



Media & Spokesperson Unit, Communication & Public Information Office

## **MEDIA MONITORING REPORT**

### **United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)**

WEDNESDAY, 20 MARCH 2013

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# Highlights

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## **Attack in Jonglei leaves 80 wounded: ICRC**

*Gurtong.net Juba, 19/3/2013* – Clashes between South Sudan's army and an armed group resulted in scores of casualties in a large and extremely remote area of Jonglei state leaving at least 80 people wounded, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has said.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) information coordinator, Ewan Watson has said in a telephone interview that the attack took place on Sunday has also been confirmed by the Sudan People's Liberation Army's spokesperson, Col. Philip Aguer in a telephone interview.

"The most important thing is that all wounded are entitled to receive treatment and medical workers and health care personnel should be left to do their job. They should be left to do their Job," ICRC coordinator said.

He added that they treated both soldiers and civilians who are victims of the clashes.

Aguer said that the incident that took place on Sunday was when the forces of Yau Yau, a rebel leader attacked the SPLA.

A surgical team of the ICRC is reported to have carried out an emergency surgery on 30 wounded people in Pibor town over the last two weeks according to Ewan Watson.

"Fighting is ongoing and all those wounded are entitled to receive medical care," said Melker Mabeck, head of the ICRC delegation in Juba also said in a release.

"With the onset of the rainy season, reaching the wounded will become increasingly difficult. The ICRC stands ready to provide medical care for wounded of all backgrounds," he said.

## **Jonglei security has normalized: Governor**

*Gurtong.net Bor, 19/3/2013* – The Jonglei State Governor Kuol Manyang Juuk has said that the security situation in the volatile state is normalizing after the South Sudan army took measures against the David Yau Yau led militia.

"The cattle thieves, child abduction and rampant killings have reduced compared to some few months back and this is because of the serious measures being taken by the government of South Sudan to send more army forces to carryout operations against the renegade David Yau Yau," Kuol Manyang said.

Kuol said that the army campaign programmes are ongoing well in the state.

Kuol said many people have become aware on the importance of the peace campaign being carried out by groups of civil societies together with the support from the governments, Non-Governmental Organization (NGOs) and the United Nations (UN) agencies.

"Such criminal acts have now reduced because people become aware about peace initiatives being told to them by the civil societies, UNMISS and NGOs," Kuol said.

The governor said the Jalle Payam and Walgak cases where over 100 people were killed will not happen again because the government has paid great attention to stop tension within the local communities.

"We blame the case of insecurity being sponsored by Yau Yau and we hope his case will come to an end soon," he said.

He condemned allegations being created by the local community that there are foreigners with Yau Yau forces at the movement.

"There are no foreigners with Yau Yau, he has no army, his forces are just militias which were destabilizing the community before the launching of the disarmament program and have now joined him," said Kuol.

Last week, Pibor County Commissioner Joshua Koni Irer said the security situation in Pibor County had started to normalize as rebels forces have been scattered by the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in to small zones in Jonglei state.

He said there has been the ongoing development after the recent fighting which led to killing of five rebels groups at Lotila River located within Machabol Payam.

County Commissioner appreciated assistance being offered by South Sudan Army (SPLA) who evacuated the wounded women to Pibor hospital for treatment.

David Yau Yau's re-emergence had posed a significant threat to the stability of South Sudan.

Previously active as a rebel leader between May 2010 and June 2011, Yau Yau rejoined the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in June 2011 but defected again in April 2012, resuming operations in restive Jonglei state in August 2012.

His forces and mobilized Murle youth have recently attacked SPLA installations in the major centers of Likwangole, Pibor, Gumuruk, Manyabol, and Koth Char in Pibor County.

### **Security stable in Pibor after rebels clash with army**

**Catholic Radio Network**, 19/3/2013 – Pibor County Commissioner said on Tuesday the security in town was calm following an attempt by David Yau Yau's rebels to loot the area on Monday night.

Joshua Konyi told CRN over a phone interview that the SPLA was able to control the situation at midnight when rebels tried to loot an area south of Pibor.

He said now security was okay in Pibor.

Mr Konyi blamed Yau Yau's rebels for the security problems in Jonglei state.

He said the rebels on Sunday ambushed army forces that were on their way to Likwangole payam.

Army spokesperson Philip Aguer declined to comment on the incident saying he was in the border overseeing SPLA withdrawal from the areas marked as the security buffer zone.

The Red Cross said on Monday that at least 62 people were injured by the clashes between army and rebels and 30 serious cases were treated by a team of surgeons that came from Malakal to Pibor.

### **Wau protester detainees on hunger strike to demand trial**

**Voice of Radio Wau**, 19/3/2013 – Nine detainees arrested during Wau's deadly protests in December are on hunger strike demanding a meeting with the state attorney general.

The detainees claimed that they were denied access to their defense lawyers and their files were never presented to the court.

A source in Wau Central Prison who spoke under anonymity told Voice of Hope on Tuesday morning that nine detainees have declared to the prison authorities that they were going to stay 48 hours without food until the attorney general met them.

The detainees include Sebit Baptist Francis, former minister of information, Luka Anthony Ubur, ex-Commissioner of Wau County, and seven members of Western Bahr El Ghazal parliament.

Some of the detainees some have already spend four month in detention.

Michael Butuku, director of Wau Central Prison, told Voice of Hope over the phone that he was not aware of the hunger strike.

### **Unity state recovers over 100 cattle from Misseriya youth**

**Sudantribune.com Bentiu**, 19/3/2013 – Authorities in South Sudan Unity state on Tuesday said they recovered 140 cattle herds stolen from the region last year, after a raid by the Misseriya, a Sudanese nomadic tribe.

The Mayom county attack, according to state officials, also led to the death of three civilians, with five wounded.

In June last year, the Bul Nuer of Mayom County and Misseriya chiefs signed an agreement on cross border grazing and trading, but demanded compensation for losses, should either side violate the accord.

Michael Chiengjiek Geay, the state deputy governor confirmed several herds of cattle were returned by Misseriya as part of the deal signed by both communities last year.

“The coming back of those people and the return of these cattle is part of the deal that was made between Mayom county people, supervised by the state authorities and the Misseriya people,” Geay told Sudan Tribune Monday.

He however stressed that the same law would apply in case the population from Mayom County raid cattle from the Misseriya community.

The implementation of the agreement, the deputy governor said, will boost efforts to enhance peace between the two cattle grazing communities, who often clashed in the past over land and water for their animals.

He urged other communities in Abiemhnom, Rubkotna and Parieng counties to emulate and embrace the peace initiative their counterparts in Mayom have entered into with the Misseriya.

The return of the stolen animals, sources told Sudan Tribune, reportedly followed intense pressure mounted on the youth by Misseriya chiefs and traders, in compliance with last year’s cross-border deal.

### **Minister urges parliamentarians to be watchful of contracts**

**Gurtong.net Juba, 19/3/2013** – The Central Equatoria State Information and Communications Minister has called on the parliamentary oversight committees to be watchful of companies entering into contracts with government, saying lack of close monitoring presents high risk of depriving the state government.

Jacob Aligo Lo-Lado who doubles as the state government spokesperson said that many contracts entered into by the government institutions have not involved key institutions such as the Ministry of Finance and Planning and the Ministry of Justice in particular the state legal attorney.

“Today if you go round our different institutions Ministries they enter into contracts without putting the Ministry of Finance into picture,” Aligo said. “So if our legal attorney is not involved you will find that the part the documents [contracts] do not shoot the side of the government.”

“These committees [parliamentary committees] are over sight committees that is why I said they have to live to their responsibilities so that they see and scrutinize where things are going wrong,” Aligo said.

He said there is need to involve the State Attorney General in all the contracts the state government institutions are entering into with any company.

Aligo is the former Finance and Economic Planning and said that inactive involvement of the relevant state government institutions into scrutinizing of the contracts leads to loss of huge sums of money by the government and it affects service delivery.

### **Convoy takes South Sudanese home from Khartoum**

**Agence France Presse (AFP) Khartoum, 19/3/2013** – Almost 1,000 South Sudanese left their squalid Khartoum camp to return home by convoy on Tuesday but there is little immediate hope for tens of thousands who remain, officials say.

South Sudan's embassy and the Africa Inland Church arranged the journey to Malakal, in South Sudan's Upper Nile state, after Sudanese authorities asked them to leave their camp around the Shajara train station in southern Khartoum, said Kau Nak, the embassy's deputy head of mission.

"Some of them are still loading" and the last of the vehicles will leave by Wednesday, he told AFP.

The UN says an estimated 40,000 South Sudanese are living in the open at camps like Shajara in the Khartoum area. Many have been there for more than two years, since before South Sudan became independent in July 2011.

"These points have basically become squatter camps and the people are living in squalor," Mark Cutts, head of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in Sudan, said on the OCHA website.

"All of them are waiting for means of transport. All of them lost their jobs. All of them lost their nationalities, and nobody's supporting them," said Nak.

Belongings were strapped to the roofs of the 21 buses which left on Tuesday with 16 trucks.

Nak said some of the travellers felt they will need their mattresses, chairs, cooking gear and other vital belongings to start a new life in the South.

"Some of them were born here," and worry they will have nothing in South Sudan, he said.

"These people sold their properties and are living in poor conditions with little or no access to even the most basic of services. People are constantly threatened with eviction as the landowners want their land back and residents complain about the squatter areas," OCHA said.

AFP last year visited one camp, Dar es Salaam, which resembled a junk yard wrapped in hessian. Residents tied cloth bags around metal crates, beds and other possessions to form crude shelters.

They had no running water and not even a toilet in their dusty outpost.

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) had assisted thousands of South Sudanese to move south by river barge, train and emergency airlift by mid-2012.

But increased tensions between Sudan and South Sudan, along with a lack of funds, stopped most of the returns, aid workers said.

IOM has been working with the Africa Inland Church to transport small groups "but the governments of Sudan and South Sudan need to organize and fund larger scale returns," to ensure the migrants' safety, OCHA said.

"There's no kind of a major repatriation process that is going to take place," Nak told AFP, urging another church or non-governmental group to step in.

During an interview at his office last week, Nak showed a hand-written list of 267 names sent to him by people who heard about the church operation and asked to be repatriated as well.

At last count there were more than 100,000 Southerners in the Khartoum area alone, he said.

Other estimates place the total number of southerners in Sudan at between 220,000 and 350,000.

"Without the resumption of organized return movements to South Sudan, the lack of prospects for the majority of those wanting to return back home in safety and dignity is very troubling," the UN Refugee agency's deputy Sudan representative, Francois Reybet-Degat, said on the OCHA website early this month before tensions appeared to ease between Sudan and South Sudan.

The two countries agreed on a series of timetables to implement key economic and security agreements, including a re-opening of 10 border crossings.

If those pacts take effect then the stranded South Sudanese should have more options to get help in moving south, or choosing a life in the north, Nak said.

The small convoy on Tuesday will also give them hope, he said.

### **Health Ministry, partners renew fight against Malaria**

*Sudantribune.com Juba, 19/3/2013* – South Sudan's Health Ministry, Malaria Consortium and other international partners have signed the Malaria programme review, renewing their commitment to fight the disease.

Considered an in-depth assessment of South Sudan's current National Malaria Control Programme, the review was conducted to assess goals, strategies and interventions needed to strengthen planning and resource mobilization to scale up malaria prevention and control in the young nation.

Earmarked over a one-year period, the Malaria programme review will reportedly be used by the Health Ministry, with support from Malaria Consortium, to develop the Malaria Strategic Plan 2014-2018.

"The Malaria programme review is a key milestone for the now independent Republic of South Sudan and provides an opportunity for an increased commitment to malaria control across the country. We are very happy to continue our support and strong partnership with the Ministry of Health as they move closer to fulfilling the Abuja commitments," said Ruth Allan, Malaria Consortium's Country Director.

Malaria, official say, accounts for between 20% – 40% of all health facility visits in South Sudan, as well as 30% of all hospitals admissions. Currently, the disease is reportedly the leading cause of death in children under five in the country.

Harriet Pasquale, the ministry's National Malaria Control Program Manager commended Malaria Consortium and other partners for their continued support in Malaria fight, describing the programme review as a "landmark in the re-orientation of the programme to effectively deal with malaria."

She appealed to all partners in the country to join hands in order to "aggressively" eliminate malaria out of South Sudan.

The United Nations World Health Organisation (WHO), UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), UN Refugee agency (UNHCR), UK Department for International Development (DIFID), US Agency for International Development (USAID), World Bank and Population Service International (PSI), were among the other international partners that agreed on a comprehensive strategy to control Malaria in the country.

South Sudan Vice President, Riek Machar presided over the ceremony, organized by the Health Ministry in the capital, Juba. Machar signed the agreement on behalf of government.

### **The fight against drought should be intensified, says minister**

**Gurtong.net Juba, 19/3/2013** – The Environment Minister Alfred Ladu Gore has said that all countries should work towards the eradication of drought which is widely recognized as a hazard occurring as a consequence of the natural climatic changes.

The minister was speaking in Juba soon after arrival from a UN conference in Geneva.

"The focus of the conference was on the national drought policy which of course was drawn from various experiences from the countries who attended. A lot of issues came up about the catastrophic effect of drought which are not only affecting African countries," said Gore.

According to Gore, drought may be increasing in frequency and severity given the changing climatic conditions and after the four-day conference the members declared that countries should work towards curbing drought to avoid disaster.

"All the countries all over the World, including South Sudan are urged to take a pro-active role in promoting drought resilient policies so that we don't wait for drought to happen," said Gore.

The role of farmers is essential in the fight against drought. The farmers can use drought-resistant crop varieties and techniques that boost soil fertility as ways to increase productivity and sustainability in drought-prone areas.

"We must prevent drought by planting so many trees and by conserving our forests," he added. Gore said the conference calls for a holistic approach to help shape the future global development agenda and make people more resilient to droughts.

Reaction to droughts in most parts of South Sudan is generally slow in terms of crisis management and poorly coordinated efforts.

According to the minister, the conference provided practical insight into useful, science-based actions to address the key drought issues being considered by governments.

## **German firm ready to invest in urban development**

**Radio Bakhita Juba, 19/3/2013** – A Germany based company affirmed its readiness to take part in the urban development of Central Equatoria and South Sudan.

Spitthover Vermessung CEO Victor Todman visited Central Equatoria Governor's office on Tuesday.

He told the press that South Sudan has the chance to develop in a strategic way to boost construction and industry, create jobs and reduce dependency from neighbouring countries.

Mr Todman pointed out that his company was ready for a of the public-private joint venture that includes the government to ensure better cities are built in Central Equatoria and in South Sudan.

The German investor pointed out that energy is most essential for the people in a country together with water.

Spitthover Vermessung is registering in the Republic of South Sudan to implement its planned activities in the country.

## **Campaign launched to fund documentary on South Sudan's first Olympian**

**Sudantribune.com London, 19/3/2013** – A campaign was launched on Tuesday to raise funds for a documentary about South Sudanese marathon runner Guor Marial, who competed at the 2012 London Olympics as an independent athlete as South Sudan is yet to form an Olympic committee.

Marial, who became a citizen of the United States in February, has not returned to South Sudan in over two decades since he was forced to flee the Sudanese civil war aged eight.

The fundraising campaign aims to raise \$12,000 and \$26,000 in order for Guor to travel with a film crew to visit his family in Unity State's Parieng County and to be welcomed the government to the capital Juba.

In September South Sudan's cabinet said the nascent state was ready to receive Marial whenever he manages to visit the country, which separated from Sudan in 2011.

The film's director, Bill Gallagher, told Sudan Tribune on Tuesday the "fundraising campaign will give the film a kick and if we meet our goal it will literally get Guor on a plane back to his hometown in South Sudan for the first time in 20 years."

Marial ran away from a Sudanese army labour camp during the civil war and vowed never to run again because of the traumatic memories. However, years later, after he claimed asylum in the United States, he discovered he had talent for running long distances.

After qualifying for the Olympics in his first ever marathon the next challenge was to get to London 2012. After turning down an offer to represent Sudan and with South Sudan yet to establish an Olympic Committee Marial - after last-minute lobbying and a flurry of international media coverage - was granted special permission to compete as an independent athlete just weeks before the event.

Hearing of Marial's inspirational story, Gallagher traveled to London to film his participation in the Games, with the intention of expanding the project into a full-length documentary.

"I am really excited about the film because I think it is a story that everyone can connect with" Gallagher said on Monday ahead of Tuesday's fundraising launch.

"It is a story that makes you think 'well if Guor can go through what he did and be an elite athlete and make it to the Olympics, than really anything is possible'. He represents that hope in all of us that there are really no limits to our potential as humans. There was a point in his life when he didn't have much hope of survival, he made it though and with hard work and some friends he became so amazingly successful, and he is only just beginning his journey toward success."

In the marathon on the last day of the Games in August, Marial came 47th out of a field of over 100 of the world's elite with a time of 2:19:32. Marial told Sudan Tribune the day after race that he would have liked to have run faster but was at the wrong stage of his training cycle. He is hoping to go better in the Boston marathon next month.

However, for once it really was the taking part that counted with Marial's story capturing the imagination of the world's media and in many ways introducing South Sudan to world.

"I think one of the most interesting parts of this story is that some parts of the world don't know much about South Sudan and this film is a way for people to learn," Gallagher said on Monday.

### **Education minister announces reforms for the year 2013-2014**

**Gurtong.net Yambio, 19/3/2013** – The Western Equatoria State General Education Minister Philip Pia has announced new measures to uplift the education standards in the state.

Among the changes includes having a unified calendar and time table in all schools and shifting focus on sciences and re-enforcement of real pedagogy of education.

All students and pupils must attend classes for least 210 working days every year and not less than 70 days per term.

The minister said that this is to enable them cover the entire syllabus instead of the previous system where schools were opening in March.

This year, schools were opened in February and all classes in Upper primary will start at 8:30 am and stop at 3:30 pm with the lower primary classes starting at 8:30am and conclude at 1.00pm.

To boost the performance in sciences, the minister said that, laboratory equipment have been taken to Tombura, Yabongo, Yambio Lui secondary schools to be used by the students. This is to boost sciences in Secondary school in WES.

The minister said that all teachers must have a scheme of work, lesson plan, preparation book and a watch.

He urged parents to wake their kids early to prepare for school and they should always provide something for them to eat while at school.

He said that the Parents Teachers Association (PTA) members should always visit schools to check whether lessons are going on as required and that pupils and students should avoid spending most of their time watching football and ridding boda boda but they should dedicate their time for reading books.

### **Kapoeta South County Community resource center nears completion**

**Gurtong.net Torit, 19/3/2013** – Kapoeta South County is set to receive a Community Resource Centre constructed through financial commitment from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Kapoeta South County is set to receive a Community Resource Centre constructed through financial commitment from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The facility in Kapoeta is being constructed by Nile Global Limited and the works started in September 2012.

Engineer Fredrick Omal disclosed that the whole project costs about US \$168,000. The Kapoeta South County Authorities welcome the initiative and support from the UNDP as they thank the construction company for really showing its commitment.

The objective of the center shall entirely be a benefit to the whole community as it serves as a multipurpose center where trainings, meetings, conferences for government or private institutions shall be held and the fees shall be collected for the services.

### **SPLA completes 60 percent borders withdrawal**

**Catholic Radio Network, 19/3/2013** – The army on Tuesday had withdrawn 60 percent of its personnel from the border areas and the process should be completed by Sunday.

SPLA spokesperson Philip Aguer, who arrived on Tuesday in Juba from the border, told CRN over a phone interview that the withdrawal operations should finish in four days.

He said the UN monitors who were mandated by the African Union to verify the buffer zone were not on the ground in Jau yet.

Col Aguer said the withdrawal process started on Sunday in Jau and the SPLA forces were now ten kilometers south of that disputed area.

He added that the army was withdrawing from Kiir Adem and Tashwin.

On March 8, South Sudan and Sudan agreed on a timetable to implement the security arrangements signed at the end of September that include the demilitarization of a 20-kilometre corridor along the border.

### **Sudan and S. Sudan agree to form committee on rebels' issue**

*Sudantribune.com Addis Ababa, 19/3/2013* – Sudan and South Sudan agreed to form a new mechanism to deal with accusations of supporting or harbouring of rebel groups in the two countries.

The African Union High Level Implementation (AUHIP) convened a two day meeting on 18-19 March for the Joint Political and Security Mechanism (JPSM) to discuss the effective withdrawal of troops as it was agreed earlier this month, but also tackle additional committees to implement other security measures they agreed last year.

The party agreed to form "a joint committee to be mandated to deal with any concern and complaints may constitute a violation to the MOU on Non-Aggression and Cooperation of 14th February 2012, as well as the Mutual Cooperation Agreement of 27th September 2012," says a text signed by two parties at the end of the meeting.

The text, which is released by the mediation, emphasized that these concerns and complaints include "harbouring and supporting" of "rebel Movements and negative Forces" by both countries.

Sudan and South Sudan traded accusations of supporting and harbouring rebel groups from both sides. The mistrust between the two sides prevented the implementation of any deal they reached in the past particularly the Cooperation Agreement of 27 September 2012.

The 19 March decision on rebels issues allows the two sides to seriously handle the mutual accusations support to rebel groups and pave the way to solve the ongoing conflict in the Blue Nile and South Kordofan.

Khartoum and Juba will prepare proposals on the formation of this committee and its term of references and discuss it in an extraordinary JPSM meeting.

The African mediation will determine the date of this special meeting.

"Up to that time the Military Intelligence Chiefs on both States should be tasked to conduct regular meeting joint Meetings for the resolution of Complaints and Concerns if any", the text concludes.

Sudanese government delegation, from Addis Ababa, released a statement providing that the sealing of this agreement "opens the door for unlimited cooperation between the two countries in all fields".

While the defense minister Abdel Rahim Hussein said that this deal moved the relations between the two countries to a new stage, "a stage of cooperation and collaboration" he added.

He underlined that this new agreement deals with the situation beyond the buffer zone and aims to restore between the two countries and remove factors of suspicion and mistrust.

### **Four civilians killed by SLA-MM rebels in South Darfur**

*Sudantribune.com London, 19/3/2013* – UK-based charity the Sudan Social Development Organisation (SUDO) has condemned the killing of four civilians in South Darfur by forces from the Sudan Liberation Army, loyal to leader Minni Minawi (SLA-MM), calling on the rebel group to bring those officers responsible to justice.

The four civilians from the nomadic Rizeigat tribe were apparently killed in cold blood on 15 March when forces from the SLA-MM, who had been involved an unsuccessful pursuit of Sudan Armed Forces (SAF), attacked their encampment south-east of Beleil, about 35 km from the state's capital Nyala, SUDO (UK) said on its website.

Meanwhile, another nine civilians are reportedly missing after apparently being forced to join the SAF during a separate attack in the area on 14 March. SUDO (UK) said it appeared that four of the nine missing had been taken prisoner as some of them spoke on the phone with relatives.

According to the charity, the Sudanese government last week attempted to mobilize Arab tribes to join the army in attacking an SLA-MM camp in Angoga, 150km south of Nyala on the way to Giraida in South Darfur.

Although the large-scale mobilization failed, an unknown number of individuals accompanied the army which attacked and captured the rebel camp on the 14 March.

However, the following day, SLA-MM forces counter-attacked the government army and re-took the camp, chasing the withdrawing SAF soldiers up to the village of Galdi, near to Beleil, where they subsequently turned back due to the government army presence in the area. It was as they were returning that they attacked the nomadic settlement.

SUDO (UK) called on forces from the joint African Union and United Nations peacekeeping mission (UNAMID) to intervene proactively to ensure that civilian lives are protected.

It also urged the Sudanese government to ensure that civilians are not forcibly recruited to take part in armed conflict, adding that detainees must be released immediately and those responsible brought to justice.

In recent days, SUDO (UK) says there has been a large build of Reziegat tribal members in Umdawanban, east of Beleil, who are believed to be gathering to take revenge for the killings.

South Darfur has been the scene of heavy fighting between the SAF and SLA-MM forces in recent weeks, with both sides battling to gain control of the state.

Some 4,000 people have reportedly been displaced after their villages were destroyed by aerial bombings by the Sudanese air force, after hostilities erupted last week, sources told Radio Dabanga.

There have been divergent reports of casualties, with an SAF spokesman saying 100 rebels were killed in two battles last week south of Nyala, while the SLA-MM claimed 170 soldiers and 90 militia were killed.

In a press release quoted on Radio Dabanga's website, the opposition National Umma Party (NUP), condemned the ongoing battles in South Darfur, saying poor security in the state had led to an "uninterrupted series of terrorism and anarchy".

The statement also criticizes the inability of the South Darfur government to curb hostilities, saying raids, kidnappings and blackmail are being carried out in broad daylight with apparent impunity.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the conflict in Sudan's troubled western region, where ongoing violence continues to take a terrible human toll.

The United Nations has estimated that around 300,000 people have died during the conflict in Darfur, while some 2 million people have been displaced. Khartoum puts the death toll at 10,000.

### **Former Sudan Airway officials may face criminal charges over Heathrow case**

*Sudantriune.com* Khartoum, 19/3/2013 – The commission of inquiry established by the National Assembly's Transport Committee on the issue of Heathrow airport landing slot finalized its report and recommended that criminal, civil and administrative charges be brought against a number of former officials in Sudan Airways including chairman of the board of directors.

The Chairman of the Parliament's Transport Committee Oshek Mohamed Ahmed, said in a press statement after a briefing given by the Minister of Transport, Ahmed Babiker Nahar, that the issue has become a legal one, adding that the commission has finalized its task and determined the level of charges and the list of accused persons.

The former chairman of the board of directors Al-Sharif Ahmed Omar Badr had previously challenged the commission to prove his involvement in the sale of Heathrow airport landing slot asserting the invalidity of the charges.

Badr has been widely accused of approving sale of the Heathrow slot to British Midland International (BMI) for millions of dollars.

Badr was fired from Sudan Airways after the Kuwaiti Arif Investment Group (AIG) took over. When the Heathrow issue surfaced AIG denied any involvement.

A former Sudan Airways expert accused a senior official in the company of receiving “thousands of dollars” in return of facilitating the deal with BMI.

The expert, who preferred to remain anonymous, said that some members of the board of directors who were in charge when AIG acquired Sudan airways contributed significantly to completion of the controversial deal which brought about \$136 million into the accounts of AIG and another Sudanese companies owned by an influential government official.

This month the Sudanese president Omer Hassan al-Bashir ordered that those implicated in this deal should be held accountable.

### **Sudan’s Bashir confirms he will stand down by 2015**

*Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 19/3/2013* – Sudanese president Omer Hassan al-Bashir has reiterated his intention to step at the end of his term in 2015, saying Sudan is in need of “fresh blood”.

In an interview with Qatar’s Al Shraq newspaper due to be published on Wednesday, Bashir said deliberations were now underway within the National Congress Party (NCP) to select a new presidential candidate for the next general elections.

He said the new leader will be named at NCP’s general convention next year.

“Elections will be held in two years and this gives them sufficient time to choose their candidate, God willing,” he said.

“It is not about who will be the candidate, it is rather about how the NCP selects its coming leader,” he said, ruling out any possibility that the party would nominate him again for the top job.

“No, we [have] had enough. We spent more than 20 years [as president] and this is more than enough. Sudanese people are looking for fresh blood and a new impetus in order to continue on what we have begun,” he said, adding that the party was well-positioned to contest the next election.

Bashir did not address rumours about his health nor the hanging arrest warrant issued against him by the International Criminal Court (ICC).

The 68-year-old president underwent throat surgery last August in Qatar performed, which was only officially acknowledged weeks after.

He underwent a second operation in Saudi Arabia last November, with officials saying he was advised to cut down on his public appearances.

This month, he secretly flew to Saudi Arabia again for a medical checkup, according to a presidential source.

Bashir has been ruling Sudan since taking power in an Islamist-backed military coup in 1989.

In 2009 he became the first sitting head of state to be served with an arrest warrant from the ICC for war crimes and crimes against humanity allegedly committed in the Darfur conflict, which according to the UN, led to the death of 300,000 people and displacement of 2.7 million in 2003-2004.

He had previously made public his intention to step down at the end of his term in 2015, but last month second vice-president Al-Haj Adam Youssef said that Bashir would be renominated for a new term.

### **COUP PLOT TRIAL BEGINS**

In the interview, Bashir was also quizzed about the status of investigations in to a recent coup attempt to overthrow the government and the possibility that those involved had external connections.

“Let me assure you that this group doesn’t have any connections to a third-party, they are purely Sudanese elements. Their trial has begun and the court held the first hearing and we will be waiting for the court’s ruling”, he said, without providing further details.

Sudanese authorities arrested 13 suspects last November, following the failed coup plot, including ex-spy chief Salah Gosh and Brigadier General Mohamed Ibrahim Abdel-Galil from the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) who also served as Bashir’s bodyguard at one point.

The trial of military personnel accused of involvement in the plot began on Thursday in Khartoum amid intense secrecy.

## NORTH-SOUTH RELATIONS

Asked to comment on the prospects for future cooperation with the South, Bashir reiterated to Al Shraq that despite their often thorny relationship, South Sudan remained Sudan’s closest neighbour and vice versa, with existing ties and interests irrevocably linking the two.

Under an agreement inked in Addis Ababa on 12 March, South Sudan has agreed to resume oil production, ending a bitter deadlock over border and security issues that had threatened to send both countries back to war.

Landlocked South Sudan shut down its 350,000 barrel-per-day crude output in January last year over a dispute on how much it should pay to pump its oil through Sudanese pipelines to the Red Sea.

The closure had a devastating effect on the economies of both countries, which are heavily dependent on oil revenues, and worsened ongoing disagreements over territory and other issues left unresolved between the two countries following South Sudan’s secession in July 2011.

Bashir conceded that Sudan’s “enemies” continued to target it through South Sudan, adding that any positive developments in relations between the two countries was likely to lead to increased foreign meddling in their national affairs.

“However, we bet on our relationship with our brothers in South Sudan because they know well that their interests are connected to ours. We aren’t only talking about exporting the Southern oil, although it is the only source of income for our brothers in South Sudan as they don’t have any other tapped resources to substitute for it”, he said.

“We also refer to the old and continuing relations, be it demographic, cultural, economic, or trade relations because we were once one country for a hundred years”, he added.

Bashir dismissed alternative route options through Kenya and Ethiopia which had been flagged during the long-running stalemate, saying Sudan remained the only economically feasible option to pump South Sudan’s oil for export.

## **US advocacy group attempts to ward off Sudan envoy pick**

*Sudantribune.com* Washington, 19/3/2013 – As the Obama administration prepares to nominate a new special envoy to Sudan, a major Sudan advocacy organisation has urged secretary of state John Kerry not to nominate former US ambassador to Sudan Tim Carney, who is reportedly being considered for the post, according to US foreign policy blog site The Cable.

In a rare move, Act for Sudan is attempting to head off Carney’s possible nomination before it materializes amid concerns his stance on US policy on Sudan could undermine peace efforts in the region. NGOs usually wait until a nomination is announced before they express public opposition.

Act for Sudan is a coalition of activists working to end genocide and mass atrocities in Sudan.

The Washington-based group’s action reflects a broader ongoing frustration with the administration’s Sudan policy and the enduring legacy of Obama’s first Sudan envoy, Scott Gration, who clashed with advocates who saw him as too solicitous of the regime in Khartoum.

Informed sources told The Cable that Carney is one of two finalists being considered to replace Princeton Lyman, the special envoy who followed Graton. The other finalist is former ambassador to Indonesia Cameron Hume.

The post has been vacant since Lyman's abrupt departure was announced by the White House last December for what sources said was due to health reasons.

During his tenure Lyman, who was appointed in March 2011, worked to mediate between Khartoum and Juba to resolve outstanding issues especially pertaining to border demarcation, oil, the status of Abyei and the insurgency on the Sudan-South Sudan border?

In a letter to Kerry dated 19 March and quoted on The Cable, Act for Sudan expressed concern that Carney's "publicly stated advice and guidance with regard to US policy on Sudan will prolong the suffering of the Sudanese people and will undermine US objectives to support a just peace and stable democracies in Sudan and South Sudan, which ultimately are in the best interest of the US and the international community."

Act for Sudan referenced a February 2009 Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing, chaired by Kerry, where Carney argued for several measures that the group feels would reward and benefit Sudanese president Omar al-Bashir, who has been indicted for war crimes by the International Criminal Court (ICC).

During the hearing, Carney opposed efforts to isolate Bashir. He proposed instead to defer the ICC warrant, sending an ambassador to Khartoum and removing Sudan from the state department's list of state sponsors of terrorism.

At a recent Act for Sudan conference, the founder and president of Genocide Watch, Gregory Stanton, who has known Carney for 30 years and worked with him when Carney was a desk officer in Bangkok for Cambodia, also criticized his possible nomination, saying "This is not the man who should be our special envoy to Sudan".

Hume, the second contender for nomination, served as ambassador to Indonesia after diplomatic posts in Italy, Tunisia, Syria, Lebanon, the United Nations, and the Holy See. More recently he served as ambassador to Algeria and to South Africa, as well as chargé d'affaires to Sudan.

Last December, a coalition of Sudan advocacy groups wrote to the US president, asking him to take several additional steps to combat ongoing violence in Sudan.

"Given the serious human rights violations and national security concerns the US has with regard to Sudan and given the opportunity for positive democratic change that is developing among Sudanese opposition groups and civil society, the new special envoy should reflect a more robust policy", Act for Sudan wrote on Monday. "We strongly believe that ambassador Carney is the wrong man for this critical job".

The advocacy group cited former Democrats senator Russ Feingold, lawyer and diplomat Richard Williamson, former California congressman Howard Berman and former Virginia congressman Tom Periello as other more suitable alternatives for the post.

Last month US representative Frank Wolf called for appointing a new envoy who can reinvigorate the north-south peace process.

"Tensions between Sudan and South Sudan are on the rise and nearing a tipping point. Thousands are starving in the Nuba Mountains. Refugees fleeing violence and seeking aid pour over the border into South Sudan. Low-grade genocide persists in Darfur. An internationally indicted war criminal remains at the helm in Khartoum and travels the globe with virtual impunity," Wolf wrote.

"Our approach to Sudan and South Sudan needs reinvigorating. It demands a renewed sense of moral clarity about who we are dealing with in Khartoum - namely genocidaires. It necessitates someone who can speak candidly with our friends in South Sudan about their own internal challenges, including corruption, and shortcomings as a new nation".

“While an envoy alone does not a policy make, a high-profile special envoy, from outside the department, with the knowledge and mandate to aggressively pursue peace, security and justice for the people of Sudan and South Sudan, is an important step in the right direction”,

Last week the two countries reached agreement on withdrawing their troops from the buffer zone and restarting South Sudan’s oil exports which was hailed as a major accomplishment in the history of the tense relations between the two ex-foes.

### **Gold price likely to fall after oil pumping resumes**

*Sudanvisiondaily.com Khartoum, 19/3/2013* – The union of goldsmiths said the implementation of matrix will result in the fall of the price of gold to SDG 200 per a gram.

Siddiq Al Nour, president of the goldsmiths union told Sudan Vision yesterday that the price of gold fell after the rate of the dollar came down.

He described the signing of the matrix as good work that will boost the national economy and expressed hope that prices of other commodities will also fall so that the citizen can enjoy welfare, prosperity and stability.

The goldsmiths however, complained of the decline of the purchasing power. They said traditional gold mining minimized gold smuggling, stating that Sudan has the best quality of gold.

### **Intelligence based on 'fabrication'**

*Sudanvisiondaily.com Khartoum, 19/3/2013* – Vital intelligence used to justify the invasion of Iraq 10 years ago was based on "fabrication" and "wishful thinking", new documentary claims.

A BBC Panorama investigation, broadcast to mark the 10th anniversary of the start of the Iraq War, suggests that US and UK security services relied on several pieces of questionable information, while dismissing others that were contradictory.

The war, which started on March 20, 2003, lasted over six years, claimed the lives of 179 UK personnel, more than 100,000 Iraqis, and cost more than £9 billion.

Britain ended combat operations in 2009 but a decade on the war remains unfinished business, with ongoing questions about the legality of the invasion, and the conduct of British troops.

Panorama - The Spies Who Fooled the World - documents the chain of secret information that contributed to the decision to invade, including new testimonies from intelligence sources.

It tells how claims from a few sources that Iraq was manufacturing Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) spiraled into apparently sound intelligence used to justify the war.

The programme alleges that certain intelligence was relied on out of wishful thinking, with one source telling the programme the Iraq War was borne out of "choice" rather than "necessity".

In his first TV interview on the subject August Hanning, former head of German Intelligence, said Iraqi spy Rafed Al Janabi - codenamed Curveball - told German secret services he had witnessed the manufacture of chemical and biological weapons, including mobile facilities to produce them. The information was passed by the Germans to American and British intelligence, along with concerns about its reliability, he said.

Former CIA Europe Division chief Tyler Drumheller also claimed he passed warnings about Curveball's claims up the chain of command, while Mr Hanning said he also sent a personal cable to then CIA director George Tenet. Mr Tenet denies receiving the warnings, the programme says.

### **S. Sudan remains MSF's top priority after 30 years of emergency response**

*Sudantribune.com, 19/3/2013* – This year marks 30 years since Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) began providing medical care in the area that now makes up South Sudan. Our first project was in Yei in Central Equatoria in 1983, where we delivered healthcare to the local population and refugees fleeing the civil war

in Uganda. Coincidentally, my first visit to South Sudan as a doctor with MSF was also to Yei, 13 years ago.

It was a great privilege to visit the Republic of South Sudan last week, as MSF International President. It is clear to me that, 30 years on, MSF, as an emergency medical-humanitarian organisation, still has a vital contribution to make. As the country begins to build a health system from scratch, people are continuing to face one emergency after another – displacement, violence, natural disasters, disease outbreaks, malnutrition. While the Ministry of Health and development organizations focus on essential long-term system-building, significant, immediate health needs still have to be addressed. There remains a clear need for donors and aid organizations to invest in strengthening emergency response capacity, which is too often inadequate or delayed.

MSF's focus is on this hands-on provision of lifesaving health services to the most vulnerable communities. Significantly, the country's independence has not brought a downsizing of our operations here. Instead, our commitment has grown, and the last 20 months have seen a substantial scale-up in our activities.

In 2012, our teams conducted 702,000 outpatient consultations, compared with 387,000 the previous year. This is not only due to the huge refugee emergency response in Unity and Upper Nile states, but also to the flooding and serious malaria outbreak that affected great swathes of the country last year. Notably, in 2012, we treated 141,000 patients for malaria, compared to 52,000 the year before. With the number of refugees expected to increase this year, we are working hard to strengthen our over-stretched capacities.

South Sudan is in the top three of more than 70 MSF programmes worldwide in terms of staff numbers and project expenditure. Right now, MSF has more than 3,000 South Sudanese and 350 international staff working across 14 projects to deliver free, high quality healthcare to vulnerable communities in some of the most remote, logistically difficult circumstances I have seen.

Whether it is treating a patient for kala azar in Leer, ensuring a woman can safely give birth in Yambio, operating on a gunshot victim in Nasir, or providing tuberculosis treatment in Agok, what I am struck by is the diverse range of medical activities carried out by our teams and the very different contexts in which they provide them. We are also now integrating the treatment of complicated diseases like HIV/AIDS and drug-resistant tuberculosis into a number of our regular programmes.

In recent days I have visited our teams in Yida refugee camp in Unity state, and in Pibor and Nyirol counties in Jonglei state, to see first-hand the immense health needs of people in these areas. Seeing for myself the dearth of other health services in these parts of Jonglei brought home the urgent need for all armed groups to respect the safety of patients and the neutrality of medical facilities and staff. Without this respect, thousands of people are left without healthcare, just when they need it most.

During the last three decades, MSF has not only been committed to providing medical care to people in South Sudan, but also to bearing witness to their suffering. MSF's medical work has always been complemented by our efforts to draw attention to people whose suffering is ignored by the rest of the world. As the nature of our work here adapts to the changing needs in the country, we will endeavour to continue to bring the need for humanitarian response in South Sudan to the world's attention.

MSF's purpose is to bring healthcare to communities affected by conflict, displacement, natural disasters, disease outbreaks, or extreme lack of access to medical services. We have been doing so here for the past 30 years and we are committed to persisting in our efforts to care for people who are hard-to-reach and hard-to-treat in South Sudan.

*Dr Unni Karunakara, International President of Médecins Sans Frontières, visited South Sudan from 3 – 8 March. MSF has been working in the area that now constitutes South Sudan since 1983 and currently has 14 projects in seven states as well as one in the Transitional Area of Abyei.*

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