

NAI NEWSLETTER

16 January 2004

WITH FOCUS ON SUDAN AND UGANDA

AGREEMENT ON WEALTH SHARING IN SUDAN

The government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) have reached an agreement on wealth sharing. After 20 years of civil war, the parties are now closer to a comprehensive peace deal. However, the ongoing unrest in the Darfur region continues to threaten a sustainable peace in Sudan.

Discussions on wealth sharing began in 2002, but negotiations ran into serious difficulties because of continued fighting in the South. A limited ceasefire arrangement laid the ground for renewed negotiations, and the parties made considerable progress in early 2003. Norway has been much engaged in the peace process.

Control of the oilfields situated in the southern part of the country has been a core issue. Oil became the largest source of income for the government in Sudan, after oil companies began pumping crude for export in 1999. Observers claim that large quantities of the government's oil revenue in 2001 (580 million dollars) was used to finance the war.

On 7 January 2004, the government and the SPLM/ A signed an agreement on wealth sharing which will give southern Sudan significant economic independence during a six-year interim period. Under the agreement oil and non-oil revenue from southern Sudan will be shared equally between the North and the South and each of the oil-producing states will receive two percent of the net oil wealth. A National Petroleum Commission with four representatives from each side and three non-permanent members will be established to manage the country's oil sector. At the end of the six-and-a-half-year interim period the people of the South will decide whether or not to remain part of the Sudan.

A central bank with two arms will also be established: one in the North, applying the Islamic banking system, which does not charge interest on loans, and the other in the South, operating on the basis of the conventional system.

Talks on outstanding issues—including power-sharing and the status of three contested areas—are continuing, but hopes are that a comprehensive agreement will be signed by the end of January.

The war between Sudan's military regime and the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) has cost an estimated two million lives. An

estimated four million people are internally displaced. The vast majority of the population of more than 30 million live below the poverty line.

A peace agreement may in principle release substantial amounts of support from the United States, EU, UK, Norway and others for reconstruction. But it is not yet clear how the money is to be spent, nor is it clear how much it will cost to rehabilitate the South and other war affected areas. There will be a donor pledging conference in Oslo during the spring.

Unrest in Darfur

Even if talks are proceeding between the government and the SPLA, the prospect of a lasting and sustainable peace in Sudan is fragile. Since the breakdown of peace talks on 15 December 2003 between the government and the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) rebel group, fighting and militia attacks have escalated in Darfur where several rebel groups are fighting on different fronts. In December alone, about 30,000 people fled from militia attacks across the border to neighbouring Chad, bringing the number of refugees there—mostly women and children—to at least 95,000. According to UN sources, some 3,000 families have fled Western Darfur over the last two weeks. Villages have been looted and burned.

The international community is pressing the parties to accept international monitoring of the situation. For the UN it is a particular problem that large areas are largely inaccessible to humanitarian effort.

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All three are scholars with in-depth knowledge of Sudan, as well as the ongoing peace process.

OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS:

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O'Fahey is a specialist on Darfur.

USEFUL PUBLICATIONS IN THE NAI LIBRARY:

Mansour Khalid: War and peace in Sudan: a tale of two countries.
London: Kegan Paul, 2003.

Douglas H. Johnson: The root causes of Sudan's civil wars. Bloomington:
Indiana University Press, 2003.

USEFUL WEBSITES:

http://www.irinnews.org/frontpage.asp?SelectRegion=East_Africa&SelectCountry=Sudan

IRIN on Sudan

<http://www.sudansupport.no>

This is a solidarity web site in Norwegian, with lots of useful links and background information.

<http://www.sudanmirror.com>

This link takes you to the Sunday Mirror newspaper, based in South Sudan.

<http://www.newsnow.co.uk/newsfeed/sudan>

This British web site searches the net every five minutes and provides an extensive overview of the latest news.

<http://allafrica.com/sudan> and <http://www.sudan.net/news>

also provides a good sample of the latest news.

<http://sunaservice.net> gives you the latest news from the Sudanese government.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/business/3383921.stm>

This BBC link gives a clear account of the wealth sharing agreement.

RELEVANT NAI PUBLICATIONS

<http://www.nai.uu.se/webbshop/ShopSE/index.html>

Volker Riehl: Who is Ruling in South Sudan? The role of the NGOs in rebuilding socio-political order. 2001. Available as an electronic publication. This paper examines the role of NGOs in rebuilding socio-political order in South Sudan. It describes the socio-political determinants of the last ten years which will throw some light on the political stage in South Sudan and might contribute to the main question of who really has the political power and influence in South Sudan today.

Desirée Nilsson: Internally Displaced, Refugees and Returnees from and in the Sudan. 2000.

The report comprises a review of the literature and includes comments on priorities for future research.

TOWARDS PEACE IN NORTHERN UGANDA?

In his New Year message to the country President Yoweri Museveni pledged to bring about an end to the regional wars in Uganda. Museveni said that rebel leader Joseph Kony, head of the Lord's Resistance Army, would soon be killed and that peace would be restored in the North.

For 17 years now the LRA leader Joseph Kony has had a destructive presence in substantial parts of the countryside in Northern Uganda. Kony has a horrifying reputation for abducting thousands of children and forcing them to become child soldiers. His troops are also known for cutting off people's lips, ears and noses with the purpose of torturing them into obedience.

The atrocities committed and the incredible suffering of the population were highlighted in a UN appeal for humanitarian assistance issued on 19 November last year. The UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Jan Egeland described the situation in Northern Uganda as "one of the world's worst forgotten crises". "This crisis cannot be allowed to continue any longer", he stressed, during a visit to the troubled North of the country.

The UPDF forces (Uganda People's Defence Force) are regularly reporting victories over different rebel groups. In his New Year speech, Museveni claimed that for instance the LRA attacks in Teso and other regions in the Eastern part of the country now were more or less over.

But the final victory over the LRA is yet to come. The Government forces have been accused of killings and human rights abuses against the local populations in the North. The army is described as consisting of demoralised and poorly paid soldiers, often feeding on the very same people they are supposed to protect. However, locally organised military forces have been rather successful in fighting the LRA, important commanders of which have been eliminated.

President Museveni is often hailed as the new breed of African leader, determined to take his country towards a better future. This vision seems far away in Northern Uganda. In the Acholi sub-region alone, more than one million people have been forced to flee from their homes and take refuge in so-called Protected Villages. The Government forces have warned them that anyone found outside the camps will be treated as a rebel.

The roots of the conflict are linked to local opposition against Museveni's coming to power 17 years ago, especially among politically frustrated supporters of Okello and Obote (in the North) and Amin (in the North-West). In addition, the fact that those same areas never had their share of the positive economic development in the country during the 1990s, has added to their hostility towards Kampala. A solution may be found on a broader regional level. Local peace initiatives in the Acholi region, like the Acholi Religious Leaders Peace Initiative (ARLPI), give some hope for more stability in the

ongoing peace negotiations in Uganda's Northern neighbour Sudan. If successful, there is hope that a peace agreement would pacify the border between the two countries, and also have a direct positive impact on the situation in Uganda.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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Sverker Finnström, PhD, Department of Cultural Anthropology and Ethnology, Uppsala University, defended his doctoral dissertation on Uganda (see below) in December 2003. Like Anders Närman he has many years' experience of Uganda studies.
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Susan Reynolds Whyte, PhD and Professor, Institute of Anthropology, University of Copenhagen, has carried out research with recurrent fieldwork in Uganda since 1969. Her focus has been on Health, Health care, Society, Gender and Family.
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OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS:

<http://www.nai.uu.se/africanists/africanistseng.html>

Other Uganda specialists can be found in NAIs Researchers' database.

UESFUL WEBSITES:

<http://www.hrw.org/reports/2003/uganda0303/>

Uganda. Stolen children: Abduction and recruitment in Northern Uganda. Human Rights Watch—Africa, 15:7A, 24 s. ; 2003

<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/para/lra.htm>

Lord's Resistance Army (Global Security)

<http://www.hrw.org/reports/2003/uganda0703/>

Uganda. Abducted and abused. Renewed conflict in Northern Uganda. Human Rights Watch—Africa, 15:12A,73 s.; 2003

IRIN on the crisis in Northern Uganda.

<http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=37752&SelectRegion=EastAfrica&SelectCountry=UGANDA>

<http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=37790&SelectRegion=EastAfrica&SelectCountry=UGANDA>

<http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=37810&SelectRegion=GreatLakes&SelectCountry=Great%20Lakes>

<http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=37965&SelectRegion=EastAfrica&SelectCountry=UGANDA>

USEFUL PUBLICATIONS IN THE NAI LIBRARY

Sverker Finnström: Living with bad surroundings: war and existential uncertainty in Acholiland, Northern Uganda. Uppsala :Acta Universitatis Upsaliensis, 2003.

China Keitetsi: Child soldier: fighting for my life. Bellevue: Jacana, 2003.

UESFUL NAI PUBLICATIONS:

<http://www.nai.uu.se/webbshop/ShopSE/index.html>

Juma Okuku: Ethnicity, State Power and the Democratisation process in Uganda. 2002. Available as an electronic publication.

This research report critically reviews the impact of ethnicity on the democratisation process in Uganda from colonialism to the present. In conclusion, the contention is that there is a need to understand the substantive underlying political, economic and social configurations that enhance ethnicity rather than denouncing them.

Monica Kathina Juma and Astri Suhrke (Eds.): Eroding Local Capacity. International Humanitarian Action in Africa. 2002.

A critical examination of the interplay between international and local actors operating in the humanitarian arena in Africa. The book considers institutional capacity in the public and private sector, as well as legal and social norms of humanitarian action. The book includes an interesting chapter on Uganda "Revitalising Relief Capacity as Part of the General Reconstruction Programme in Uganda" by Bertha Kadenyi Amisi and Monica Kathina Juma.

COMMENTS ON THE NEWSLETTER ARE WELCOME

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