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**Special Media Monitoring Report on the Inauguration in Juba of
Miraya FM Radio Station on 30th June 2006**

2nd Jul. 2006

(By UNMIS Public Information Office)

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Highlights:

Salva Kiir and Pronk unveil Miraya radio

(The local press/ST – 2nd Jul. Juba) Vice-President of the Republic and the President of the Government of Southern Sudan, Salva Kiir Mayardit, and SRSG Jan Pronk officially opened yesterday in Juba Miraya radio station broadcasting on FM 101.

In his speech before the ceremony, Vice-President Salva Kiir said that the United Nations radio station comes in line with the agreements reached between the United Nations and the government.

He said the radio station is set to bring about a transformation in the culture of peace and in development and expressed hopes that its success in southern Sudan will open the way for such a radio station in the north.

He also said that its inauguration will help promote the broadcast media in southern Sudan.

Mr. Kiir also called upon the relevant authorities at Miraya FM to make use of the newly inaugurated telecom network in the south.

On his part, SRSG Pronk said that Miraya radio is not a “United Nations radio” as many call it but a radio for all Sudanese. He said it will be run independently and in a democratic way in order to bring peace to the people and help spread a culture of peace.

The SRSG further said that Miraya FM will work to support the unity option as set forth in the CPA.

Miraya FM will be broadcasting 24 hours a day in English, Arabic and some local languages.

It is worth noting that about 70 Sudanese nationals are currently employed by Miraya and that the United Nations intends to open other radio stations in Darfur and Khartoum.

Vice-President Salva Kiir, “SPLM has no problem with the deployment of international forces to Darfur”

(AlWatan – 1st Jul. Juba) In a joint live press conference on the inauguration of the United Nations’ Miraya radio station in Juba yesterday (30th June), Vice-President of the Republic Salva Kiir Mayardit said that the SPLM’s position on the deployment of international troops to Darfur is that it has no problem with the issue.

He pointed out that the government has accepted the United Nations to come into southern Sudan by virtue of the CPA and he sees no reason why they should not be allowed into Darfur.

He further pointed out that ever since these forces set foot in Sudan, no report of wrongdoing on their part has been brought to the attention of the government and they have fully abided by the agreements made with them.

The Vice-President of the Republic further pointed out that they have brought these issues to the attention of the National Congress party partners in the GoNU and asked the reporters to ask of the NCP why they reject a United Nations force for Darfur.

On his part, Mr. Pronk expressed concern over the situation in Darfur.

UN sponsored radio inaugurated in Juba

(The Citizen – 1st Jul. Juba) The First Vice President of the Republic, President of the Government of Southern Sudan, Lieutenant General Salva Kiir yesterday inaugurated the United Nations Radio Mirror station in the Southern capital, Juba. Speaking at the inaugural ceremony Lt. Gen. Kiir said the media could play an important role in implementation of the CPA, which has brought peace in the country.

General Kiir said the Government of Southern Sudan will benefit much from Radio Mirror, noting that the opening of UNMIS radio in Juba was an agreement between the GoSS and the United Nations. He said Radio Mirror would help in promoting democracy and fighting corruption.

General Kiir stated that the cooperation between UNMIS and the Ministries of Information, Radio and Television and Telecommunications will extend to other relevant ministries. He noted that there are already three private radio stations in the Southern Sudan, suggesting that UNMIS try to extend its services to other states in the South. He pointed out that JAM, a Ugandan communications company operating newly in Juba, would help Radio Mirror FM.

The Southern Sudan Government's president acknowledged that press freedom can play an important role in development and that the Government has prepared bills concerning the media which will be sent to the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly for endorsement.

Addressing the same occasion, the SRSG, Mr. Jan Pronk, said Radio Mirror FM / Miraya FM will keep people informed about the daily activities. Mr. Pronk declared that the radio station is a major instrument for implementation of the CPA. He said it would help development and liberate people from ignorance. Mr. Pronk recalled that the late Dr. Garang's call for two systems in one country has now given birth to a democratic society in Sudan. According to Mr. Pronk a democratic society is where people are not afraid of the government and the government is not afraid of the people. Jan Pronk observed in this regard that the press is now getting freer than before.

Pronk said, the people of the Southern Sudan have the right to participate in the programs and activities of Radio Mirror and it belongs to them. Listen to the people through Radio Mirror, he urged.

The Minister of Information, Radio and Television, Dr. Samson Kwaje, in a brief speech hailed the efforts of the UNMIS, expressing optimism that Radio Mirror would meet the aspirations of the people of Southern Sudan and help in the rapid development of the country. He praised the excellent cooperation of UNMIS with his Ministry, adding that his Ministry is ever at the services of UNMIS whenever it calls. Dr. Samson described the inauguration as marking a great day, noting that they had put a lot of efforts into making radio a principal information tool in South Sudan, as it is in other African countries.

The Editor in Chief of Radio Mirror, Ian Noble, in a short speech assured Radio Mirror would keep the people well informed. He disclosed that the Radio Mirror project has been promoted by Mr. Jan Pronk, adding that both the government of Southern Sudan and UNMIS contributed effectively towards establishing the new station.

Shortly after the formal inauguration of Radio Mirror, Lt. Gen. Salva Kiir gave a press conference during which he said the policy of his government is to give freedom of the press and that a press bill has been prepared for endorsement by the Southern Parliament.

The inaugural celebrations were marked by dances and music staged by school children and local musicians.

U.N. opens radio in south Sudan, blocked in north

(Reuters – 1st Jul. Juba) Sudan, July 1 (Reuters) - The U.N. mission in Sudan has launched a radio station in the south to educate people about a peace deal that ended years of civil war, but Khartoum has blocked it from broadcasting in the north of the country.

Run from studios in the southern capital Juba, 101 Miraya/Mirror FM went on air on Friday with a mandate to demystify the complex agreement signed in 2005 to end decades of conflict between south Sudan and the government in Khartoum.

But Khartoum has refused to honor a commitment it made last December to let the United Nations broadcast it across the whole country, U.N. officials say.

The head of the U.N. mission in Sudan, Jan Pronk, said he hoped Khartoum would relent so the radio station could spread information about the north-south peace deal and a separate agreement for the conflict in Darfur in the west.

"From a political point of view it's a missed opportunity to go another step on the road towards democracy," Pronk said, referring to Khartoum's refusal to allow the radio in the north.

"I really hope that while listening to Radio Miraya they will learn they do not have to be afraid of such a radio station," he told a joint news conference with the south's president, Salva Kiir, after the launching ceremony in Juba.

The government of Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir has presided over one of the world's most repressive media environments since it seized power in a coup in 1989, routinely censoring newspapers and jailing journalists.

Khartoum's refusal to grant the United Nations permission to broadcast in the north reflects wider tensions between the world body and the government, which has refused to allow the deployment of U.N. troops in the troubled Darfur region.

The regional government in south Sudan has in contrast welcomed the radio station and its mission. "It will also play a crucial role for democracy, human rights and fighting against corruption and other vices," Kiir told the launch ceremony.

The radio station will initially be broadcast mainly in the Juba area on 101 MHz FM, but it aims to build relay stations to reach most of southern Sudan's roughly eight million people within the next nine months.