster for South Sudan Radio at its studios in the city of Wau, Emmanuel Ujang is thoroughly acquainted with the scope and penetration of modern mass media.

But the 26-year-old native of Western Bahr El Ghazal State hasn't forgotten how neighbours in his rural village get their news.

"When I beat the drum three times, it indicates that a woman has died," said Mr. Ujang. "Four times indicates that a man has died."

In the absence of mobile phones and internet cafes, a loud drum can still rank as the most efficient medium of communication in much of the Sudanese hinterland where, according to Mr. Ujang, its beat can be heard as far away as seven kilometers.

In an era when hundreds of millions of people across the planet stay in touch with each other through Facebook pages, blogs and text messaging, older Sudanese can hark back to a time when rural residents primarily relied on musical instruments, messengers and even plant leaves to transmit news or give directions.

"Young men were sent as messengers carrying the messages of death, war, marriage (and) festivals to distant communities," said Philip Thomas, a teacher at the Comboni Basic School in Khartoum North.

Trumpets were used in similar fashion by Funj tribesmen in Blue Nile State to spread the word about a devastating fire or the imminent visit of outsiders to a particular locale, said Omer Issa, a Sudan Armed Forces corporal assigned to the Joint Integrated Unit in the Western Bahr Ghazal state capital of Wau.

One of the more creative tools is a square-meter sheet of copper known in Arabic as daga-alnehas, which is beaten to alert neighbours about a possible outbreak of fighting or an upcoming rite of circumcision.

The daga-alnehas is still used in much of North Sudan and even some outlying districts of Khartoum, according to Mohamed Ali Ismael, a 65-year-old native of the River Nile State village of Kabushia.

The old-fashioned handwritten



Emmanuel Ujang beating Balanda drum.

letter was once the preferred mode of communication for Christina Andrea's father when she was growing up.

"I used to take the letter to the shopkeeper as an order from my father requesting items from the shop," said Ms. Andrea, a 28-year-old policewoman in Wau.

Her parent now phones in his orders, however, and traditional modes of communication are showing signs of dying out, especially in North Sudan.

The Khartoum North pensioner Abbas Fadul said that a drum made of goat's leather known as al-noba is still used

by Sufi Muslims to invite the faithful to important events like a festival celebration during the annual Ramadan holiday.

But the advent of mobile phones has transformed the communications landscape in North Sudan, where many rural residents depended on camel- and donkey-borne couriers to convey information as recently as the 1980s.

"You find mobile phones in the hands of the youth, the elderly and women and men," noted Mr. Fadul. "(That) has made communication easy and fast." ■

Story and photo: Michael Wondi



# Unlimited.blog.com

**S**ome call them life-changing, while others say they are a much-needed avenue for self-expression.

Through "blogs" (from "web logs"), Sudanese have increasingly been exploring questions of identity and politics or sharing poetry and culinary tips.

While Sudanese online journals or blogs in English number only a handful, they cover a wide palette of this new media, affording a glimpse into the writers' minds – in this case, mainly urban, educated and internet-savvy Sudanese.

"After discovering the blogosphere and becoming deeply fascinated by its highly raw and humanizing nature, I went through a period of profound mental change," writes Drima, often quoted as the first blogger in Sudan.

Explaining on his blog *Sudanese Thinker* that he has been reworking ideas related to politics, religion and identity through blogging since 2006, Drima confesses that his worldview has turned upside down.

"Long story short, the experience of blogging literally redefined me," says Drima, whose pseudonym is a play on the word "dreamer".

Motivations for blogging vary. Author of *Still Sudan* Magdi Elgizouli started writing eight months ago because he felt there were very few media outlets in English tackling present-day issues of Sudan.

Mr. Elgizouli, who also publishes in several Arabic newspapers, writes mainly about political affairs, including the January 2011 referendum in Southern Sudan, updating his blog three times per week.

"My point is how the debate around a possible secession is developing and how the international point of view is affecting the process," said the

geneticist-turned-writer in a phone interview.

On the pages of *Still Sudan*, current events are researched and discussed, and a black-and-white photo in the header, along with the blog's title, is a constant reminder of political debate.

According to Mr. Elgizouli, the picture of the University of Khartoum and its students from the 1930s reflects "what Sudan inherited from British colonialism and what will emerge after".

By expressing thoughts on a blog, you can "avoid the nuisance of editorial policies and ... become editor-in-chief of whatever you want to write," said Mr. Elgizouli, adding that touching on sensitive issues also becomes possible.

Admitting to occasional self-censorship, Mr. Elgizouli said he knows where the red lines are and can move subtly around them, especially through satire.

Young Sudanese blogger Reem Shawkat seconds this opinion. "You can

**"After discovering the blogosphere and becoming deeply fascinated by its highly raw and humanizing nature, I went through a period of profound mental change."**

point out what's wrong but you can't openly criticize the government," she said, sitting in a Khartoum café crowded with youth.

Ms. Shawkat, who started writing her blog *Wholeheartedly Sudaniya* under the pseudonym Kizzie Shawkat three years ago, now works as a journalist for *The Citizen* newspaper, where she must abide by a set of regulations. As a blogger, she believes she can avoid them.

While she began blogging because "as a young woman, there was no real venue to speak my mind", Ms. Shawkat has no interest in being overly critical about Sudan.

"I think there are journalists and bloggers who make a career out of criticizing the government. I don't want to be that person," she said, adding that she focuses more on personal experiences.

Her blog post about Sudanese women serving time in Kober prison was born out of this idea, and was eventually published in a newspaper.

Blogs have apparently affected the media landscape and given voice to many, some writing in Arabic, offering freedom of expression on all topics.

"A considerable number of journalists and activists who face censorship and control have chosen to (...) blog," Mr. Elgizouli said, adding that issues dismissed from Sudanese papers can often be found on Arabic blogs.

As an example, Mr. Elgizouli referred to the confrontation between civilians protesting construction of the Kajbar dam and police in 2007, which was covered by blogs, including *Kajbar*. ■

Eszter Farkas



## Internet use in Sudan

Internet service in Sudan began in 1998, with Sudanet offering dial-up service. The number of internet providers has now grown to six, with companies providing broadband service.

Compared to the low internet penetration of 0.2 per cent in 2005, there are more than 3,320,000 internet users in Sudan today, or internet penetration of about 8.4 per cent, according to the National Telecommunication Corporation (NTC).

The rapid growth in internet subscribers over the past five years can be partly attributed to the expansion of mobile phone networks, as most internet providers use mobile transmitters, said NTC Technical Director Mustafa Abdelhafiz.

Most users are concentrated in big cities, especially Khartoum, while in rural areas few people have internet access, Mr. Abdelhafiz said. He added that in rural areas most organizations use VSAT (Very Small Aperture

Terminal, a satellite solution for broadband telecommunication) service, as opposed to mobile subscription.

VSAT internet users could add another million to the number of internet users, according to Canar Sales Manager Khalid Abdelmonim, which would push the number of people with internet access to about 10 per cent of the population.

# A child's minute

In a new media revolution, once war-ridden Southern Sudan is broadcasting films produced by children on the region's airwaves.

The 18 one-minute films revolve around peace and challenges southern children face, including neglect, violence and abuse in their homes, schools and communities.

Launched by *Southern Sudan Television* on 15 May, the "Peace in my World" series was shot in Juba during a five-day training session provided by the Netherlands-based One-minute Junior Film Foundation.

During the course, funded with a \$15,000 UNICEF grant, 18 aspiring videographers under the age of 14 learned preproduction planning, film and narrative techniques as well as post production.

Children videoed each other in their films so they could all learn to use a camera. "I was able to handle and film



Film training participant receiving certificate. Photo: UNICEF.

lacked exposure on TV or in newspapers and had no say about media content, noted Bismarck Swangin, UNICEF Communications Officer for the organization's Southern Sudan Area Programme.

"Children should not be regarded as viewers of readily produced programs but should be part of the content development for the media," the UNICEF officer said.

During her one-minute slot, 10-year-old primary school student Sarah Sebit stressed peace and the welcome end to fighting. "A long time ago people were killing themselves because of war, but now we have peace and nobody should kill you," she said in the film.

Eleven-year-old Sabir Gabriel focused in his episode "Never too late" on problems children face in their homes. "Some of us are taken care of by relatives and ... not treated well, but I encourage them it is not too late ... (for) their lives to change," he told *In Sudan*.

Rather than leaving home and ending up on the streets stealing to make ends meet, Sabir suggests tolerance and hard work as a better way of surviving. "I urged the parents and our government to take care of the children and create enabling environments for children to learn."

To keep children's problems in the public eye, *Southern Sudan Television* has continued engaging young people trained for the films to produce programmes for their age group.

"On special occasions like the 16 June (Day of the African Child), the children were brought to the TV to talk about issues affecting children, their expectations from their parents and government," said

programme producer Samson.

The station is also training the young people during their holidays to prepare for International Day for Children's Broadcasting, due in December, added Ms. Samson. "We are going to formulate questions and give them to the children so that they can interview top government officials during this day."

Not only has the film training benefited the children selected, but has encouraged other students to work hard and move ahead, according to Unice Barsabe Amin, headmistress of Juba Model Basic School.

"When a child does something outstanding in society, it will prompt other children to ask themselves ... why is this child better than me (and) why can't I become like him? This creates good competition among the children," the headmistress said.

Growing up in the hostile war environment in Southern Sudan, many children had no good role models to follow, including young people excelling in education, sports and drama.

Southern Sudan is the latest to join a global network of countries that have benefited from the One-Minute Junior Film Foundation with the support of UNICEF, including Uganda, Kosovo, Kenya and Malawi.

In another effort aimed at allowing children to address vital issues, UNICEF supported a programme last year to train 30 children in producing and broadcasting radio reports on current affairs via Southern Sudan Radio. ■

Emmanuel Kenyi



Sarah Sebit at her school in Juba. Photo: UNMIS/Emmanuel Kenyi.

using the video camera for the first time," said child-producer Winnie Gire.

Young people were chosen for the training from English and Arabic primary schools in Juba based on their answers to questions on a specific topic like peace, said Rejoice Tiyo Samson, programme producer for Southern Sudan TV.

Previously, children in the region

# Revamping postal services

**W**hile the internet has laid siege to postal services in many countries, the sector remains vital in Sudan, where less than 10 per cent of the population are online.

With infrastructure and a functional system in place, the capital Khartoum receives and dispatches national and international mail to different parts of the country on a regular basis.

But postal services are wanting in Southern Sudan, which has witnessed notable growth and development in other areas since the end of the civil war five years ago.

Most post offices in the south were closed during the war and many of the buildings taken over by the military, according to Ministry of Telecommunication and Postal Services Undersecretary Juma Stephen Lugga.

With the offices still in a state of disrepair due to slowness in rehabilitating the sector, the only operational, southern postal offices were in Juba, Wau and Malakal, the undersecretary said.

"The government is currently working on plans to renovate other post offices across the region," he said, but added that past efforts to fast track infrastructural development in the sector had been slow, mainly due to policy and budgetary constraints.

The Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) is currently working to open up more post offices, recently completing the first state facility in Torit. Rehabilitation of post offices in Yambio, Aweil, Rumbek, Maridi, Nassir and Bor, where infrastructure is already present, should be completed over the next few months.

The sorry state of the region's postal services persists despite a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the GoSS and Government of National Unity, stipulating that some postal services powers be transferred from the northern telecommunications ministry to the southern one.

Mr. Lugga emphasized the need to urgently finalise the MOU to ensure that delivery of mail was streamlined and fast tracked in the south.

In 2007, then GoSS Minister for Telecommunication and Postal Services Maj. Gen. Gier Chuang announced that Juba had officially become an exchange office for Southern Sudan international mail.



Juma Stephen (second from left) with postal officials at Juba Post Office. Photo: UNMIS/ Emmanuel Kenyi.

With that in place, international mail would be delivered directly to Juba, rather than first going to Khartoum, Port Sudan and Halfa, before being rerouted to Juba for distribution to in the south. But this has yet to be realized.

The largest in the south, Juba post office has 600 postal boxes, although only 300 have been rented out. Other services include letter and parcel delivery, a savings

**"During the war, most people claimed that their letters were opened and read and some intercepted by security agents."**

bank and the selling of stamps.

A new postal building currently under construction in Juba will provide another 2,000 mailboxes and the potential to handle the increased flow of international mail, should it come directly to Juba.

## Private couriers

In addition to infrastructure problems, the undersecretary noted that the south's postal sector was facing stiff competition from a growing number of private courier companies.

Another key obstacle is the negative public attitude towards southern postal services, according to the

Telecommunications Ministry Director General Francis Apayo.

"During the war, most people claimed that their letters were opened and read and some intercepted by security agents. This has resulted in a lack of confidence by the general public about the privacy of their correspondence," the director general said.

Privacy of correspondence was now guaranteed, but it would take some time to build up public confidence in the postal sector, Mr. Apayo added.

He was optimistic, however, that lack of access to most modern technology across Southern Sudan gave room for growth in the sector, even though technical advances were threatening postal services globally.

Mr. Lugga also cited lack of laws as an impediment to development of the sector. Currently, the telecommunications and postal sector is governed by 2001 and 2004 laws.

The telecommunications ministry had prepared a new bill to govern the sector, but this had yet to become law, the undersecretary said. However, he felt that legislation would be passed by the regions' new legislative assembly to enhance regulation of the sector.

According to Director General Apayo, the ministry had mounted an aggressive campaign to market its services on various radio stations. Hopefully, the initiative would go a long way in restoring public confidence. ■

Antonette Miday



# High-tech in health

**T**he health sector in Southern Sudan is going high-tech.

A \$2.2 million investment in computers, satellites and electricity generators by the Ministry of Health of the semi-autonomous Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) should go a long way towards bringing the speed and reliability of the sector's information systems into the 21st century.

Until now, some Southern Sudanese with sufficient economic resources have opted to seek medical treatment in neighbouring countries like Kenya and Uganda.

Small wonder, as some health care facilities in the region have no computers or even a working phone line to receive incoming calls from patients facing a life-threatening medical emergency.

But the acquisition of new equipment and training of 25 technicians in its use should streamline the management of information systems in state-run hospitals that until now have used old-fashioned file folders to store their patients' medical histories.

Five of the technicians will be assigned to the GoSS health ministry while the remaining 20 will be distributed among the various state capitals in the south.

"We have a data and software centre in the Juba Teaching Hospital which is intended to save the data in computers for future use," said Gatluak Tutdeal, director for information communication technology (ICT) at the GoSS health ministry.

The ministry has also equipped its major hospitals in Juba, Malakal and Wau



Entering data at Juba Teaching Hospital software centre.

with more phone lines, high-frequency

**"A lot still needs to be done by the GoSS to enhance the knowledge and efficiency of its management."**

radios and new computers.

The technological upgrade should enhance internet connectivity throughout the health sector and enable hospitals and

clinics in different cities across Southern Sudan to communicate and exchange information at the tap of a computer keyboard.

"The use of information communications technology can be the best way to obtain success in health services," said undersecretary Stephen Lugga Juma of the GoSS Ministry of Telecommunication and Postal Services.

Mr. Lugga said his ministry plans to open ICT training institutes in Juba and other cities to train all government officials who are interested in honing their technological skills.

"A lot still needs to be done by the GoSS to enhance the knowledge and efficiency of its management," he added.

Operations manager Segane Moses of the St. Luke International Medical Centre in Juba said that raising the quality of the Southern Sudanese health sector's information and management systems to world standards will take time.

But Mr. Moses said the investment of money and manpower will pay handsome dividends in the end because "retrieving information will be easy". ■

Ojja Bosco

Photos: Isaac Gideon



Compiling data at Juba Teaching Hospital software centre.

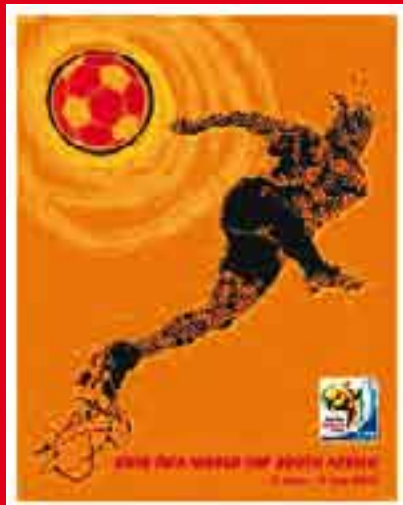


Juba residents watching opening game. Photo: Issac Gideon



# World Cup

The first-ever World Cup football tournament to be held on African soil gripped Sudanese fans from the moment the inaugural game between South Africa and Mexico kicked off in Johannesburg's Soccer City Stadium



UNMIS staff in Maridi, Southern Sudan, cheering Netherlands score first goal against Denmark on 14 June. Photo: Issac Gideon.

on 11 June. Legions of aficionados filed into neighbourhood cafes in Khartoum and bars in Juba each day to follow the action on television screens big and small.

The Big Tukul restaurant at the UNMIS compound in Juba became

a nightly hangout for devotees of The Beautiful Game, some of whom festooned the thatched ceiling of the structure with the national flags of their favorite teams.

Sudanese staff members of UNMIS joined their international colleagues from other African countries in rooting





## in Africa

for the continent's six entries from among the 32 nations that qualified for the tournament.

As the host team from South Africa and four other African squads successively crashed out during the first round of matches, it was left to Ghana to carry the hopes of an entire continent into the

knockout stage of the world's biggest sporting event. The Black Stars' stirring 2-1 defeat of the United States on 26 June sent expectations soaring from Morocco to Mozambique, as Ghana became only the third African country in the history of the World Cup to reach the quarter-final stage. But the West African nation's dreams of reaching the final four ended on 2 July as the Black Stars came up short in an end-of-match penalty shootout against Uruguay.

The historic tournament ended on a fitting note as the Red Fury of Spain beat a determined Dutch team 1-0 on 11 July to win the World Cup for the first time ever. ●



Juba residents watching Mexico score during opening.  
Photo: Issac Gideon.



Miraya radio producer blowing World Cup vuvuzela from South Africa. Photo: Issac Gideon.



**Enora Nedelec & Guillaume Combet**

# Walking Africa

**C**losely interacting with local communities along the way, Guillaume Combet and Enora Nedelec spent the past 15 months walking from Cape Town to Khartoum.

"The more you see, the more you understand how the human mind works," said Guillaume, who decided to walk from South Africa to his native France about two and a half years ago.

The 32-year-old walker said he and his travel companion were exploring human needs during the trip, which was inspired by the book series *Africa Trek*, written by a French couple who walked across the continent from 2001-2004.

"I've seen that people are the same everywhere even with (existing) cultural differences ... we are always just looking for recognition and protection. The difference is in each culture finding its own way of achieving this," Guillaume said.

The couple began walking from South Africa in February 2009. After crossing Lesotho, Mozambique, Malawi, Tanzania and Uganda, they arrived in Sudan in May 2010, where they are taking a two-month break before continuing their quest.

"It took us one year and three months to arrive in Khartoum, and after this we're going to Egypt and Israel," 22-year-old Enora said, adding that she would fly home from Jerusalem, while Guillaume continued to Jordan, Syria, Turkey and then across Europe to Paris.

"Khartoum is half-way on our trip," said Enora, which spans a total of 10,000 kilometres.

Wearing worn-out shirts and hats most of the time, they walk with few items in their backpacks -- a change of clothes,

basic toiletries, water bottles and sleeping bags -- and spend only about 1.5 euros per person a day.

The limited budget "helps a lot in having a closer relationship with people ... we are always poorer than them -- maybe not 'in real life' but on the road," Guillaume noted.

## Guns and hippos

Some of the many challenges they faced were lack of food, abundant wildlife and local attitudes.

Each of them lost about six kilograms during two months in Mozambique, eating mainly sugar with bread or oil, as there was little food accessible in rural areas.

Walking across Katavi National Park in Tanzania, they encountered a school of one of Africa's most dangerous animals, the hippopotamus.

"We were crossing a small bridge and there were hippos on both sides," Enora remembered. They were prepared for the worst, as the large and potentially aggressive animals were about a metre away, and the sun was about to set.

"We just ran across the bridge and discovered that there were some 50 hippos on one side and 30 on the other," she said. Setting the tent up about a kilometre away from the hippo pool, they lit a fire to keep animals away but it went out.

"There were a lot of noises, a tree crashing and something running very fast, probably a lion," Guillaume recalled. "It was like Jurassic Park! In the morning I was surprised we were still alive."

Another challenge they faced was the attitude of local residents, who had trouble understanding why Westerners would

choose to walk. According to the straight-talking Frenchman, refusing to drive a car made many locals suspicious of his intentions, as was the case in Southern Sudan just after national elections (in April).

While Enora took a plane from Kampala to Khartoum to avoid possible security incidents, Guillaume walked from northern Uganda to the Southern Kordofan State capital of Kadugli, finding it one of the hardest parts of the trip.

"One day (in Southern Sudan) I got arrested 14 times, so I had to walk during nighttime to avoid this. But the LRA (Ugandan Lord's Resistance Army) was also walking at night ... it was scary. I was also afraid of being attacked by animals," Guillaume confessed, adding that the constant rain made his walk even more challenging.

While sleeping on his mattress in the Abyei bush one night, he was woken up by a torchlight flashed into his face and the sound of an AK-47 being cocked.

After he got out of the mosquito net, three armed men made him kneel, tied his hands together and had him walk with them for about two hours, crossing villages, forests and a road, before they finally reached a military camp.

"At the camp near River Kiir they put a chain on my feet and while one man chained me to a tree, another asked if I wanted Coca or Sprite," Guillaume said, adding that this ironically reflected Sudanese hospitality. The next morning he was let go by the camp leader.

**"It was like Jurassic Park! In the morning I was surprised we were still alive."**



Enora getting her hair braided and skin painted with henna in North Sudan.



Guillaume meeting father of Sudanese friend in Kadugli, Southern Kordofan State.



## Sudanese welcome

Once he arrived in Kadugli, "everything became simple", said Guillaume. "There were no more fears and Enora was coming ... it was perfect."

After reuniting, the travellers experienced the warmest welcome in Galayat village according to Ms. Nedelec, where locals happily showed them how they lived.

"What we love about Sudan is that they

**"What we love about Sudan is that they are proud to be Sudanese and want us to love their country."**

are proud to be Sudanese and want us to love (their country) so they are ready to do anything for us to feel at home," said Guillaume.

They experienced Sudanese hospitality every day, including while they were crossing through the desert after Tendelti, aiming for a shortcut to Khartoum but running low on water and food.

Passing trucks often stopped to provide water without being asked, and the couple

said at times the Sudanese even offered them money.

"When we told them we don't accept money they went to the shop to get us food – it was impossible to refuse it," the Frenchman said.

Having learned much about their own characters and human nature, and with a long, dusty and hot road ahead, the walkers are planning the future. Enora wants to go to Canada to improve her English and raise money to complete her midwifery studies.

Guillaume might pursue a career in psychology and plans to "find out more about how humans work". People suffer because they lack complete freedom, he believes, but once they realize their dependence on recognition and protection, they become free. ■

Eszter Farkas

Photos: Guillaume Combet and Enore Nedelec



Walking the shortcut between Telndelti and Shabesha, White Nile State.



Washing clothes in lake near El Obeid Northern Kordofan.



Guillaume being received by locals near Tendelti, White Nile State.

You can read more about the walkers in French and English on [www.merakiste.fr](http://www.merakiste.fr), or contact them at [guillaume.combet@gmail.com](mailto:guillaume.combet@gmail.com) and [enora.nedelec@gmail.com](mailto:enora.nedelec@gmail.com).

Background photo: Between Tendelti and Shabesha, White Nile State.



# “A problem of drought”

**A**griculture is the backbone of the local economy in Eastern Equatoria State, where over 90 per cent of its population lives outside towns and cities.

But a state that once enjoyed food self-sufficiency has received disappointing levels of rainfall for the past 12 months, and serious food shortages have surfaced in several of Eastern Equatoria's eight counties.

“We have a problem of drought,” said Kamilo Patrick Oteka, director for agriculture in the Eastern Equatoria State Ministry of Agriculture. “Since last year, there has been no reliable rainfall in the state, and there was a poor harvest because we don't have artificial irrigation systems to water our crops.”

The semi-autonomous Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) has designated revival of the farming sector as a top priority throughout the region. Last year, it donated seven tractors to state authorities in Eastern Equatoria.

The international community is also stepping in to assist. The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) began distributing cereal and legume seeds to farmers at the start of this year's rainy season in conjunction with the state agriculture ministry and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) like Norwegian Church Aid and the Lutheran World Federation.

Working with community-based organizations in the state, the FAO has distributed 40 metric tons of sorghum seeds, 80 metric tons of maize seeds, 73

metric tons of ground nut seeds, 40 metric tons of bean seeds and 10 metric tons of sesame seeds.

Another 47 metric tons of maize and ground nut seeds were scheduled for delivery before the end of this year's first planting season in June.

“We want to counter the food shortage in the state by supporting the farmers with seeds and tools so they are able to produce enough food for themselves and for sale,” said Mr. Oteka.

On 17 May, the United States Agency for International Development and the GoSS jointly launched a new initiative called Food Agribusiness and Rural Markets (FARM).

The five-year, \$55 million programme seeks to boost food production and trade by linking areas of potentially high agricultural output to fast-growing urban markets through the improvement and expansion of existing road networks in Southern Sudan.

The FARM programme will initially target selected counties in the greenbelt zone of Southern Sudan, which stretches across the three Equatoria states.

## Challenges

The Eastern Equatoria counties hardest hit by shortages include onetime food producers like Budi, Ikotos and Magwi.

State officials worked closely with NGOs last year to obtain emergency food supplies and import food from neighbouring Uganda and Kenya to avoid a

potential humanitarian disaster in parts of the Eastern Equatoria countryside.

A report issued by the Southern Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission last March warned that persistent food insecurity could spur cattle rustling raids between various ethnic groups in Budi County and the adjacent counties of Ikotos, Kapoeta North and Kapoeta South, as they try to stave off widespread hunger among their people.

Drought conditions that plagued so much of Eastern Equatoria in 2009 show no signs of ending. Seeds distributed by government officials to Peter Jamus earlier this year have already dried up due to insufficient rainfall.

“I don't know where else to get more seeds in case it will start raining again,” said the 31-year-old farmer.

The situation has exerted a dispiriting influence on many local residents.

“I now have lost hope in farming because when you dig, you harvest nothing,” said Franco Mustafa, a 49-year-old policeman in the state capital of Torit. “It is better to sit and maybe buy food in the market.”

Low amounts of precipitation may not be the only factor hampering the regional government's efforts to revive the farming sector in Southern Sudan.

Other hindrances include inadequately trained agricultural extension officers and the continuing reliance of many small farmers on rudimentary tools that are inappropriate for large-scale farming, according to Mr. Oteka of the Eastern Equatoria agriculture ministry.

## Mine menace

Another deterrent comes in the form of land mines and unexploded ordnance that have not yet been removed from the environs of Torit, where the country's first armed conflict was ignited by a mutiny of soldiers belonging to the Equatorial Corps in 1955.

Staff members of the UN Mine Action Office located and detonated unexploded ordnance in arable land two kilometers outside Torit in early May. Farmers were told to suspend cultivation of their fields until the clearance of explosives in the area has been completed. ■

Story and photo: Emmanuel Kenyi



Maize drying up in drought, Eastern Equatoria State.

# Sports for street children

*"(By) keeping sports activities, they have no time for committing crimes that will take them to prison."*



SSYSA training. Photos: UNMIS/Isaac Gideon.

**S**port is much more than watching prodigiously talented athletes show off their skills in sold-out stadiums to the delight of a global television audience.

It is also about giving poor, disadvantaged children an alternative to the temptations of petty crime and drug abuse that abound in towns and cities throughout the world.

That was the thinking behind formation of the Southern Sudan Youth Sports Association (SSYSA) in 2007. The Juba-based organization has brought together over 500 street children and disadvantaged youth to play games at four recreational centres in the Southern Sudanese capital.

"Our target is to transform their lives positively (and) make them build their

career aspirations," said SSYSA Chairperson Geoffrey Kasudi. "(By) keeping them busy in sports activities, they have no time for committing crimes that will take them to prison."

The association organized its first football tournament in the Juba district of Konyo-Konyo last April, with 280 youths under the age of 16 taking part.

A second competition is scheduled to take place on 20 July.

SSYSA has received support from the non-governmental organization Save the Children and the French Consulate in Juba.

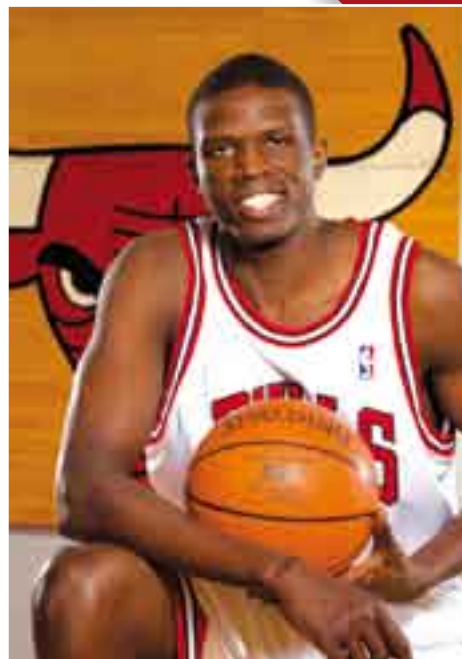
"Reintegrating street children into normal lives is a collective responsibility," said French consular official Pierre Jaubert. "If we fight poverty through empowerment and the provision of basic services, the cases of street children will decline."

That will take time, however. Any first-time visitor to Juba is struck by the numbers of homeless street kids who roam the city's alleys and markets in search of food scraps or spare change.

The SSYSA provides some teaching and counselling services to children under the age of 10, but lacks the resources needed to offer shelter and food to children who participate in the association's sports activities.

Its officials hope that the heavy emphasis on football matches to date will give way to a more diverse diet of sports over time.

"We are planning to introduce different



Luol Deng.  
Photo: [www.nationalbasketballblogassociation.com](http://www.nationalbasketballblogassociation.com)

types of games next year, such as athletics, volleyball, netball and basketball, if we get more support and funds," said SSYSA Deputy Chairperson Moses Lomoro.

Basketball is the sport where Sudanese have shone most brightly on the international stage. Some of SSYSA's charges may dream of walking one day in the footsteps of their countrymen Luol Deng and the late Manute Bol, who succumbed to complications from a kidney disease at the age of 47 last month.

Deng Leek of the Southern Sudan Basketball Association says that over 60 children from various parts of the region are now attending basketball training camps in Juba. ■

Ojja Bosco

SSYSA training. Photos: UNMIS/Isaac Gideon.







George Ghines may not look particularly Sudanese to a foreign visitor. But the 43-year-old restaurateur is a native son of Juba whose Greek-born great uncles first came to the country in the late nineteenth century. He was 13 years old when his family moved from the regional capital of Southern Sudan to Khartoum in 1979. His university studies and career as a jet-setting marketing executive for the likes of Coca-Cola, Heineken and Ericsson then took him to Greece, Cyprus, Yemen, Palestine and Morocco.

Mr. Ghines ended his 26-year odyssey in January 2005 when he took the bold decision to come back to Juba, where he landed 13 days after the signing of Sudan's Comprehensive Peace Agreement. He opened the Notos Lounge and Grille near the banks of the River Nile last January. Mr. Ghines spoke to *In Sudan* about his family's long engagement with the country, his reasons for returning to his hometown and how Juba has changed over the decades.

### ***In Sudan: When did your ancestors first come to Sudan?***

**George Ghines:** There were two brothers, Kosmas and Dimitris Karanicholas, who moved to Sudan at a very young age in the 1890s. The younger one, Dimitris, got employed by the British railways and worked in Medani (Gezira state). Kosmas

# The 146th tribe of Sudan

settled in Nzara (what is now Western Equatoria state), trading in timber, ivory and other products of the forest. They were the brothers of my grandmother Calliope Ghines.



### **How did your father come to Sudan?**

Calliope's eldest child was my father, Nicholas, born in Greece in 1919. As a teenager, he was studying and doing some small farming jobs when his uncle Dimitris Karanicholas sent him an invitation to come to Sudan in 1938.

### **Where did your father go?**

He went to Medani and worked at a retail shop. There was a very flourishing Greek community in Medani at the time with a population of 12,000, and most of the retail shops were actually held by the Greeks. He stayed there up to the outbreak of the Second World War. When the Germans invaded Greece in April 1941, the British asked the Greeks to form a regiment, which was mostly formed by the Greeks of Sudan. So my father got recruited in Sudan, and he fought (in the battles) at El Alamein, Tobruk and Rimini.

### **How did he end up in Juba?**

He resigned from the army immediately after the Second World War. He went to Medani to go back to his old job at the retail store, then he went to Gedaref and got a job in another retail shop. Then in 1947 he made a decision to move south and look for better opportunities. He had a plan to go to Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi because those (colonies) were developing very fast. On the way, he stopped off in Juba.

### **And never left?**

My father had a friend here called Kostis Yiamanis, who invited him to go out on a safari on the next day, which was a Sunday. My father went out and was amazed by the wildlife of Sudan. South Sudan started to grow on him, so much so that he abandoned his plans and established himself in Juba. That was where the love affair between my father and safaris started.

### **What became of that love affair?**

My father was a transport contractor until the 1970s and built up his fleet to 20 trucks. He had other businesses – a bakery opposite the old mosque, two Shell filling stations, retail shops in Nzara, Yambio and Maridi -- but I remember him saying that he used to hunt buffalo that came up to what is now Customs Market in Juba in the 1960s. In 1972 he established Nile Safaris, a very successful company worldwide when it came to hunting safaris.

### **What do you remember about Juba as a boy growing up there?**

I know it's hard to describe this to people who are visiting Juba today, but it was a clean, very well organized city, and there were services. If you wanted to make a phone call, you would just lift the handset and after a few seconds someone would reply and say, "Give me the number that you want to call." The telephone numbers in Juba were two digits, and our number was 45. Our post office box was also two digits, 13. If you wanted to send a telegram, you just called and an employee of the post office would come on his bicycle in a very clean uniform and a hat. You'd give him a piece of paper, and after half an hour your telegram was sent.

### **Was there a big Greek community in Juba back then?**

Around 3,000 people.

It is said that the Paradise Hotel used to be the Greek club of Juba.

There was another club at the time. The Paradise Hotel was not here in 1947, it was built in the 1950s as a second Greek club. The first Greek club was opposite where the post office is today, and the Hai Jalaba area of Juba was known as the Greek Quarter in the 1950s and the 1960s.



**Why did you give up your high-flying career with a string of blue-chip multinational corporations to come back to Juba?**

I don't know if I'll ever be able to reply to that question. I had a very good salary, five-star hotels, business class travel, you know how these multinationals pamper you. Maybe I'm a true romantic, it's like going back to my roots. I get a feeling that I owe to Sudan what I am and what I have achieved. I did not bring a huge amount of money back to Sudan, but what I brought with me was my expertise and my exposure and mostly my energy and will to rebuild this city. My commitment is mostly with Juba, then Central Equatoria and then South Sudan.

**What was Juba like when you came back at the start of 2005?**

We had only five cars in Juba, no electricity, no services, no water. It was a time when we were eating just beans for three months.

**What do your immediate family members think of your decision?**

I have one sibling only, and he thinks I'm

mad. We left the same year for Khartoum (as teenagers), he's in Greece, and he doesn't see himself coming back. Most of my friends believe I'm crazy.

**On balance, has the city changed for the better or for the worse?**

Juba has definitely changed for the better. Yes, there are a lot of things that I remember from the old days that were much better than they are today. We had much less crime, we did not use to lock our doors, the outside walls were much

**I know it's hard to describe this to people who are visiting Juba today, but it was a clean, very well organized city, and there were services.**

lower. But we have our own government, and it's committed to give us the freedom as citizens to operate within Sudan without any discrimination.

**Did you vote in the country's general elections last April?**

Yes. I was in Nairobi for business, and I came back to vote (because) I would never

forgive myself if I was not here for that historic moment. For us, the voting was a celebration of democracy, and I wanted to be part of it because I'm sure that one day my children will ask me where was I during the first elections in Southern Sudan.

**Are you bullish about the future?**

I'm very optimistic. Don't forget that I have some Greek genes in my blood, and Greeks are optimistic by nature. I am very proud of my ancestry. We consider ourselves the 146th tribe of Sudan. We are the missing link of Sudan because we did not actually immigrate to the country like the Ugandans or the Kenyans or the Eritreans or the Arabs. We just migrated from the northern part of the Ottoman Empire to the southern part of the Ottoman Empire (in the 1890s).

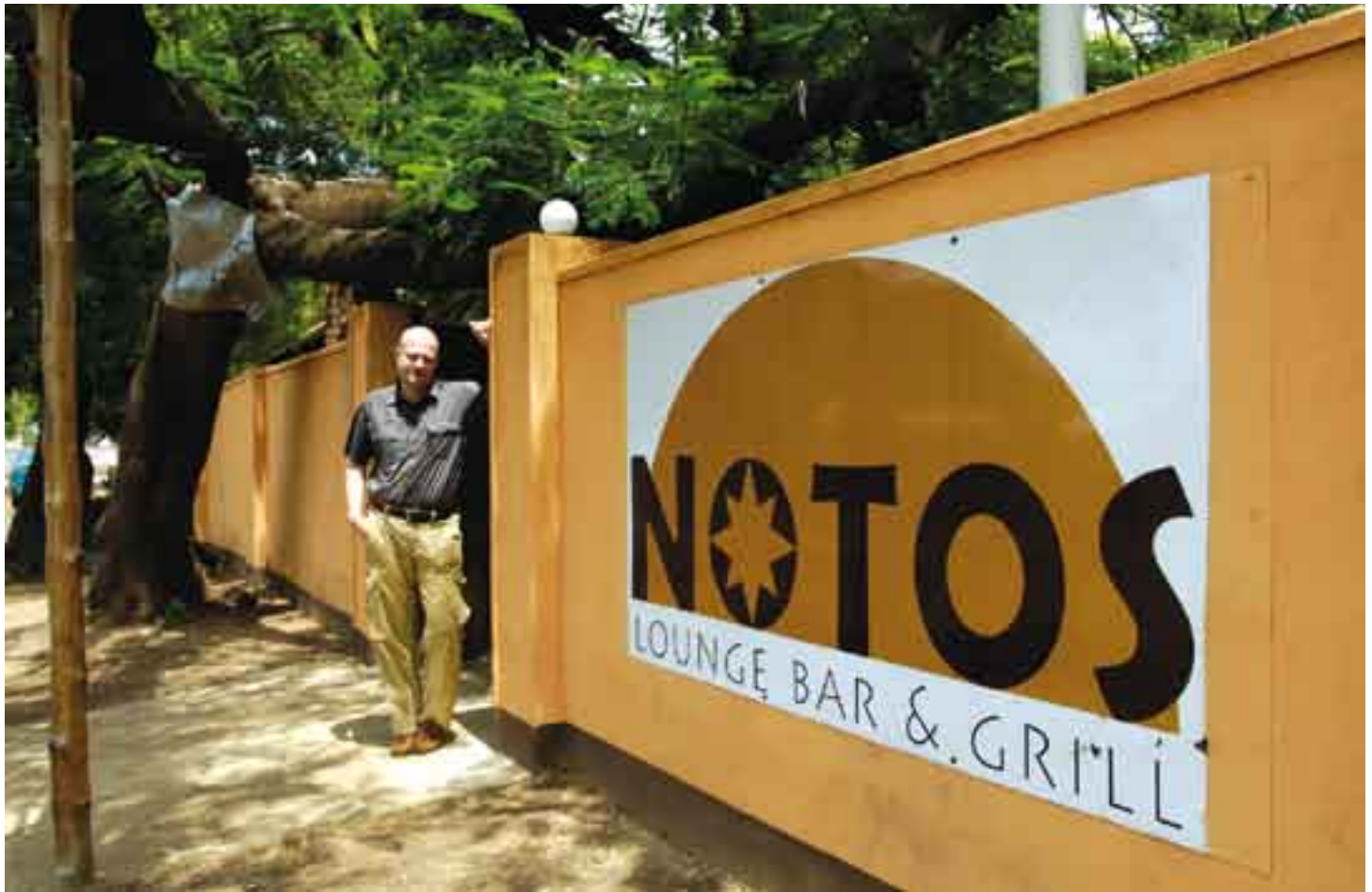
**How many Sudanese-born Greeks are there in this 146th tribe?**

Right now, in the whole of Sudan, less than 200.

**Do you plan to stay here?**

Oh yes, for the rest of my life. ■

Photos: Isaac Gideon



# Marks as identity

**E**nduring the pain of lip and ear piercing or scar-inducing body imprinting means commitment to cultural values in many Sudanese tribes.

Some of the most widespread body marks are scars on the forehead or facial area, scarring of the back, chest, stomach and arm as well as removal of specific teeth.

"Each tribe has its different tribal marks and designs to enable one tribe to identify another," said 48-year-old Latuko tribesman George Quillquill of Eastern Equatoria State. "Our identity is our sole responsibility because it is part of our culture."

Etched deep in the arm and face with hot objects like knives and arrows, scars in the shape of letters "K" and "T", claws of a chicken or the figure 111 are characteristic of the Latuko, along with the removal of two teeth from the lower jaw, Mr. Quillquill said.

"The (shape of a) scorpion and a pair of scissors on the arm symbolize both the sharpness and boldness of Latuko people in dealing with tribal invasion," he added.

Tribal marks predominate in many communities across Southern Sudan, including the Dinka, Nuer and Murle of Jonglei State. Ranging from horizontal lines across the forehead to dots formed by piercing the skin with a thorn, tribal marks clearly identify the communities.

According to 27-year-old Dinka tribesman Jacob Garang of Jonglei State's Twic County, one could easily differentiate between Dinka Bor, Dinka Agar and the Dinka Nyarweng of Bahr El-Ghazal based on the marks on their foreheads.

"Dinka Bor scar four lines starting from the middle of their forehead and running to the middle of the skull," Mr. Garang said.

"But Dinka from Bahr El-Ghazal (both Dinka Agar and Dinka Nyarweng) cut six lines from the face horizontally to meet at the skull. Our tribal marks are our identity cards."

The Dinka believe that the forehead is where the greatest pain is felt during scarification and that withstanding such pain means the individual is formidable enough to fight enemies.

"During scarring, the person is not expected to recoil in pain, neither ... allowed to wink his or her eyes in cowardice. Doing so damages the trust put on him or her," Mr. Garang said. "You cannot be called a man or a woman without bearing the pain."

Fifty-six-year-old Mary Nyarsuk, a Kuku member of Central Equatoria State's Kajo Keji town, noted, "Crying in pain is frowned upon and laughing even in terrible anguish is lauded instead."

The Kuku also consider the practice an initiation into adulthood, carried out as soon as one reaches 18 years of age. Women are decorated on their bellies and backs to display beauty and show the scars by going about unclothed, Ms. Nyarsuk added.

Removal of two lower teeth carries different meanings across cultures in Sudan. In the Dinka community it prevents warring tribes from biting each other, which is believed to cause misfortune for men and is only permitted for women, according



Murle

to Mr. Garang.

Tribal marks were especially important during courtship in Latuko tradition. An unscarred boy is considered ugly by marriageable ladies and refused. He is also referred to as a coward.

"A father would want an heir who is strong, defiant and courageous to defend the family and to maintain a good reputation in the neighbourhood and beyond," said Latuko tribesman Mr. Quillquill.

Similarly, in the Mundari tradition, facial scars – three or four lines coming from the middle of the face, depending on which county one comes from – are signs of



Mundari



Murle



Mundari

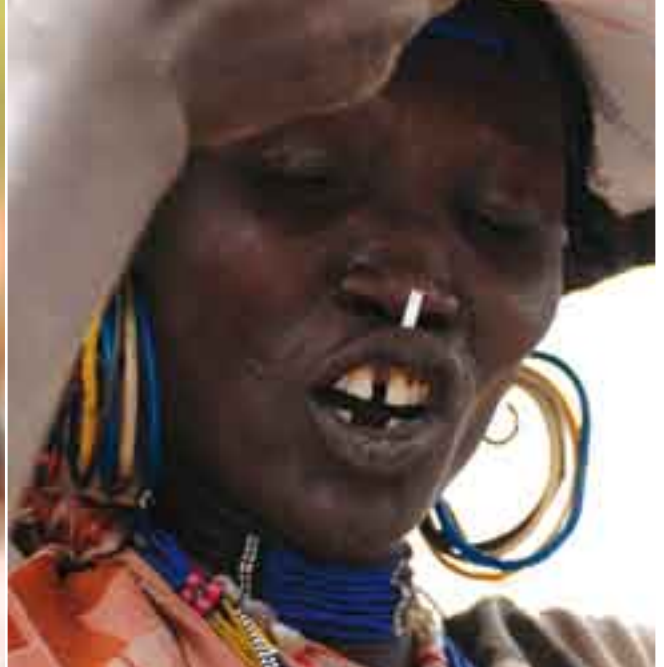


Murle





Murle tribe members



**Removal of two lower teeth carries different meanings across cultures in Sudan. In the Dinka community it prevents warring tribes from biting each other, which is believed to cause misfortune for men and is only permitted for women**

beauty and identity.

"Ladies would not like you if you had no marks because they would consider you as a child yet to become mature," said Mundari tribesman Samuel Gurak Kulang of Tali payam in Terekeka County.

Tribal marking is not only practised in the south, but was significant in the north during the colonial era, and is still found in rural communities.

According to 48-year-old Adroub Idris from eastern Sudan's Kassala town, tribal marks they inherited are similar to those of the Samalia and Fulani tribes.

"Our marks (*shagia*) are a symbol of our tribe and portray bravery," Mr. Idris said. "For the Nabteab clan of northern Sudan, there are three marks that run horizontally across the cheeks but in eastern Sudan the three marks run vertically up the cheeks."

Tribal marks played a cardinal role during the slavery period because the local community could easily identify its people at the slave market and retaliate against traders, Mr. Idris added.

"We also used to identify our tribes (men) who died during the war while trying to cross the desert into a foreign country," said Makar Abdalbagir at the Centre of Return to Roots and Cultural Heritage in Omdurman.

However, bodily marks can draw unwanted attention and also become a disadvantage to their bearer, Acholi elder Marino Gabriel pointed out.

"Retaliatory acts can easily be maneuvered against any tribe that has suffered in the hands of the other," Mr. Gabriel said, adding that many Sudanese were ill-treated during the civil war when

they fled to East Africa, including the Acholi and the Latukos.

In addition to serving as cultural identifiers, scarring is believed to have healing effects, ridding one of spoiled blood and healing aches to the back, head, and eyes, according to Mr. Idris.

"When a person falls sick, many marks are cut at the back. A cow horn (*lobrigo*) is fixed to it with its top covered with a spider web," said Phillip Mere Loku from the Mundari tribe in Terekeka County. "The horn is then sucked vigorously with the mouth to remove the wasted blood."

On the flip side, the practice can also turn dangerous. "There were instances where some scarred people bled to death due to cutting of main veins that carry blood into the brain," Mr. Garang noted. ■

**"Ladies would not like you if you had no marks because they would consider you as a child yet to become mature."**

James Sokiri  
Photos: Tim McKulka



Mundari



Dinka Bor



Mundari



Dinka Nuer



# Rousting the raiders

**R**esidents of Southern Sudan's Jonglei State may sleep more easily knowing that a special police unit is protecting their prized cattle from rustlers.

Known as the Livestock Patrol Unit (LPU), the ground-breaking force was recently introduced by the Southern Sudan Police Service (SSPS) and UN Police to combat chronic cattle rustling in the state.

Some 136 incidents of cattle rustling, tribal clashes or armed group encounters occurred in Southern Sudan during the first six months of this year, reportedly killing about 620 people and injuring over 260 others, according to UN Police figures.

Enduring 48 of those incidents, Jonglei was the most affected state in the region.

"People in Jonglei State are always in fear ... not knowing when the next attack by cattle raiders will come," State Governor Kol Manyang Juur said during an event on 7 June to launch the LPU in Malual, near the state capital Bor.

Insecurity, mainly due to cattle rustling, was a key challenge in the area, endangering people's lives and hindering overall development, the governor added. "It makes development of basic infrastructure like schools, roads and hospitals in rural areas, where most of the population of the state live, impossible."

## Pilot project

The LPU was set up as a pilot force in Jonglei following a six-week training course at Malual Chaat Training Centre. Funded by Luxembourg and Canada, the training was carried out by the SSPS and UN Police advisers.

Fifty SSPS officers (eight women and 42 men) received instruction in topics like livestock tracking, information gathering survival skills, crime scene management, community policing, law, first aid and human rights.

A patrol base will soon be built in the village of Pariak, about 45 kilometres from Bor, where cattle rustling was most severe, said UN Police Reform and Restructuring Coordinator Saroj Singh.

Operating from the base, LPU officers hope they will minimise the existing high prevalence of cattle rustling by working



LPU members ready to demonstrate operation.

closely with communities.

"Our success depends on the cooperation and full involvement of communities, as we are handicapped without their valuable information and

support," said Lt. Col. Jakob Manyang Malawal, commander of the new unit.

The LPU would educate communities about passing information to it, finding the unit and protecting themselves during crossfire, he added.

Governor Juur noted that the training course would be replicated in other states when funding was available. The SSPS would select the location for the next LPU to be formed.

He expressed concern, however, that the units would fail unless they were equipped with necessary arms, communication equipment and transport

facilities, which the LPU as well as the other SSPS members were presently lacking.■

Story and photos: Negus Hadera

## UN Police and the SSPS



Livestock patrol officers in training, Jonglei State.

In addition to the Livestock Patrol Unit, UN Police is working closely with the Southern Sudan Police Service (SSPS) to strengthen its capacity in areas like communications equipment, development as well as management of databases and formation of police community relationship committees (PCRCs).

Made up of voluntary residents and an SSPS officer, the 31 PCRCs set up so far serve as bridges between local people and police in working to prevent crimes and ensure peace.

UN Police has funded the construction of two PCRC centres in Juba through its Quick Impact Projects. The centres, which include a meeting room and two offices, were almost complete as In Sudan went to print.

The mission police are also assisting with referendum security training for SSPS personnel. So far, 1,446 SSPS personnel drawn from all 10 states have been trained at Rajaf Police Training Institute in Juba.

The UN Development Programme has funded the construction of five classrooms and the drilling of two (water) bore holes at Rajaf Institute.

# NEWS BRIEFS

## Security Council briefed on Sudan

Senior UN officials recently told the Security Council that the international community must more actively promote democracy in Sudan and focus on stabilizing the increasingly violent Darfur region.

"Sudan needs to be encouraged and assisted to expand the democratic space opened by the recent elections," Haile Menkerios, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sudan, told the 15-member UN body on 14 June.

He added that the international community must encourage as well as assist the parties to timely conclude implementation of the country's Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA).

A planned referendum on self-determination in the south, scheduled for January 2011, is meant to be the final phase of the 2005 CPA.

The National Congress Party and Sudan People's Liberation Movement had separately informed UNMIS that they "desire UN engagement (in the referendum) at a much greater level" than in the April elections to help ensure a fair vote, but had yet to provide Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon with detailed requests, Mr. Menkerios said.

Also briefing the Council, Ibrahim Gambari, head of the joint African Union-UN Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), spoke about the upsurge of violence in Darfur, where 447 people were killed in May alone.

"The fighting between the two belligerent parties is still continuing, and the security situation in parts of Darfur remains tense and volatile," Mr. Gambari said, detailing the recent "serious escalation" of hostilities between the rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and government forces.

"The military confrontations may continue for some time unless urgent efforts at ensuring a ceasefire are made by the international community," Mr. Gambari warned.

## Darfur attack kills three peacekeepers



Three peacekeepers with the African Union-UN Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) were killed and one seriously wounded on 21 June in a gun battle with unknown attackers near the village of Nertiti, in the Jebel Marra region of West Darfur.

The UNAMID soldiers, who were providing protection for civilian engineers working on a mission team site, suddenly came under heavy gunfire from more than 20 assailants in camouflage battle dress.

The peacekeepers exchanged fire with the attackers for almost an hour. Three of the assailants were killed, while the remainder of the attacking force fled the scene, stealing a vehicle.

The wounded soldier was immediately taken to the mission's hospital in Nyala, Southern Darfur, where he is listed in critical condition.

The last attack on UNAMID peacekeepers occurred in May, when two Egyptian troops were killed and three injured in an ambush in Southern Darfur. The number of fallen UNAMID peacekeepers now stands at 27 (24 military personnel and three police officers).

## Sudanese women voice demands in Khartoum

At a Khartoum meeting on 10 June, women from across Sudan appealed to the United Nations and Sudanese government to observe a UN resolution on women, peace and security.

Some 35 representatives of women's groups gathered at UNMIS headquarters, where a representative read out demands based on the resolution related to participation, promotion and protection.

"We demand meaningful support for women's participation by 30 per cent in legislation, DDR (Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration) commissions, law enforcement, peacekeeping," the representative said.

Similarly, women expressed a need to be included in the field of protection and recruited in the security sector. They also highlighted the importance of addressing gender-based violence.

On promotion, the women recommended that the Sudanese government establish a national action plan for full implementation of the resolution, including a monitoring body.

Citing gaps in resolution implementation, UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) Executive Director Ines Alberdi noted a scarcity of women in peace negotiations, the continued use of sexual violence as a tactic of war, and a funding shortfall for women's needs in post-conflict recovery plans.

The preparatory consultations and meeting were supported by UNMIS, UNAMID, UNIFEM and the UN Development Programme, which provided funding as well as technical and logistical support.



## UN ready to assist with referendum

UNMIS was working closely with the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and National Congress Party (NCP) to determine types of assistance UNMIS would offer to support the upcoming referenda, according to a top UN official.

"UNMIS stands ready to deliver comprehensive logistical support and technical advice to the referendum commission," UN Regional Coordinator for Southern Sudan David Gressly said during a press conference at UNMIS Juba on 28 June.

[Referenda are scheduled to be held in Southern Sudan on whether to secede or remain united with the north and in Abyei on whether to join North or Southern Sudan in January 2011.]

The UN would also offer training to 16,000 Southern Sudan Police Service (SSPS) officers in ensuring security for the referendum, Mr. Gressly said, noting that nearly 1,500 police had already attended security courses during the third week of June at an SSPS site in Rajaf.

On Disarmament Demobilization and Re-integration, the Regional Coordinator said a total of 20,000 ex-combatants in Southern Sudan should be demobilized by the end of this year.

In the area of demining, he observed that 2,000 kilometres of roads had been cleared during the 2009-2010 demining season, opening routes between Kassangor and Boma in Jongolei State, Karpeto and Moli in Central and Eastern Equatoria, and Riang and Wagnong in Northern Bahr El-Ghazal.

In addition, about 9.5 million square metres of land had been certified by the UN Mine Action Office (UNMAO) and designated as a resettlement site for 5,000 displaced persons. Some 125,000 Southern Sudanese had received mine risk education and UNMAO had carried out nine victim assistance projects.



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