



United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)

Media & Spokesperson Unit
Communications & Public Information Office

MEDIA MONITORING REPORT

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Highlights

Yau Yau forces kill two, loot 3,125 cattle in Baliet

Al-Maseer Juba, 06/06/13 – Two people were killed yesterday and three others including a child and an elderly were injured by forces loyal to David Yau Yau in Baliet County, Upper Nile State, yesterday. The rebels also took along 3,125 cattle.

County Commissioner Shok Marieng said that the attack has caused displacement among the people in the area. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

Agriculture Main Target of \$32Billion Japan Grant

Gurtong Juba, 6/6/ 2013– South Sudan has prioritised agriculture and infrastructure as key areas of development.

The South Sudanese Foreign Affairs Minister Nhial Deng Nhial told the press that the government will also diversify the private sector as part of utilizing the \$ 32 billion grant from Japan.

The Minister told the Press upon arrival from Japan where he had accompanied President Salva Kiir Mayardit to the fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development that development of the agricultural sector was key as it is the foundation of the country's economy.

“We will define some of the projects that we think are critical for us and submit them for consideration”, he said.

He added that the grant is significant as it will help South Sudan realise its vision of diversifying her economy away from oil.

“Another issue is also the issue of technical and vocational training. We will aim to ensure that our education standards are in line with the requirements of the job market,” he added.

At the 3-day conference held in Yokohama, Japan that brought together African Heads of States and governments as well as Chief Executive Officers of Africa's Regional Economic Communities, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced a grant of \$32billion US Dollars to boost economic development in Africa, one of the world's poorest continents.

The delegation that was led by President Kiir was received by Vice President Dr Riek Machar. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

UN urges authorities to protect natural resources

Sudan Catholic Radio Network Juba, 06/6/2013- Authorities in South Sudan must make sure the natural resources are protected and used in sustainable manner.

United Nation Environment Programme representative Arshad Khan said the country is blessed with several natural resources that can generate income and employment opportunities, Radio Bakhita reported.

He cautioned that if the natural resources are protected and used in sustainable manner it will serve many generations.

Mr Khan added that if the environment was not protected the country will suffer from several disasters including floods and diseases.

The deputy national Environment Minister Phillip Palet said this year the country would embark on tree planting with the help of schools children.

He said the ministry will established an initiative that will support environmental platform in schools to conserve environment.

The two speakers were talking on Wednesday during the commemoration of the World Environment Day under the theme: "toward effective waste management, reduce, reuse and recycle the waste".

The occasion witnessed the distribution of 500 seedlings to the ten primary schools. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

"I was in Sudan" admits Uliny as rebels accept amnesty in Upper Nile

Sudantribune.com Juba, 6/6/ 2013 - Former South Sudanese rebel leader Johnson Uliny admitted receiving support from Sudan as his forces accepted a presidential amnesty and were met by senior military officials on Thursday.

South Sudan has used Uliny's admission and the testimony of other former rebels as evidence of its long held claim that Khartoum has been supporting rebel groups to fight a proxy war against the young oil-rich nation, which split from Sudan in 2011.

"It is true I was in Sudan. The [Khartoum government cooperated with us in all areas. They provided any support we need including logistics and training when we were with them", Uliny said in an address broadcast on state media.

He however said it was now time to work together to fulfill the dream of South Sudanese president, Salva Kiir.

"This was why [we] responded. The support we had from Sudan has come with us. It will not go back to them. The 3,000 soldiers they helped us to train have come," the former rebel leader remarked.

Uliny, while speaking at military function in Lul, some 35 kilometres north west of the Upper Nile state capital, Malakal said his forces "will be part of the SPLA". At this function, his forces were officially received by SPLA.

The ex-rebel leader said it was time to forget the past and work together as the president has repeatedly stated in his call for amnesty so peace can be realised in the new nation.

Brig. Gen. Malaak Ayuen Jok, the head of information and public relations within the SPLA also reiterated South Sudan's earlier position that neighbouring Sudan has been providing all types of support to different militia groups used as mercenaries to fight proxy war against the young nation.

He further stressed that Khartoum's claims that South Sudan supports the Sudan People Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) rebels were baseless, adding that the southern regime had no connection with the north-based rebel group.

"They [SPLM-N rebels] separated from us when we became an independent country and they became different entity under complete different leadership and command," Jok said.

"We have come today to this area to participate in the reception of our brothers who were fighting the SPLA forces here in the Shilluk kingdom who have now responded to the amnesty given to them by the president and the commander in chief of the SPLA," he added.

The forces under General Johnson Uliny are the third such force to accept Kiir's amnesty, Jok explained in a statement broadcast by state-run SSTV on Thursday.

"The first group came last year with the vehicle and weapons. It was led by Major General James Guit", he noted.

The second group, the South Sudan Liberation Army led by Bapiny Monytil, Carlos Kuol and others, crossed from Sudan into Unity state's Mayom county in April with around 3,000 armed men, who are also waiting to be transferred into the military.

Before accepting the amnesty "they were all in Sudan", Jok said, adding that the former rebels "have said themselves that they were getting all types of support from [the] Sudanese government. This is true because they have never captured anything from us instead it is us who have always been capturing things from forces which gets from Sudan."

The senior military officer said because the militia groups were heavily armed, it was clear evidence that Sudan was providing them with support.

The Sudanese government "have always been denying providing any support to the militia group fighting us but now it is clear. The coming of General Uliny and the other groups who have come already are clear living examples. The rebel leaders themselves have said it but Khartoum continues to deny for the sake of it. And if it is not Khartoum, who else on earth can provide this supports", General Jok asked.

General Johnson Gony Biliu, the commander of the SPLA's sector II in Malakal, congratulated Uliny and his forces for responding to the amnesty offered by the commander in chief of the SPLA forces.

"I welcome you on behalf of the general command to your country. This is where you were born and grew [up]. You are South Sudanese and you will always be. This country belongs to all of us. Our identity is South Sudan. So feel at home and feel free. You are now in division seven under sector II. If there is any problem just let me know. Uliny will soon go to Juba for meeting with the general command so that your integration takes immediate effect", said General Biliu.

He said his country has documentary evidence showing Khartoum provides support to the rebels but that was the work of the politicians to take the issue up with the government of Sudan.

"For us, we are not just accusing Sudan for the sake of accusation. We have hard facts. We are now holding detailed documentary evidence showing that Sudan provides support to the rebels so that they destabilise this country but they will not succeed whatsoever", he explained.

Khartoum has always denied backing South Sudanese rebels and has consistently accused the SPLA in South Sudan of backing the SPLA-North, who are fighting the Sudanese government in South Kordofan and Blue Nile in coalition with the main Darfur rebel groups. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

South Sudan: S. Sudan Switches From Arabic Textbooks to English

VoA Yambio, 06/06/2013 — Primary school pupils in the South Sudanese state of Western Equatoria no longer have to use textbooks from Sudan in Arabic, which many of them did not understand, after some 400,000 textbooks were delivered in the state Thursday.

The books are the first to be written and published under South Sudan's new national curriculum, and cover the core subjects of English, science, mathematics, history and religious studies.

Tandu Emmanuel, a teacher at Yambio Primary School, said that up until the new books arrived, he followed the Sudanese curriculum and used Sudanese textbooks in Arabic, along with an assortment of workbooks and textbooks from other East African countries. There were never enough of the latter for all of his students, he said. And there were other problems with the books in Arabic.

"We could not understand Arabic. Writing from right to left was a problem. Now that English is on, we shall use the books properly with the same writing. We know that our children will understand very well," he said.

The new books follow a national curriculum that was rolled out last year. They were printed under a partnership with the British Department for International Development (DFID) and the South Sudanese government.

The first textbooks were distributed elsewhere in South Sudan last year but Elizabeth Carriere, the head of the DFID office in South Sudan, said the books destined for Western Equatoria were delayed because of printing problems.

So far, only half of the books for Western Equatoria have arrived, but Carriere said the remainder should be coming within the next few weeks.

She hailed the fact that, finally, South Sudanese schools will not have a book shortage.

"This is the first time in history that this state and indeed the country of South Sudan will have enough textbooks in its schools, for both learners and teachers," Carriere said.

"We are proud through our support to be able to contribute to your vision of building an educated and informed nation by 2040."

The DFID has estimated that 15 percent of students who drop out of school in South Sudan do so because they don't have textbooks.

South Sudan

Brazil-Ethiopia-Djibouti-South Sudan Investment Seminar Going On

The first ever two-day Brazil-Ethiopia-Djibouti-South Sudan Trade and Investment Seminar opened on 6 June 2013 in Addis [\(Back to Top\)](#)

IOM to Evacuate South Sudanese from Syria

Eyradio.org Juba, 06/06/2013-The South Sudan embassy in Cairo has confirmed to Eye Radio that 28 families will be evacuated this month from Syria to South Sudan.

There are about 100 South Sudanese in the war-torn country.

On Wednesday, Eye Radio carried a story where the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and the Ministry of Foreign affairs both said the plight of South Sudanese stranded in Syria due to the conflict there –lies entirely in the hands of the South Sudan embassy to Egypt.

The Consul General in Cairo, Ashraf Farouk Akasha today says that the "International Organization for Migration is working on the process of repatriating those stranded in Syria."

"There is coordination going on between the embassy and the International Organization for Migration, IOM, to evacuate them from Syria to South Sudan. Right now they are working on assisting 28 families, they will be evacuated this month to South Sudan," said Amb Akasha.

On Monday, one South Sudanese in Damascus said they are living in serious conditions, and do not have valid passports or money to pay for their plane ticket home. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

Illiteracy & lack of Mobility affect Greater BG Police

*Eyradio.org Juba, 06/06/2013*Lack of mobility and equipment are among the many challenges facing the police in the greater Bhar- el Ghazal region, the police spokesperson has said.

There have been recurring reported cases of cattle raiding, highway robberies and clan-based violence in the region.

Colonel James Monday is accompanying the Inspector General of the police, who is making his first official visit to the country's ten states since his appointment in February.

He said that effectively ensuring law and order is an issue confronting police:

"..... most of them are old; most of them are illiterate. These will need to be addressed and then there is the challenge of budget. You know the strict budget has impact on many things that need to be done."

Colonel Enoka said that the official tour had so far visited seven states including the "disputed mile 14 at the border between Sudan and Northern Bahr el Ghazal state."

He said that he thinks the situation in that area is calm, with the permanent inhabitants and the nomad Misseriya from Sudan living side by side. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

22 African Deportees from Israel die in South Sudan

*Eyradio.org Juba, 06/06/2013*A total of 22 African migrants who were deported from Israel to South Sudan in 2012 have died, an Israel daily newspaper reported today.

According to the report, based on testimonies delivered via migrants' aid organizations, the main causes of death was malaria, contaminated water and inadequate medical attention.

The deportation operation termed “Going Home” aimed to repatriate tens of thousands of asylum seekers and African migrants, mainly from South Sudan and Eritrea.

An aid organization which assists refugees and asylum seekers in Israel condemned the country for deporting the people “without proper preparation”.

Hundreds of South Sudanese were repatriated through the “Going Home” operation last year. .

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Total to partner with Exxon Mobil to explore oil in South Sudan

News Now 6/6/2013-France-based oil company Total plans to establish partnership with US-based Exxon Mobil and Kuwait-based Kufpec to explore oil in the Jonglei state in South Sudan.

The civil war of Sudan in between 1983-2005 had prevented Total to explore oil from the 120,000 km² concession located in Block B in Jonglei, as it holds majority interest in Block B since 1980.

The South Sudan government has started negotiations with the company in 2012 to split the block, as it plans to increase exploration in the block.

South Sudan parliamentary committee chairman Henry Odwar was quoted by Reuters as saying that the area has been broken into blocks B1, B2 and B3.

"Now Total has gone ahead and, with a nudge from the (oil) ministry, engaged certain partners. Exxon Mobil and Kufpec have been brought in to be a partner in Block B1," Odwar added.

The deals in the blocks are yet to be finalised, while block B2 is expected to be held by the same partnership of companies and decision has to take on block B3. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

South Sudan developing national defence guidelines to promote investment

Sudantribune.com Juba, 6/6/ 2013 - South Sudan is currently developing comprehensive national defence guidelines in a bid to promote investment opportunities in the country, the head of the parliamentary public order and security committee said on Thursday.

Aleu Ayeny Aleu said the government was undertaking a review of current national defence programme guidelines, which it hopes to complete by the end of the year.

“The aim of the review is to maintain a defence posture that can firmly defend our territorial land, water and air space by improving the readiness of the Self Defence Forces to further strengthen our security strategy and to contribute more to the improvement of the international security environment”, Aleu told reporters on Thursday.

Aleu has backed a proposal for the establishment of a national security council, saying it would be better able to respond to “unforeseen emergencies”, as well as form long-term security and foreign policies.

A bill to establish the council must first go to the council of ministers before being brought to parliament for deliberation and approval under national law.

Aleu said a strong defence policy would help strengthen the economy and ensure the military played a responsible role in the area of regional security. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

Journalists launch public relations society in Juba

Sudan Catholic Radio Network Juba, 06/6/2013-A team of journalists on Thursday launched Public Relations Society or PRS in Juba.

The Society deputy chairman John Mading Mabor said the main objective of the society was to advance the standard of public relations in South Sudan.

He said the Society also aimed at developing communication to advise the society on issues related to public relations.

Mr Mading explained that the vision of the society was to develop public relations practice in the country.

Society advocates for Public Relations recognition as a profession in South Sudan. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

Somali traders decry rising insecurity

Gurtong Torit, 06/6/ 2013 -A section of the Somali community conducting business in Eastern Equatoria State are up in arms over what they term as “targeted at them”.

The traders at Kapoeta town have protested at the frequent attacks, saying that just recently, five heavily armed men stole 150,000 South Sudanese Pounds from Narus petroleum business belonging to a Somali only identified as Musa in Kapoeta town.

Traders who sought anonymity told Gurtong that armed men entered the premises in the Saturday night incident and ordered a policeman guarding the compound to surrender his gun before tying him and ordering him to remain silent as they went for another Somali attendant.

They then forced him to lead them to the treasury where they made away with the cash before fleeing the premises.

The Somali business community in the state has however, expressed optimism that the situation will change with time.

In January this year, business at Kapoeta town came to a stand still for the better part of the day when shops remained closed as the traders were protesting the killing of a Kenyan Somali businessman at night.

However, investigations into the killing bore no fruit.

Efforts to reach the Kapoeta County Commissioner Martin Lorika Lojam on the issue were futile as a call to his phone did not go through.

Kapoeta is located in Kapoeta South County, in Eastern Equatoria State, on the east bank of the Singaita River. The main road from Lokichogio, Kenya to the capital city of Juba, South Sudan, runs through Kapoeta and the town sits in a land dominated by the Toposa ethnic group. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

Sudan to brief international community over Juba support to rebel groups

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 6/6/ 2013 - Sudanese cabinet decided on Thursday to carry out a "broader diplomatic campaign" to brief the international community about the support that the neighbouring South Sudan provide to the rebel groups.

The Council of minister was briefed during its weekly meeting by president Omer Al-Bashir who chaired the cabinet about the outcome of encounters he had with African leaders during the African summit last month in Addis Ababa.

Bashir explain to his African counterparts, Sudan’s position on the violations of the matrix of cooperation agreements committed by the South Sudanese government and reaffirmed that Juba continues to support rebel movements to "carry out acts of terror and sabotage", said the cabinet spokesperson Hatim Hassan Bakheit after the meeting.

According to Bakheit, the president added that Juba’s support to the rebel groups "is part of its strategic plan aiming to undermine Sudan’s capabilities and destabilise security and stability in the country".

Sudan and South Sudan signed a timetable agreement last March to implement a number of agreements signed by Bashir and his South Sudanese counterpart Salva Kiir on 27 September 2012. However two countries continue to trade accusations of support to rebel groups.

The two countries also continue to diverge over how to hold up a referendum on self-determination in the disputed area of Abyei.

Khartoum believe that a lobby of South Sudanese officials including members in Juba government and leadership of security and intelligence services continue to support the rebels to get concessions from Sudan over their homeland of Abyei.

Kiir who is under international pressure to refrain such alleged support accused Khartoum of holding Juba responsible of its own problems and denied backing the rebels.

Last Wednesday, United Kingdom ambassador to the UN and UNSC for June 2013 president, Mark Lyall Grant warned the two sides that that any support to rebel groups from both sides "is completely unacceptable and all the members of the Security Council are clear that should not happen".

The coalition of rebel groups Sudanese Revolutionary Front (SRF) attacked last April different localities in Kordofan region as some 63,000 have been displaced by the clashes.

The rebels announced they plan for a bigger operation that might target different areas simultaneously as part of their War of attrition to bring down the regime.

Bashir warned after the taking back of Abu Kershola on 27 May that if Juba continues to support the rebels he will irreversibly shut down oil pipelines allowing the exportation of South Sudanese oil to the international market.

Bakheit said the cabinet decided to conduct a campaign inside the country and to prepare the public opinion for such measures against South Sudan.

Last month the UN Security Council decided to add over 1200 soldiers to the UNISFA to participate in the monitoring operations on the common border between the two Sudans but seemingly the parties are moving again towards gloomy horizons. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

Three killed in Sudanese military helicopter crash

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 6/6/ 2013– Three people were killed on Thursday when a military helicopter crashed in the capital of the Blue Nile state.

The army spokesperson Colonel Al-Sawarmi Khalid Sa’ad earlier said that two people were killed in the accident which took place in the town of al-Damzain and resulted from the chopper crashing into an electricity tower.

But the pro-government Ashorooq TV reported that one extra person perished as a result of the crash.

Col. Sa’ad insisted that the helicopter was on a training mission and offered no further details.

The governor of the state Hassan Yassin said the swift response helped reduce the toll and hailed the residents’ cooperation with authorities.

He said there were no casualties among civilians.

Aviation accidents in Sudan are common and authorities routinely blame it on technical failures.

The Blue Nile state is the scene of fighting between the government and the Sudan People Liberation Movement North (SPLM-N).

In 2011, Sudanese president Omer Hassan al-Bashir sacked SPLM-N chairman Malik Agar from his post as governor of the state following clashes between the army and SPLM-N fighters. Each side blamed the other for instigating the fighting. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

ICC critical of Security Council’s “inaction” on Darfur

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 5/6/ 2013 - The International Criminal Court (ICC) has criticised the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) over its “inaction and paralysis” in response to the deteriorating situation in Sudan’s war-torn western Darfur region.

The comments were made in the latest briefing by the ICC’s office of the prosecutor (OTP), which was released in New York on Wednesday.

ICC prosecutor Fatou Bensouda said it was the 17th such briefing issued by her office since the 15-member UNSC referred the situation in Darfur to her office in 2005.

LACK OF CONVICTION

Bensouda singled out the lack of decisive action by the UNSC to bring to justice those allegedly responsible for the most grave human rights violations in the region as a particular point of frustration and despair.

“Regrettably, each briefing has been followed by inaction and paralysis within the council while the plight of victims of crimes committed in Darfur has gone from bad to worse”, Bensouda said.

“The deep sense of my office’s disappointment should come as no surprise to this council, given the serious concerns shared within the United Nations about the situation in Darfur”, she added.

The briefing comes following comments made by the head of UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Valerie Amos, while on an official visit to Sudan, urging the international community not to let Darfur slip off the radar.

A recent escalation of violence in the troubled region has seen some 300,000 people displaced in the first five months of 2013 alone, more than the total number of displaced in the last two years.

The briefing notes that ongoing aerial bombardments in Darfur by the Sudanese military; the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war; government restrictions on the delivery of humanitarian aid and impunity for actors in the conflict accused of war crimes persists.

CALLS TO END IMPUNITY

Sudanese president Omer Hassan al-Bashir, defence minister Abdel Raheem Hussein and former head of the notorious “Darfur Security Desk” Ahmad Haroun have all been indicted by the ICC for war crimes and crimes against humanity allegedly committed at the height of the Darfur conflict in 2003-2004.

“We have done our part and it is up to this council to live up to the legitimate expectations of Darfur’s victims”, Bensouda said in the briefing.

“We stand ready to continue doing our part, but time is long past due for this council to act with courage and conviction by adopting appropriate measures within its mandate to ensure that Sudan fugitives are brought to justice sooner rather than later”, she added.

Bensouda also criticised the UNSC for failing to intervene after neighbouring countries, most notably Chad, refused to arrest Bashir despite him taking several trips inside their borders.

“It is a matter of great concern that this council has failed to act on any of the seven formal communications from the judges of the ICC regarding these matters”, she added.

CAUSE FOR CONCERN

Referencing a meeting that took place last month between Amos, Bashir, Hussein and Haroun, Bensouda called on the UNSC to reassess its dealings with the trio of wanted war criminal, questioning whether such contact was in the best interests of serving justice.

“I strongly encourage the UN to conduct an ongoing critical analysis of such contacts ... We must ask ourselves whether the gain to the UN is worth the costs of such contact, “she said.

Bensouda noted with concern the ongoing involvement of Haroun and Hussein in alleged crimes elsewhere in Sudan.

She also pointed to reports of the ongoing involvement of ICC indictee Ali Muhammad Ali Abd-Al-Rahman, also known as Ali Kushayb, in clashes in Central Darfur in April. Witnesses have reportedly placed Kushayb at the centre of an attack on the town of Abu Jeradil, 30kms south of Um Dukhun, on 8 April, riding in a government vehicle, together with units from the Central Reserve Police, the Border Intelligence, and other government-affiliated militia.

According to the ICC briefing, the government-aligned forces shot indiscriminately, burned homes and shops, stole livestock, and looted goods. More than 100 civilians were killed, while some 30,000 displaced people, mostly women and children, fleeing to Chad.

Bensouda urged the UNSC to engage with all relevant organisations addressing the Darfur situation, including the ICC, to assess progress in shared goals and work towards finding a comprehensive solution to the 10-year conflict.

THREAT TO SECURITY

She further warned that as long as those responsible for alleged violations in Darfur were granted impunity, they would continue to represent a threat to international peace and security.

Representatives from Luxembourg, United States, Guatemala, France, Azerbaijan, Russia, Argentina, Republic of Korea, China and Australia also spoke following the briefing.

They decried the continued violence in Darfur, and in particular, the recent assassination of Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) leaders who, in April, had signed a peace agreement with Sudan. Many delegates called for the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, which was described by some as the one viable avenue for establishing peace in Darfur.

Speakers also pressed Sudan to respect the ICC’s outstanding arrest warrants and called on all states to end impunity.

The representative of the United Kingdom, which holds the council’s presidency for June, said the decision of some states not to act on the warrants despite being signatories of the Rome statute was regrettable, stressing that the council should urgently consider its options for achieving peace in Darfur. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

Sudanese ICC suspect at scene of fresh crimes in Darfur: HRW

Sudantribune.com Nairobi, 6/6/2013– There are calls for the UN Security Council to take action, amid claims that a top Sudanese military commander wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) led or participated in the April attacks on ethnic Salamat communities in Central Darfur.

Witnesses cited by Human Rights Watch (HRW) in a statement released on Monday said that the attackers appeared to include government forces using state-issued weapons and equipment.

In 2007, the ICC issued an arrest warrant for Ali Kushayb, also known as Ali Mohammed Ali, for crimes against humanity and war crimes in West Darfur in 2003 and 2004.

The former militia leader, who now serves in a high-ranking post with the auxiliary Central Reserve Police, was detained by Sudanese authorities that same year on unrelated charges and again in 2008, but later released him due to a lack of evidence.

AT THE SCENE

“Witnesses place Ali Kushayb at the scene of recent killing, burning, and looting in Darfur,” said HRW’s Africa director Daniel Bekele “This shows that allowing fugitives to remain at liberty can have a devastating price”, he added.

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) was also briefed on the matter by the ICC prosecutor this Wednesday.

HRW has urged the UNSC to press Sudan to surrender Kushayb to the ICC immediately.

Heavily armed members of the Misseriya and Ta’isha ethnic groups have been carrying out periodic attacks on ethnic Salamat communities in and around Um Dukhun, Central Darfur since early April.

More than 100 civilians were killed and scores more were injured in the clashes, which also resulted in the burning and destruction of property and the displacement of tens of thousands of people.

Witnesses have placed Kushayb at the scene of an attack on the town of Abu Jeradil, 30kms south of Um Dukhun, on 8 April, where he was allegedly seen riding in a government vehicle.

According to eyewitness accounts, large numbers of heavily armed men, most wearing khaki uniforms, arrived in waves, first on foot and then in vehicles, before opening fire indiscriminately, burning homes and shops, stealing livestock, and looting goods.

The attackers were reportedly travelling in a convoy of government land cruisers and were armed with rockets, anti-aircraft weapons; rocket propelled grenades, and other weapons, although HRW was not able to independently verify the reports.

“The [attackers] were shooting at shops and people. We saw houses and fields on fire as we fled,” an elderly man from Abu Jeradil told HRW.

Salamat men told HRW they fought back using rifles but were far outnumbered and outgunned by the attackers, whom they identified as members of the Central Reserve Police, Border Intelligence and militia.

More than 30,000 refugees, mostly women and children, crossed into Chad following the outbreak of violence, where conditions remain dire amid the onset of the rainy season.

Although most of the displaced people are of Salamat ethnicity, other non-Arab ethnic groups have also been caught up in the fighting.

“They didn’t see any difference between communities; they just wanted people to leave. They stole our cows and burned our crops and took our clothes from our house and burned the house down. We saw them”, one Tama woman from Abu Jeradil told HRW.

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Sudan’s government has repeatedly downplayed its responsibility for the violence in Darfur, saying it does not have the capacity to control inter-ethnic fighting.

Conflict over land and other resources has intensified in 2013, displacing more than 170,000 people in Darfur and Chad, according to UN estimates.

A long-running land dispute between the Salamat and Ta'isha ethnic groups is blamed for the recent fighting, with tensions flaring between the two groups in 2012 when the government created the state of Central Darfur, a move that appeared to consolidate Salamat power.

In late January, Kushayb, who is part Ta'isha, gave an incendiary speech at a market in South Darfur, accompanied by local government officials and ethnic leaders, stating that he was not just a Central Reserve Police commander but also a 'janjaweed' commander, calling on Ta'isha fighters to join with him to protect their land.

NO PROTECTION

HRW research found that the Sudanese government had facilitated attacks by the state security forces, taking no steps to protect civilians from the fighting.

The reason for the government's support for one side in the fighting remains unclear, although observers consulted by HRW suggest that Sudanese leaders wanted to appease ethnic Misseriya and Ta'isha men who fought in the pro-government 'janjaweed' militia forces during the Darfur conflict in the mid-2000s, and consider the Salamat to be Chadian nationals.

Salamat relations with neighbouring Misseriya Arabs deteriorated sharply in early 2013 following a series of armed robberies allegedly carried out by the Misseriya on Salamat youth.

The Ta'isha and Misseriya joined forces and attacked dozens of Salamat towns and villages starting on 5 April at Bildebe, with attackers burning property in some 24 villages, according to estimates by UN agencies in the area. . [\(Back to Top\)](#)

For further information or media enquiries please contact:
UNMISS Spokesperson
Tel.: +211 (0) 912 06 7149 or Mobile: +211 (0) 912 396 539

United Nations Mission in South Sudan - Public Information Office
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