

**Public Information Office****UNMIS NEWS BULLETIN****13 February 2008****SPLA and SSPS clash in Khorflus***

Fighting between the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and Southern Sudan Police Service (SSPS) was reported in the village of Khorflus (28 kilometres south of Malakal) on 11 February.

UNMIS Sector Commander Col. Anil Singh Rathore arrived in Khorflus on 12 February to consult with the local Commissioner, political leaders and area villagers. Today, he is meeting with the SPLA and SSPS.

The situation remains tense, with the total number of the people killed still unconfirmed. UNMIS has provided medical treatment to the wounded and is assisting with restoration of peace to the area.

UNHCR seeks \$63 million to repatriate refugees to Southern Sudan

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has launched an appeal for \$63 million to fund its 2008 operations in Southern Sudan, including organizing the voluntary return and reintegration of 80,000 Sudanese refugees now in neighbouring countries.

In a statement released on 12 February, the UNHCR said funds raised in the supplementary appeal would ensure continuing support for the repatriation process, which has seen the return of more than 169,000 Sudanese refugees and an estimated 1.9 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) since the Comprehensive Peace Agreement was signed in 2005. Some 260,000 Sudanese refugees still remain outside the country's borders.

"If the pace of return is not adequately supported, the challenges for sustainable reintegration may become even greater," said Marjon Kamara, Director of UNHCR's Africa bureau.

The UNHCR plans to assist with the voluntary repatriation of 45,000 Sudanese refugees from Uganda, 17,000 from Kenya, 16,000 from Ethiopia and 2,000 from Egypt. Priority will be given to returnees from Ethiopia so that voluntary repatriation can be completed during 2008.

Where UNHCR has a presence it will also assist with the return of IDPs, if requested.

UNHCR, working in coordination with the government, UN agencies and other partners, plans to continue community-based reintegration projects for both refugees and IDPs returning to areas lacking basic services. In major IDP sites in the capital, Khartoum, the UNHCR will continue to monitor the protection situation.

Maridi holds emergency security meeting

Following a series of uninvestigated crimes, Maridi's County Commissioner organized an emergency meeting on 12 February. County chiefs and Joint Integrated Unit Commanders as well as representatives of the Sudan People's Liberation Army, police, Attorney General's Office, UNMIS Security and UN Police got together in an effort to strengthen security in the area.

Several cases were reviewed, including that of a 14-year-old Dinka boy who went missing while following his father to feed cattle on 4 February. In another instance, following a JIU report in Malakia on 11 February that a 28-year-old man had shot himself, his remains were handed over to relatives for burial without a police investigation. Neighbours of the deceased, however, said he was shot by an unknown gunman.

In a third case, a woman was found dead in the JIU barracks on 9 February, and again buried by relatives before a police investigation could occur.

The meeting ended with resolutions to conduct immediate investigations of all cases within two weeks; to delay burial of the deceased by relatives unless ordered by police in consultation with the county judge; and to establish unconditional cooperation amongst police, JIU/SPLA and the judiciary.

Security Developments

A senior member of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) visiting Tonj (96 kilometres south of Wau) on 12 February for a political campaign was arrested by a Tonj police officer (also a senior SPLM member) and severely beaten in detention. Due to the nature of his injuries, the victim was evacuated from Wau to Khartoum by air.

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