



UNMIS Press Release

20/09 2008

UNMIS Observes the International Day of Peace

International Day of Peace is observed worldwide on 21 September annually, through a global ceasefire. It is a day dedicated to non-violence. Here in the Sudan, the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) is organizing a number of activities in Khartoum and other areas, including Abyei, Malakal, Wau, Juba, Kadugli, and Ed Damazin.

Events in Khartoum

On 21 September, there will be a special ceremony to celebrate the day at the University of Khartoum. Invited guests will include officials from the Government of National Unity, university representatives, as well UN officials and staff. Special Representative of Secretary-General for Sudan, Ashraf Jehangir Qazi, will read the Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's message for the International Day of Peace. *[English and Arabic versions attached]*

Last night, students representing all of Sudan were linked via videoconference from UNMIS Headquarters with students in UN Headquarters in New York, as well as students in Afghanistan and Liberia for a two-hour exchange of views on peace and human rights. It marked the second year running that Sudanese students participated. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and the UN Ambassadors of Peace, Michael Douglas, Jane Goodall and Elie Wiesel also took part.

Sudan TV and TV Omdurman are to feature a televised debate on International Day of Peace. Panelists will include representatives from the University of Khartoum, University of Juba and UNMIS.

Events in Juba

In Juba, UNMIS in collaboration with the Southern Sudan Peace Commission, the UN Development Programme and War Child International celebrates International Day of Peace with the launch of "**Images of Peace**", a photo exhibition. The exhibit focuses on similarities and differences in the cultures of Southern Sudan and aims to foster better community dialogue and understanding.

The exhibition opens on 22 September at Juba's Nyakaron Cultural Centre.

TEXT4PEACE

A special feature of this year's celebration is the UN's launch of its global TXT4 PEACE/WRITE 4 PEACE campaign. People are invited to send messages of peace to be shared with world leaders when they gather in New York for the General Assembly on 23 September 2008. The UN has established a website, www.peaceday2008.org, to host email and text messages from people around the world.

UNMIS Press Releases are posted on www.unmis.org

For more information on UNMIS activities in observance of the International Day of Peace, please contact: Mr. Jordan Dakamseh, Public Information Officer, Office: +249 (0) 187- 087273, mobile: +249 (0) 912- 177592.