



June 2008

United Nations Mission

In SUDAN

Conflict In Abyei

Published by UNMIS Public Information Office

DIARY

- **2 May:** A plane crashed en route from Wau to Rumbek, killing all 22 people aboard, including the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) Affairs Minister and Presidential Advisor on Decentralization in the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS). UNMIS flight assets were made available to locate the crash site, transport the victims' remains and bring Government of National Unity and GoSS aviation safety officials to the crash scene. The Secretary-General's Special Representative for Sudan, Ashraf Qazi, conveyed his condolences to the GoSS.
- **6-7 May:** The Sudan Consortium donor conference was held in Oslo, attended by representatives of more than 30 countries and organizations. UN Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro headed the UN delegation. Some \$4.8 billion was pledged to support peace, recovery and development in Sudan.
- **10-11 May:** Forces from the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) attacked the Omdurman area of Khartoum. Government forces were able to repulse the attack. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon strongly condemned JEM's use of military means to achieve political ends.
- **12 May:** A three-day "Basic Prisons Female Training Course", organized by the UN Development Programme and jointly facilitated by UN Police, the Southern Sudan HIV/AIDS Commission and Bor Prison Department, was launched in Bor. The 40 Junior Prison Female Officers attended sessions on the prison's role, rules and regulations, ethics and human rights.
- **14 May:** Fighting broke out between elements affiliated with the Sudan Armed Forces and Sudan People's Liberation Army in the town of Abyei, causing an estimated 50,000 civilians to flee the area. Special Representative of the Secretary-General Ashraf Qazi called for the establishment of an interim joint administration and underscored the importance of full implementation of the Abyei Protocol.
- **26 May:** The Ceasefire Political Commission decided at a Khartoum meeting to ask the Joint Defence Board to reconstitute Abyei's Joint Integrated Units (JIUs) from elements not involved in the fighting. It also directed the Ceasefire Joint Military Committee to investigate causes of the fighting and burning of Abyei.
- **29 May:** The UN worldwide marked its sixtieth anniversary of peacekeeping. In Sudan, the International Day of UN Peacekeepers was celebrated with events in Khartoum, Juba, Kadugli, Ed Damazin, Malakal and Wau.

INSIDE

3 DEVELOPMENT

- Donors pledge almost \$5 billion for Sudan
- Farming for the future

5 POLITICS:

- "No for war yes for new Sudan"

6 PROFILE

- A war-time education

7 SECURITY

- The JEM attack on Omdurman

8 ABYEI

- Photo Gallery: Conflict in Abyei
- Abyei Protocol

11 TECHNOLOGY

- A few clicks of the mouse

12 NEWS BRIEFS

14 CULTURE

- Ten books about Sudan



IN SUDAN is published monthly by the UN Mission in Sudan. Contents do not necessarily reflect the official position of the UN or that of UNMIS. Articles and contents may be freely reproduced.

Editor-in-Chief: *Khaled Mansour*
Managing Editors: *Catherine Waugh* and *Ashim Choudhury*
Design: *Sezar Amin*

Front cover: Abyei IDPs divide up emergency food rations distributed by WFP. Credit: Tim McKulka/UNMIS

DONORS PLEDGE ALMOST \$5 BILLION FOR SUDAN

The third Sudan Consortium in Oslo recently re-affirmed international commitment to peace and development in a country recovering from 21 years of grueling war. Some \$4.8 billion was pledged for humanitarian assistance as well as recovery and development projects in Sudan over the next three to five years.

A total of 45 countries and associations representing donors, international organizations and civil society participated in the meeting, which was held on 6 and 7 May.

While some donors and non-governmental organization (NGO)

participants expressed concerns about rising insecurity, especially in Darfur (bombings, attacks on food convoys, hijacking of cars, and banditry), they welcomed candid discussions with senior Sudanese officials on ways to overcome deadlocks in the peace process and move ahead with a development roadmap.

"It is clear that a comprehensive peace in Sudan will not be achieved without a resolution of the Darfur conflict. But even more clear is the fact that without the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), there will not be a Darfur peace process," said Ashraf Qazi, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sudan, in his closing statement.

The Sudan Consortium, organized by the United Nations as well as the World Bank, and hosted by Norway, recognized greater challenges ahead. There was a strong endorsement of the need to increase resource allocation and the



Donor meeting during Consortium. Credit: Jakob Kopperud/World Bank

pace of development with support from both national and international sources.

"The CPA is the foundation upon which a sustainable peace in Sudan can and must be built. Implementation of the CPA presents unprecedented opportunities, as well as challenges, to improve the lives of all Sudanese through recovery and development initiatives," said Mr. Qazi.

The process, he added, would not only require considerable funding but strong commitment by all stakeholders to enable the government to provide a range of peace dividends for the population.

Participants agreed that remarkable progress had been made during the first phase of CPA implementation in an extremely difficult environment. In particular, they expressed appreciation for implementation of the census, the roll-out of a new national currency and good collaboration between the Government of National Unity (GoNU) and Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS).

However, there were concerns that peace remained fragile and development had not been sufficiently inclusive. Among these challenges are implementation of the Abyei protocol; demarcation of the borders; military demobilization and withdrawal; and preparation for 2009 elections, including adoption of the draft

electoral law and establishment of an electoral commission.

"The people of Abyei have yet to benefit from the CPA. There has been no peace dividend for them so far. Since the signing of the CPA, they have remained deprived of the most basic services," Mr. Qazi said.

Donor contributions over the past three years have been higher than pledges made in Oslo in 2005. Participants, however, recognized that the majority of this funding was directed to pressing humanitarian needs, especially in Darfur. It is hoped that Sudan's recovery and development needs will receive adequate and timely response in the coming three years.

The Consortium was opened by Sudan's Vice-President Ali Osman Taha, who was accompanied by a delegation from both the GoNU and GoSS, including Luka Biong, GoSS Minister of Presidential Affairs.

In addition to plenary meetings and a pledging session, the Consortium included breakaway sessions on issues such as the elections and Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration.

While acknowledging progress made over the past three years, the Consortium looked forward to meeting daunting challenges in the short period left before the end of the interim period.

Peace and development must go hand in hand and should reach the most vulnerable in Sudan. This was the sense many participants walked out with after two days of pleasant Spring weather in Oslo. ■

Khaled Mansour



Ali Osman Taha addressing Consortium. Credit: Jakob Kopperud/World Bank

FARMING FOR THE FUTURE

Some 27 people from Wawalang village on the banks of the Nile near Juba have begun a venture that could significantly change their lives for the better.

The 19 men and eight women are voluntary members of "Wawalang village farmers cooperative", a pilot agricultural project spanning eight acres of previously untilled land.

Launching the "model project" on 23 April, John Chol Dohl, Minister of Agriculture in the Government of Southern Sudan, urged people to work towards food self-sufficiency. Stressing that Southern Sudan had the potential to feed the entire region, he said, "Let us work hard so that we do not depend on food imports from neighbouring countries, when we have our own fertile land."

A brainchild of UNMIS Commander Col. Salahuddin Miaji, the project is one of several humanitarian activities initiated by the Bangladeshi Contingent stationed in Juba. It is being implemented by the Bangladesh-based international non-governmental organization BRAC in close collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Food Programme (WFP) and UNMIS

Bangladeshi Contingent.

Once completed, the cooperative will not only demonstrate possible agricultural output in the war-ravaged region, but hopefully create a source of income for its members.

Ampolonia Juan, a 30-year-old widow with five children, said her village was one of the most fertile in the area, but the war and lack of know-how had prevented people from cultivating their land. "I attended several agricultural training sessions and I believe this will help to change our lives," she said.

The project may also help recently returned internally displaced persons (IDPs) to resettle and earn their livelihoods. "We will soon be in a position where we can feed ourselves and generate income," said 25-year-old Ferida Doki, an IDP with two children.

BRAC is providing compost fertilizer and irrigation pumps as well as training farmers in modern agricultural methods, marketing and management. The FAO has provided cereal, vegetable seeds and tools, while WFP is assisting with

« Let us work hard so that we do not depend on food imports from neighboring countries »

food for nine months.

The UNMIS Bangladeshi Contingent helped with tractors, bulldozers and graders to level and plough the fields. Members of the farmers' cooperative, who are doing the actual work, will share profits from the sale of such crops as sorghum, maize and vegetables.

Cooperative Secretary Moses Swaka said the project would help encourage all village farmers to become more active in agriculture. "I am hopeful we will be successful," he said.

Lt. Col. Abu Naoraz Alam, Acting Commander of the UNMIS Bangladeshi Contingent, said, "I believe this project will bring real hope and prosperity to the people of Wawalang village." Hopefully, he added, it would be replicated all over Southern Sudan, feeding farmers and generating income. ■

Hailemichael Gebrekrstos



Bangladeshi soldier and cooperative members ploughing field. Credit: Hailemichael Gebrekrstos/UNMIS

“NO FOR WAR YES FOR NEW SUDAN”



SPLM Second National Convention, Juba. Credit: Tim McKulka/UNMIS

Juba was transformed during the month of May, as a huge influx of people from Sudan and beyond crowded its streets. The town's buildings and squares were lined with colourful banners proclaiming, “No for war, yes for new Sudan”, the theme of the SPLM Second National Convention, which took place at Juba's Hall of Nyakuron from 15 to 21 May.

More than 1,500 delegates from North and Southern Sudan as well as the Diaspora, along with chiefs and representatives of Sudanese ethnic groups, youth, women, war veterans, widows, disabled persons, the elderly and professional groups, attended the long-awaited event. According to the SPLM requirement, 25 per cent of the delegates were women.

Delegates were selected in a dynamic selection process, beginning at the local and then moving on to county and state levels. In the south, two of 10 standing governors failed to be elected as SPLM chairmen heading their state delegations, while two others were elected by a narrow margin, demonstrating a strong commitment to democratic participation.

Opening the convention, SPLM Chairman Salva Kiir, who also serves as First Vice-President of Sudan and President of Southern Sudan, said the party had gained momentum by leaving behind bitter past experiences. He noted that the call to create a New Sudan based on liberty, justice and equality for all now

resounded throughout the country and beyond.

“The ‘New Sudan’ is a Sudan which is based on what unites and not on what divides, a Sudan which lives in peace within itself and with its neighbours ... which is united by the voluntary and free will of its people ... unlike the old Sudan that was imposed from the top by a small elite,” he said.

Mr. Kiir emphasized that the SPLM would respect and protect the will of Southern Sudanese people. “Southern Sudan shall continue to be a good neighbour of North Sudan, as geography, history, culture, shared values and common economic interests dictate that the two entities live with each other in harmony, friendship and cooperation,” he said.

The SPLM Convention elected incumbent Salva Kiir as party Chairman, Dr. Riek Machar as First Deputy, James Wani Igga as Second Deputy and Malik Aggar as Third Deputy for five-year terms.

It also elected 240 members of the key decision-making body, the National Liberation Council (NLC), while the Chairman nominated a further 35 members. The NLC has representation from all of Sudan as well as the Diaspora, maintaining the SPLM quota of 25 per cent women. As its first task, the Council elected Pagan Amum as Secretary-General of the SPLM.

When the election result was announced, delegates expressed satisfaction with the way the SPLM had conducted it. Luke Dakana, 42, said, “I am happy to see the veteran brave men and women of the SPLM re-elected again ... that is the most important political development as we head towards the upcoming elections and referendum.”

The seven-day convention also unanimously approved the SPLM's amended Constitution and Manifesto, which stress the need to build one state for all Sudanese as a strategic party choice. The “New Sudan” vision was widely supported, with delegates repeatedly chanting, “Long live new Sudan” and “Sudan jedid Oyee” (local dialect for “Long live new Sudan”).

Short- and long-term political goals stressed in the SPLM Manifesto include: democracy; freedom; human rights; the elimination of all forms of discrimination, slavery and abuse; good and decentralized governance; an independent judiciary; and combating corruption.

The second convention comes 14 years after the first, which was held in Chukudum, Eastern Equatoria State, in 1994. That convention marked a turning point in the SPLM's progression from a guerrilla movement to a party, proclaiming its vision of a “New Sudan” and giving birth to its Manifesto and Constitution. ■

Hailemichael Gebrekrstos

Louis Mere Siggo

A WAR-TIME EDUCATION



Louis Siggo working at UNMIS Juba. Credit: Ojja Bosco/UNMIS

Now a successful mechanic at UNMIS in Juba, Louis Mere Siggo began his working life collecting fares on passenger lorries during the height of Sudan's civil war.

Born in the southern Sudanese town of Wau in 1972, Louis began school at the age of 10, but his education was cut off when hostilities broke out in 1983. A year later, his uncle, Peter Dolgan, arrived from Uganda, where he had been living as a refugee, planning to take Louis back with him.

"Initially my uncle planned to take me to school in Uganda, but unfortunately the roads were closed (to impede rebel army movements) that same year," Louis remembers. Instead, Mr. Dolgan took him to Juba, but failed to find a job for a year and Louis was unable to return to school.

In 1985, life became easier when his uncle found work as a driver with the Sudan Council of Churches (SCC). Louis became his assistant, collecting money from passengers who traveled in the Council's lorries from Juba to Wau, Torit, Yambio and other towns. His uncle also began teaching him some driving skills.

"I listened ... hoping that one day I would be like him. Later, I started (driving) bit by bit until I qualified as a competent

driver," said Louis.

Developing an interest in vehicles, Louis began spending time in a Juba garage, learning all he could from the mechanics who worked there. He obtained his driving permit in 1994 and found work as a driver with the SCC. Six years later, he became a driver for the Food and Agricultural Organization.

In 2005, the Comprehensive Peace Agreement was signed, UNMIS came to Juba, and Louis was one of the first national staff to be hired by the mission. He began driving for Regional Administrative Officer Andrew Robertson, later rising to become head of drivers for two years.

Now, according to supervisors and colleagues alike, Louis is one of the mission's most knowledgeable and hard-working mechanics. An amiable disposition and good interpersonal relations has also won him many friends at work and beyond.

UNMIS Heavy Duty Driver Stephen Lado attributes Louis' skills to a childhood spent with mechanics, who taught him almost everything there was to know about vehicles. Similarly, fellow mechanic Rathib Ramadan commented that Louis, having missed out on higher education, was able to gain valuable experience in the workshop.

"Siggo is always able to detect and identify various problems in the vehicles, but those of us who spent our time in school sometimes have to consult the manual," Rathib said.

Although most of his colleagues consider him a success story, Louis himself is eager to learn more. "I am okay as a mechanic ... at least everyday I go back home from work with some knowledge. But I wish to continue learning new skills as a mechanic till the end of this mission in Sudan," he said.

According to Louis, UNMIS and the peace agreement have brought many changes, including capacity building for the Sudanese people as well as for national staff through continuous training. Himself deprived of a good education, his priority in life is that his six children get good schooling. "Sending children to school is the only guarantee for the future of this country."

A member of the Balanda tribe, one of the largest in Western Bahr El Ghazal State, Louis married a woman from the Pojulu tribe of Central Equatoria State in 1994. They have six children – three boys and three girls. ■

Ojja Bosco

Diary of a bed-ridden spokesperson:

JEM ATTACK ON OMDURMAN

U NMIS spokesperson **Brian Kelly** was recovering from a traffic accident when armed militiamen from the **Darfur Justice and Equality Movement** attacked Omdurman on 9 May. Here is his story:

I was lying in my Khartoum apartment, damaged foot up as per doctor's orders, when friends attending a colleague's farewell party called me in the small hours of the morning of 9 May to report that there was a lot of military and police activity in evidence, including some road blocks, with those still out and about being advised to head home promptly and get off the streets. While inevitably there were some who idly speculated as to the cause, the reality was that no-one knew for sure what lay behind the sudden influx of uniformed personnel onto the midnight streets of Khartoum. However, come morning, further light was shed on the unfolding plot when the Sudanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs called in representatives of the UN and the international community to inform them that an attempted attack on the greater Khartoum area was being tracked, resisted and foiled by government forces.

According to the Foreign Ministry, up to 3,000 Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) rebels had been moving eastward from Darfur using the cover of low ground and wooded valleys to forge ahead while keeping out of sight of SAF air reconnaissance and safe from possible air strikes. Reportedly, SAF and JEM forces (the latter made up of some 75 JEM "technicals", Land Cruiser-type vehicles equipped with heavy machine guns) engaged in fighting on 9 May at Umm Qurein, 380 km to the northwest of El Obeid. By noon the same day, the first of the rebels were reported inside Kordofan, some 200 kms west of Omdurman.

Not surprisingly, Khartoum and its environs were aflurry with rumour and conjecture. Meanwhile, TV and radio, including our own Miraya, were announcing curfew details and broadcasting stay-at-home advisories.

Although it was the weekend, UN staff were sternly advised not to come to the office, to remain at home and, if indeed



Captured vehicles put on display in Omdurman following the attack. Credit: Tim McKulka/UNMIS

they had to venture out, to avoid certain areas, in particular Omdurman and its approaches. Having been confined to my apartment for the previous few days, it felt doubly restrictive. The curfew remained in effect in Khartoum until after midday on 11 May. People in Omdurman were house-bound for longer.

Next day, 10 May, reports including media coverage relayed news of fighting in Omdurman between SAF and JEM elements. The rebels, according to official sources, had come from the North through the Wadi Saydna area (about 20 km north of Omdurman) and from the West through the Elmerkhait Mountains.

Late afternoon shooting was reported in the Omdurman market area, with SAF tanks and "technicals" observed heading from Khartoum in that direction. SAF helicopters could be seen taking off from the airport. Shortly after, explosions were heard and smoke was seen in the area of Omdurman. UN staff resident in North Khartoum phoned friends to tell them how they could hear the sounds of weapons being fired just across the river. In fact these exchanges were heard until about eight that evening and again, sporadically, to the west of Omdurman in the early hours of the following morning.

The JEM attacks were strongly condemned by the Security Council and the Secretary-General. The Council urged restraint on all sides and warned against any retaliatory action that might affect civilian populations or regional stability. It urged all parties to cease violence, respect their obligations under humanitarian law and to commit themselves to a peaceful resolution of all outstanding issues through political processes. It also called on all States in the region to cooperate in ending the activities of armed groups and their attempts to seize

power by force. The Secretary-General expressed grave concern at the outbreak of fighting on Khartoum's outskirts and strongly condemned the use of armed force and military means by JEM to achieve political ends.

Media reports on 11 May cited official sources that the situation in the greater Khartoum area was under control. According to these statements, JEM elements were being chased out of Omdurman, while others were withdrawing from nearby areas. On 11 May, *Xinhua*, the Chinese news agency, cited police spokesman Mohamed Abdel-Mageed al-Tayab as saying that the remnants of the JEM forces that had attempted to infiltrate the capital had been "repulsed"; that JEM casualties included many dead, some senior commanders among them. Again according to the police, some JEM rebels had abandoned their vehicles in a bid to find cover in Omdurman's residential areas.

Other sources claimed JEM losses of up to 200 dead and 25 JEM vehicles destroyed. Moreover, a sweep by government forces was picking up bodies and making arrests of some of the alleged infiltrators. SAF, meanwhile, reported the loss of two officers. There were additional reports that the JEM incursion had resulted in civilian casualties in a biscuit factory.

By May 12, it was clear that this whole sad episode has come to an end. Soldiers exited the scene. Politicians and analysts entered to determine the impact of this incursion on the peace process and regional peace and stability.

Moreover, in the context of the reported casualties, my damaged limb seemed nothing more than an insignificant footnote. ■

Brian Kelly



Ammunition put on display in Omdurman following the attack. Credit: Tim McKulka/UNMIS

CONFLICT

Tens of thousands displaced

Fighting broke out in Abyei on 14 May and ended about a week later, leaving behind a burnt-out town and tens of thousands displaced. The conflict, which began between elements affiliated with the Sudan Armed Forces and Sudan People's Liberation Army, developed into a major confrontation involving the two sides on 20 May.

During the fighting, more than 50,000 residents of Abyei and surrounding villages reportedly fled south. The majority headed for Agok and area villages, while a smaller number continued further south to Warrap, Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Unity States. About 4,300 others fled north towards Muglad, many of whom have been absorbed into the community.

Led by the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the UN and non-governmental organizations have set up an emergency humanitarian base in Agok to meet urgent food, water, sanitation, shelter and health needs of the displaced. Humanitarian workers are attempting to provide as much relief as possible to the affected population before the rainy season makes many areas inaccessible.

Special Representative of the Secretary-General Ashraf Qazi visited the area on 23 and 24 May to converse with Sudan People's Liberation Movement representatives and displaced Abyei residents in Agok. He also met with Misseriya community leaders and tribal chiefs in Muglad.



Civilians fleeing south from the fighting in Abyei. Credit: Tim McKulka/UNMIS



Abyei town after the fighting. Credit: Warrant Officer Kenneth Kachiza/UNMIS

IN ABYEI



Zambian peacekeepers helping civilians fleeing Abyei fighting. Credit: Warrant Officer Kenneth Kachiza/UNMIS



SRSG Ashraf Qazi discussing Abyei with Acting Force Commander, Brig. Stanislaus Tembo (left), and Abyei Sector Commander, Col. Mwela Nyambe (middle). Credit: Warrant Officer Kenneth Kachiza/UNMIS



SRSG Ashraf Qazi comforting displaced mother carrying newborn child, Agok. Credit: Orla Clinton/OCHA



IDPs receiving emergency WFP food supplies, Agok. Credit: Tim McKulka/UNMIS

ABYEI PROTOCOL

Following are excerpts from Sudan's Comprehensive Peace Agreement of the "Protocol between the Government of the Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army on the Resolution of the Abyei Conflict".

Principles of Agreement on Abyei

In General

- Abyei is a bridge between the north and the south, linking the people of Sudan;
- The territory is defined as the area of the nine Ngok Dinka Chiefdoms transferred to Kordofan in 1905;
- The Misseriya and other nomadic peoples retain their traditional rights to graze cattle and move across the territory of Abyei.

Interim Period

Upon signing the peace agreement, Abyei will be accorded special administrative status, in which:

- Residents of Abyei will be citizens of both Western Kordofan and Bahr el Ghazal, with representation in the legislatures of both states;
- Abyei will be administered by a local Executive Council, elected by the residents of Abyei. Pending the election of the Executive Council, its initial members will be appointed by the Presidency;
- Net oil revenues from Abyei will be divided six ways during the Interim Period: the National Government Fifty percent (50%); the Government of Southern Sudan Forty-Two percent (42%); Bahr el Ghazal region Two percent (2%); Western Kordofan Two percent (2%); locally with the Ngok Dinka Two percent (2%); and locally with the Misseriya people Two percent (2%);
- The National Government will provide Abyei with assistance to improve the lives of the peoples of Abyei, including urbanization and development projects;
- International monitors will be deployed to Abyei to ensure full implementation of these agreements.

End of Interim Period

Simultaneously with the referendum for Southern Sudan, the residents of Abyei will cast a separate ballot. The proposition voted on in the separate ballot will present the residents of Abyei

with the following choices, irrespective of the results of the southern referendum:

- That Abyei retain its special administrative status in the north;
- That Abyei be part of Bahr el Ghazal;
- The January 1, 1956 line between north and south will be inviolate, except as agreed above.

Administrative Structure

- Upon signing the Peace Agreement, Abyei Area shall be accorded special administrative status under the institution of the Presidency;
- Abyei Area shall be administered by a local Executive Council, elected by the residents of Abyei. Pending the election of the Executive Council, its initial members shall be appointed by the Presidency;
- The administration of the Abyei Area shall be representative and inclusive of all the residents of the area;
- The Executive Council shall be composed of the Chief Administrator, his/her Deputy and not more than five heads of departments. Prior to elections, the Chief Administrator and his/her Deputy shall be appointed by the Presidency. The Chief Administrator shall make recommendations to the Presidency regarding the appointments of the heads of departments.

Determination of Geographic Boundaries

- There shall be established by the Presidency Abyei Boundaries Commission (ABC) to define and demarcate the area of the nine Ngok Dinka Chiefdoms transferred to Kordofan in 1905, referred to herein

as Abyei Area;

- The composition and timeframe of the Abyei Boundaries Commission (ABC) shall be determined by the Presidency. However, the Commission shall include, inter alia, experts, representatives of the local communities and the local administration. The Commission shall finish its work within the first two years of the Interim Period;
- The Abyei Boundaries Commission (ABC) shall present its final report to the Presidency as soon as it is ready. Upon presentation of the final report, the Presidency shall take necessary action to put the special administrative status of Abyei Area into immediate effect.

Security Arrangements

- There shall be established Abyei Area Security Committee, chaired by the Chief Administrator, and shall comprise of the Deputy Chief Administrator, the Army Commander, the Police Chief, and the representative of the Security Organ;
- Without prejudice to the Agreement on Security Arrangements, the two Parties shall, through the Interim Period form and deploy one joint battalion in the Area;
- International monitors, as shall be agreed in the comprehensive Ceasefire Agreement, shall also be deployed in the Area through the Interim Period;
- International monitors shall be deployed to Abyei to ensure full implementation of these Agreements. ■

The full protocol is available at www.unmis.org



Cattle grazing in Abyei. Credit: Frederic Noy/UNMIS

A FEW CLICKS OF THE MOUSE

Imagine you are planning an urgent trip to an isolated Sudanese locale with little knowledge of road conditions, mine threats, settlements or even county boundaries.

Previously, you would have wasted precious time downloading one-category maps and patching all this vital data together. Now, thanks to a new UNMIS "Webmap Viewer", the information you seek may be only a few mouse clicks away.

Accessible through the mission intranet, the webmap uses a zoom tool to plunge you into ever deeper layers of increasingly detailed information in its database. So far, it has charted 16,000 settlements, along with such crucial data as rivers, marshes, canals, road safety and danger areas.

In the past, UNMOs (Military Observers) and other field workers had no access to an updated database, said Geographical Information Systems (GIS) Officer Akbar Amini, who spent a month developing the new map. "They might come to us to get a mine map, for example, then take it to the field and lack the latest information from GIS."

The map is kept updated with information from GIS people in the field and other UNMIS sections, including UN Police and Security as well as the UN Mine Action Office. Data also comes from agencies like the World Health Organization, the UN Joint Logistics Centre, and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

With the map now up and running, GIS plans to add other needed facts, including flooded areas in the rainy season, and



GIS staff collecting data in the field. Credit: GIS/UNMIS

take special requests from different UNMIS sections. "For example, we could chart communications and technology equipment in field locations and the location of IDP (internally displaced persons) for RRR (Recovery, Returns and Reintegration)," said Mr. Amini.

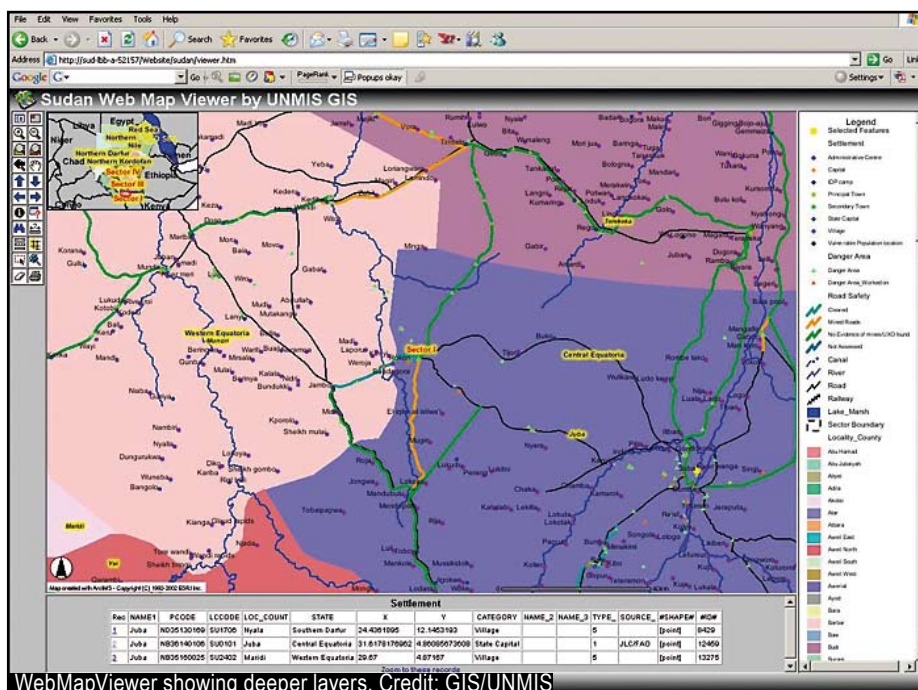
RRR Information Management Officer

Bashir Balal called the map a "good initiative" that could be used at all levels of decision-making and planning. "It is useful for humanitarian work, as it shows accessible, safe roads for delivery of aid and use of local transport."

Of course, a map is only as good as its latest update. Lt. Col. Matthew Whitchurch of the UNMIS Joint Operations Centre said the map would be useful for managing information, giving briefings and keeping track of conflicts, but stressed that it must be kept strictly up-to-date and independently confirmed on the ground.

His office, for instance, has been asked to prepare plans to assist UNAMID convoys arrive safely at their destinations, given the threats of carjackings, robberies and other hazards. Plans have been made on paper, he said, but must be cross-checked with conditions on the ground. "Conditions change quickly – roads and bridges can be suddenly washed away and mines laid in minutes."

Lt. Col. Whitchurch will be happy to know that GIS is working on a system to speed up information exchange by allowing on-line updates from the regions. Newly discovered minefields, washed out roads or casualty numbers could be entered directly into the database from affected areas, becoming immediately accessible. ■



WebMapViewer showing deeper layers. Credit: GIS/UNMIS

NEWS BRIEFS

Ninety per cent of Sudan counted, says CBS



According to Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) Director Yasin Elhag Abdin, most states in Sudan achieved a 100 per cent count during the Fifth Population and Housing Census, from 22 April to 6 May.

The Sudan-wide census achieved 90 per cent, with some uncovered areas in Darfur, Southern Sudan and Southern Kordofan, which will be estimated from the 1993 census, Mr. Abdin said. Government officials reported a success rate of 85 per cent in West Darfur and 90 per cent in North and South Darfur.

About 90 to 95 per cent of enumeration areas were counted in Southern Sudan, according to Southern Sudan Census, Statistics and Evaluation Commission Director Adwok Chol. Some areas were hampered by such problems as insecurity, heavy rains, unmapped villages and lack of transport.

The Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) states that the census will be used to determine power and wealth-sharing as well as political constituencies prior to general elections in 2009. Results are likely to be announced in three months at the earliest or no later than December 2008.

which sent ambulances rushing to the disaster site and put all Pakistani hospital departments on alert to receive casualties. Doctors prioritized casualties and delivered first aid at the site before evacuating them to the hospital, where they were sent to the intensive care unit, operating room or appropriate wards.

The Pakistani hospital could expect many casualties at short notice following such major disasters as plane crashes, road accidents, outbreaks of epidemics or terrorist attacks. Proper management of these events will be key in reducing the mortality rate.

Indian Ambassador visits Wau

Indian Ambassador to Sudan Deepak Vohra visited Wau for the third time from 5 to 7 May to discuss his country's participation in development with UNMIS staff and government officials.

The Indian government had intensive programmes with Southern Sudan to encourage peace and build capacity and human development, said Ambassador Vohra, who was received at Wau Airport by UNMIS Head of Office Fred Babi and top Indian military officials.

His government also planned to offer scholarships to Northern Bahr El Ghazal State and look into specific projects as well as assess urgent requirements in Western Bahr El Ghazal state that it could support, the Ambassador said.

Hakamas sing for peace



Hundreds of people recently gathered in Kadugli to hear Hakama women sing about the urgent need for area tribes to disarm in bringing peace and stability to Southern Kordofan State.

The performance formed part of a ceremony to launch the second phase of the "Hakamas sing for peace and DDR (Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration)" project, sponsored by the North Sudan DDR Commission and the Integrated UN DDR Unit.

Generally found in Southern Kordofan and Southern Darfur, the Hakamas traditionally accompanied soldiers of both sides during Sudan's civil war to the front line, singing songs encouraging them to fight. Now, they are singing for peace to help bring about change in their communities.

During the ceremony, the 125 Hakamas from the project's second phase and 25 from the first were each awarded five goats to boost their family incomes, allowing them time to participate in peacebuilding. The non-governmental organizations HAD and Umserdiba will help the women form an association through which they can continue organizing performances.

At the end of the summer, after they have toured four other towns in Southern Kordofan (Taloki, Lagawa, Dilling and Abujubayah), the Hakamas will travel to Khartoum to perform for UN and government officials as well as internally displaced persons at their camps.

Pakistanis hold disaster evacuation exercise



In an effort to perfect its disaster management skills, the Ed Damazin Pakistani Contingent engineers, aviation and medical personnel as well as battalion members carried out an exercise in mass casualty evacuation on 4 May.

The exercise began with a green signal from area headquarters,

NEWS BRIEFS

Report launched on juvenile justice

A new UNMIS report focusing on violations of children's rights in Southern Sudan's criminal justice system and highlighting discrepancies in the region's juvenile justice system was launched at a Juba workshop on 6 May.

The UNMIS Child Protection Bi-Annual Report on Juvenile Justice for Southern Sudan analyses over 170 juvenile justice cases in Southern Sudan (SS) reported to UNMIS Child Protection Unit between May and November 2007. The analyses were guided by international standards, particularly to identify gaps in Southern Sudanese law and practice, drawing on studies of customary law in the region to examine juvenile justice issues.

Organized by the UNMIS Child Protection Unit in collaboration with the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) and humanitarian actors, the workshop aimed to raise awareness and understanding of issues related to children in contact with Southern Sudanese law. It also focused on identifying gaps in juvenile justice unaddressed in the report; and support GoSS as well as state authorities in developing a policy framework for juvenile justice.

In a meeting with First Vice-President of Sudan and GoSS President Salva Kiir, Mr. Nakayama discussed the CPA, economic cooperation, development and capacity as well as infrastructure building in the region.

Upon arrival in Juba, the Minister was briefed by UNMIS Regional Coordinator for Southern Sudan David Gressly on overall UN activities, implementation of the CPA and the humanitarian situation in the region.

Indians repair Malakal airport, improve Bor roads



UNMIS Indian Construction Engineering Company recently replaced the road/walkway from Malakal Airport's terminal building to the runway, where pools of stagnant water previously blocked all movement during the rainy season.

Over a three-week period, the Company built a new 20 by 40 metre reinforced cement pavement capable of handling constant traffic and heavy loads. It also renovated the airport's dilapidated air traffic control tower by repairing the staircase, covering its leaky roof with protective sheeting, replacing about 40 windows and retiling the tower floor.

Acting on a request from the Governor, the Company also improved drainage and roads in central parts of Bor to prepare for coming rains. Using its engineering equipment, the detachment dug out a one-kilometre drainage channel and widened 2.6 kilometres of road to 10 metres.

UN and GoSS hold workshop on SEA



Stressing that acute poverty often led to prostitution, Sudan People's Liberation Movement Secretary of Central Equatoria State Manasi Lomole recently appealed to the UN and international community to provide alternate sources of income for the poor.

Speaking at a Juba workshop organized by UN and Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) officials on 8 May to address sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), Mr. Lomole condemned all practices undermining women and girls.

Aster Zaoude, head of UNMIS Conduct and Discipline Unit, underscored the UN's "zero tolerance" policy for those indulging in sex with prostitutes or the young. She added that all UN employees must abide by the Organization's principles guarding children's rights, and urged UN agencies, the GoSS and communities to work in partnership to combat SEA.

Japan donates \$200 million for development

During a visit to Juba on 9 May, Japanese Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Asuhida Nakayama announced that his country would donate \$200 million for peace and development in Sudan.

The aim of Mr. Nakayama's visit was to assess progress on implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) as well as bilateral relations with the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS).

ESCAP to hold trade e-course

The UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP) and the UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) are now taking registrations for an e-learning course on Trade Finance Infrastructure Development, which will be offered through the Internet from 16 June to 25 July.

The course aims to educate and enable government officials, private sector professionals and other stakeholders to respond more rapidly and effectively to challenges and opportunities of globalization.

Designed for individuals in full-time work, the e-course will give participants a broad overview of current trade finance methods and instruments, highlight the importance of favourable domestic environments, and discuss how the public and private sectors can work together to assist flows of trade and investment in fueling growth and economic development.

For further information about the course and to register online, please visit the course website <http://www.unitar.org/pft/tradefinance>.

TEN BOOKS

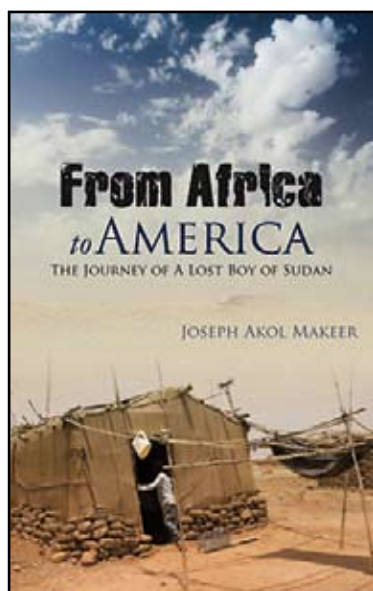
For its first listing of books, *In Sudan* has included both new and classic titles for those who wish to discover more about the country. In each case, the book is accompanied by a brief publisher's synopsis.

Titles provided courtesy of Marawi Bookstore, Parliament Avenue, Central Khartoum (opposite Parliament Café). For enquiries, call +249 (0) 912358548 or email: citigatwick@tiscli.co.uk. In its next book listing, *In Sudan* will have a look at another Khartoum bookstore.

NEW BOOKS

From Africa to America: The Journey of a Lost Boy of Sudan

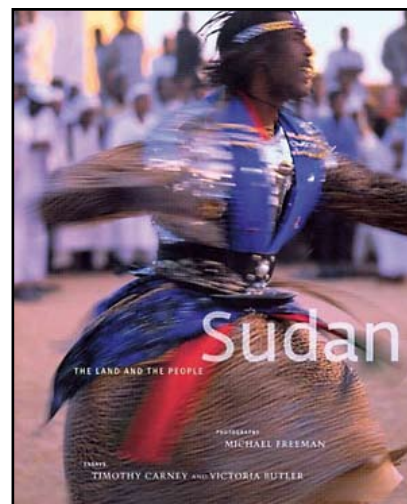
By Joseph Akol Makeer



This moving book shows the sense of responsibility that Lost Boys of Sudan, now scattered all over the globe as refugees or expatriates, feel for each other as well as for divided families. The author conveys these aspects of their culture and beliefs as he tells his personal story of a journey begun in childhood two decades ago. The book tells a powerful story of struggles, loyalty, failures, perseverance and triumphs.

Sudan: The Land and the People

By Jimmy Carter (Foreword), Timothy Carney and Victoria Butler (Authors), Michael Freeman (Photographer)

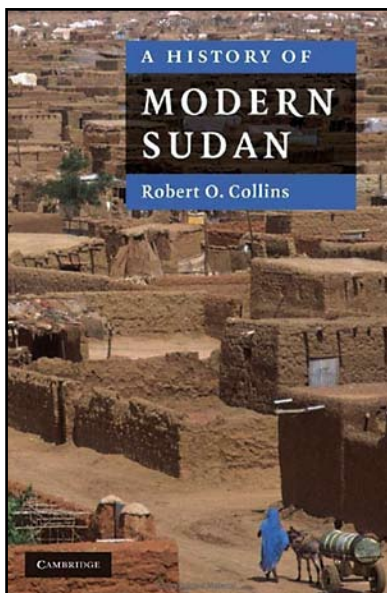


Sudan: The Land and the People captures the incredible diversity, beauty and potential of Africa's largest and most culturally varied country in hundreds of Michael Freeman's stunning photographs. Produced with the co-operation and support of both the Government of Sudan and the Southern People's Liberation Movement, this book is the first ever to portray the whole of Sudan -

north, south, east and west - in one large-format volume.

A History of Modern Sudan

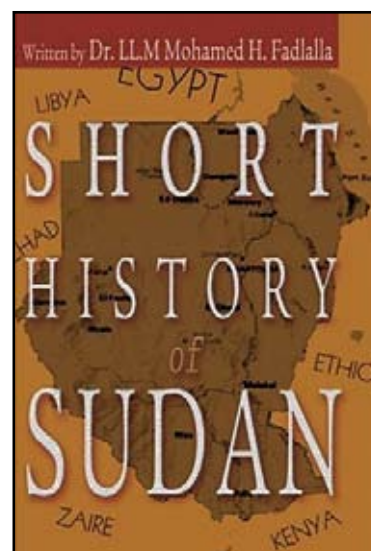
By Robert O. Collins



In his latest book, Robert Collins traces Sudan's history across two hundred years to show how tragedies of today are planted in the past. The story begins with the conquest of Muhammad Ali in 1821, and moves through the Anglo-Egyptian condominium to independence in 1956. It then focuses on Sudanese rule in post-independence years, when the fragile democracy collapsed. Various religious and ethnic divides, the author contends, in conjunction with failed leadership, have prolonged and sustained conflict in Sudan.

Short History of Sudan

By L. L. M. Mohamed H. Fadlalla



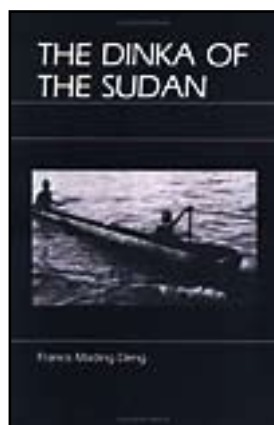
Short History of Sudan is a vital reference for anyone wishing to acquire basic knowledge about Africa's largest country. The book presents Sudan's cultural, geographical, ethnic and religious structures as well as its political and economic situation in an easily understood format.

ABOUT SUDAN

CLASSIC BOOKS

The Dinka of the Sudan

By Francis Mading Deng



Written by the son of the late Paramount Chief of the Ngok Dinka, this book provides a rich, well-balanced view of Dinka life in Sudan. Often faced with a hostile environment, deprivation and troubles, the Dinka now form part of modern Sudan but remain among the least touched by modernization. A rare view of these "Lords of Men" is provided by a writer who is an insider as well as a professional researcher and interpreter.

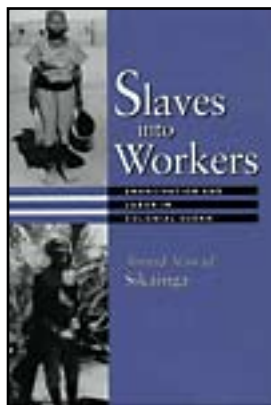
War and Peace in the Sudan: A Tale of Two Countries

By Mansour Khalid

This book traces the root causes of the Sudanese conflict: the remnants of slave culture and the rift between north and south, exacerbated by a conflict of culture and religion. The author identifies new points of departure in the conflict, arguing that certain measures which have been broadly agreed upon must hold for the country to be united. They include recognition of the country's religious and cultural diversity, separation between religion and state, recognition of citizenship as the sole determinant of political rights and duties, and radical restructuring as a quasi-confederal state.

Slaves into Workers: Emancipation and Labor in Colonial Sudan

By Ahmad Alawad Sikainga



Native Sudanese Alawad Sikainga describes the efforts of the British colonial government to transform slaves into wage workers after it gained possession of Sudan in 1898. He focuses on the fate of three ex-slaves and dislocated people in Khartoum to explore what slaves and ex-slaves thought about colonial rule and city life.

The River War - An Account of the Reconquest of the Sudan

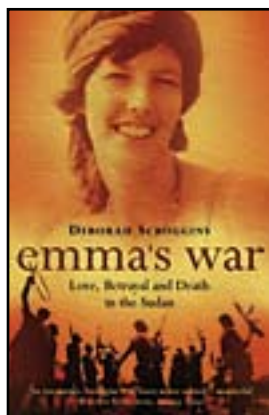
By Winston S. Churchill



An Account of the Reconquest of the Sudan was written by historian Winston S. Churchill (former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom) while he was still an officer in the British Army. The book provides a history of British involvement in Sudan and the conflict between British forces and Al-Mahdiya movement.

Emma's War: Love, Betrayal and Death in the Sudan

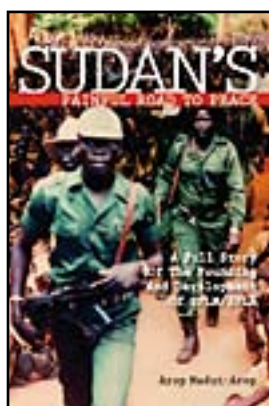
By Deborah Scroggins



This gripping, layered analysis of the brutal civil war in Sudan examines the complex relationship between the West and troubled Africa through the experiences of Emma McCune, a romantic, idealistic British aid worker who married a southern Sudanese leader. Ms. McCune, the author writes, was a "natural partisan" with an idealism that "was out of place in the context of a ruthless African civil war". Ms. McCune also becomes a symbol for those Westerners who, while well-intentioned, eventually harm the developing world more than they help it and become disillusioned in the process.

Sudan's Painful Road to Peace: A Full Story of the Founding and Development of SPLM/SPLA

By Arop Madut-Arop



Sudan's Painful Road to Peace was designed as a reference book for students of Sudanese politics, but even more importantly, it contains comprehensive records of the recent history of Southern Sudan. The author, a successful Sudanese journalist and human rights activist, wishes the book to serve as a reminder to Sudanese policy-makers that such a destructive war, which held socio-economic national advancement hostage for five decades, should never be repeated.

Back cover: Displaced children seeking shelter in Agok after the fighting in Abyei. Credit: Tim McKulka/UNMIS

