



# Reisebericht Sudan

6. März bis 16. März 2008

Sabine Kapfhamer, Klaus Stieglitz

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# 1. Ergebnisse

## 1.1. Menschenrechtsarbeit

### **Problemkreis Ölabfälle im Ölfeld Thar Jath**

Es ist davon auszugehen, dass das Trinkwasser in Rier mit unsachgemäß entsorgtem Prozesswasser verseucht wurde. Die in der Analyse einer Wasserprobe festgestellten hohen Salzkonzentrationen in Verbindung mit der Strontiumbelastung zeigen deutlich in diese Richtung. Die Aussagen des Landrates von Koch zu Todes- und Krankheitsfällen in Zusammenhang mit dem Verzehr von kontaminiertem Wasser sind ein weiterer Hinweis. Die Aussage eines Mitarbeiters einer vor Ort operierenden Erdölfirma über die unsachgemäße Entsorgung von Ölabfällen liefert einen deutlichen Anhaltspunkt für das unzureichend ausgeprägte Umweltbewusstsein innerhalb des Konsortiums WNPOC. In der Gesamtschau der Umstände ist der Umgang mit Ölabfällen im Ölfeld von Thar Jath nicht nur für die Menschen von Rier eine lebensgefährliche Bedrohung. Es zeichnet sich auch eine ökologische Katastrophe in diesem größten Sumpfgebiet der Welt ab.

### **Problemkreis extralegale Milizen**

Positiv zu bewerten ist der Abzug der „Quot al-Salam“-Miliz. Die Fursan-Miliz stellt hingegen ein großes Unruhepotenzial in Raga dar. Dass diese immer noch von der Regierung in Khartoum bezahlt wird, ist ein eklatanter Verstoß gegen die Sicherheitsabsprachen des CPA vom 9. Januar 2005. Die Fursan sind – als illegitime Waffenträger in Raga – ein deutliches Zeichen dafür, dass die Staatsgewalt in diesem Teil des Sudans mit ihrem Monopol der legitimen Gewaltausübung nicht wirkt. Der friedliche Abzug der Fursan-Miliz aus der Region um Raga würde einen Beitrag zur Stabilisierung der Region leisten. Die JIU sind bislang nicht mit einem in diese Richtung zielenden Mandat ausgestattet. Sollte die SPLA hingegen tatsächlich versuchen, die Fursan mit Waffengewalt zu entwaffnen, droht – jedenfalls nach Darstellung der interviewten Fursan-Kommandeure – ein bewaffneter Konflikt, der die Lage in Raga destabilisieren und Opfer unter der unbeteiligten Zivilbevölkerung fordern könnte.

### **Problemkreis Dschandschawid-Überfälle in Süd-Darfur**

Anhand von drei dokumentierten Überfällen (Dafak, 12. Mai 2007, Jokan, erste Januar-Woche 2008 und Malaaka, 18. Januar 2008) konnten zum Teil neuerliche Kampfhandlungen in Süd-Darfur aufgedeckt werden, die jeweils großes Leid unter der betroffenen Zivilbevölkerung und eine Flüchtlingsbewegung ausgelöst haben.

## 1.2. Humanitäre Hilfe

Die humanitären Hilfslieferungen in Boro Medina und Deim Jalab konnte den Planungen entsprechend durchgeführt werden. In Raga konnten laufende von Hoffnungszeichen unterstützte Projekte in Augenschein genommen werden.

## 2. Überblick

### Reiseteilnehmer

Sabine Kapfhamer (Projektmitarbeiterin Humanitäre Hilfe)

Klaus Stieglitz (Menschenrechtsbeauftragter und stv. Geschäftsführer)

### Ziele

Menschenrechtserkundung in Raga/Boro Medina und Adok/Leer/Koch

Humanitäre Hilfslieferungen in Boro Medina und Umgebung

### Zielorte der Reise

Raga, Boro Medina, Adok, Leer, Koch, Rier



## **Chronologischer Abriss der Reise**

### **Mittwoch, 6. Februar 2008**

Reise Deutschland – Nairobi

### **Donnerstag, 7. Februar 2008**

Flug Nairobi – Juba (Sudan)

### **Freitag, 8. Februar 2008**

Flug Juba - Raga

Einrichten des Basislagers in Raga und erste Gespräche

### **Samstag, 9. Februar 2008**

Fahrt Raga – Boro Medina (100 km, 5 Stunden)

Vorbereitung der Hilfsgüterverteilung

### **Sonntag, 10. Februar 2008**

Menschenrechtsinterviews mit IDPs

Hilfsgüterverteilung im IDP-Camp und an Schule

### **Montag, 11. Februar 2008**

Fahrt Boro Medina – Raga

Gespräche mit den Kommandeuren der Fursan-Miliz und mit dem Kommandeur der JIU-SAF in Raga, weitere Hintergrundgespräche

### **Dienstag, 12. Februar 2008**

Flug Raga – Leer, Fahrt Leer – Adok – Leer, Einrichten des Lagers

### **Mittwoch, 13. Februar 2008**

Fahrt Leer – Rier – Koch – Mirmir – Leer, unterwegs Wasserproben

Gespräche mit dem Commissioner von Koch und mit von der Umweltverschmutzung vor Ort betroffenen Personen.

### **Donnerstag, 14. März 2008**

Gespräch mit Commissioner von Leer

Kurzes Gespräch Riek Machar und Angelina Teny in Leer,

Flug Leer – Lokichoggio – Nairobi

### **Freitag, 15. März 2008**

Vorbereitung Pressekonferenz

Pressekonferenz (ab 11:30 Uhr), Hintergrundgespräche Nairobi

### **Samstag, 16. März 2008**

Flug Nairobi – Zürich, Ende der Reise



Als Kopfbedeckung hätten sie blaue Mützen getragen. Besonders hätten die Angreifer es auf Angehörige des schwarzafrikanischen Stammes der Zaghawa abgesehen gehabt. Im Zuge desselben Überfalles hätten die Angreifer 30 Stück Vieh und ihre Getreidevorräte mitgenommen.

Kurz nach diesem Interview haben wir Gelegenheit, mit Rebecca Ibrahim Kurshus Tochter, Mirjam Yussuf Ali<sup>2</sup>, zu sprechen. Das etwa achtjährige Mädchen erklärt uns, dass sie sich daran erinnern könne, in der Nacht an der Hand ihrer Mama davongelaufen zu sein. Sie habe Schüsse gehört.

### **Interview mit Sarah Jona Suna<sup>3</sup> am 10. Februar 2008 in Boro Medina**

(22 Jahre, verheiratet, drei Kinder)



**Sarah Jona Suna**

Sarah Jona Suna ist in Jokan geboren. Sie gehört dem Stamm der Marsalit an. Bevor sie nach Boro kam, habe sie in der Ortschaft Malaaka, in der Nähe von Rudom, gelebt. Malaaka habe sie am 18. Januar verlassen, weil diese Ortschaft an jenem Tag in den frühen Morgenstunden Ziel eines Dschandschawid-Angriffes geworden war. Sie berichtet über den Angriff: *„Sie kamen um drei Uhr morgens. Ich hörte sie schießen. Da nahm ich eines meiner Kinder auf den Rücken, das zweite vor die Brust, das dritte nahm ich an die Hand und rannte davon. Nach drei Stunden Fußmarsch hielt ich an, um zu essen. Die Dschandschawid nahmen alle meine 15 Kühe weg.“* Die Dschandschawid hätten das Dorf in Brand gesetzt.

Sarah Jona Suna habe darüber hinaus gehört, dass ihr Bruder bei diesem Angriff durch einen Schuß in den Oberkörper verletzt worden sei.

Anhand der drei dokumentierten Überfälle (Dafak, 12. Mai 2007, Jokan, erste Januar-Woche 2008 und Malaaka, 18. Januar 2008) konnten zum Teil neuerliche Kampfhandlungen in Süd-Darfur dargestellt werden, die jeweils großes Leid unter der betroffenen Zivilbevölkerung und eine Flüchtlingsbewegung ausgelöst haben.

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<sup>2</sup> Name von den Autoren geändert.

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### 3.2. Menschenrechtserkundung in Raga – Problemkreis extralegale Milizen

Raga liegt in der Region Western Bahr-el-Ghazal. Im Zuge der Menschenrechtserkundungsreise von 2007 konnte die damalige Präsenz zweier Milizen nachgewiesen werden, die nach den Sicherheitsabsprachen des CPA vom 9. Januar 2005 unrechtmäßig in Raga stationiert waren. Es handelte sich einerseits um die Gruppe „Quot al-Salam“ mit 3.750 Kämpfern unter dem Kommando von Major Hassan Mohammed Abo, der seiner eigenen Angabe zufolge wiederum unter dem Oberkommando von Tom al-Nur stand. Andererseits handelte es sich um die Fursan-Miliz, die unter dem Kommando von Major Hamdan Ahmed al-Momin insgesamt 1.320 Kämpfer umfasste. Bereits im Vorfeld der Reise haben wir von Kontaktpersonen vor Ort erfahren, dass die „Quot al-Salam“-Miliz in Umsetzung des CPA abgezogen worden sein soll. Die Fursan-Miliz sei, allerdings ohne ihren ursprünglichen Anführer, immer noch in Raga präsent, was eine klare Verletzung des CPA darstellen würde.

Der Abzug und die Auflösung der „Quot al-Salam“-Miliz wurde uns in Raga mehrfach bestätigt. Am 11. Februar 2008 suchte Klaus Stieglitz diejenige Kaserne, in der er noch im letzten Jahr mit Major Abo gesprochen hatte. Er fand dieses Gebäude und den angrenzenden Parade-/Exerzierplatz leer, verlassen und ungenutzt vor. Wäh-



**Die verlassene Kaserne der Quot al-Salam-Miliz in Raga**

rend unserer Fahrten innerhalb der Ortschaft Raga haben wir keine „Quot al-Salam“-Milizionäre mehr gesehen. Wir können also mit hinreichender Sicherheit annehmen, dass diese Miliz in Raga nicht mehr existiert.

## Interview mit Said Mohammed Rea und Ibrahim Adam Ishak am 11. Februar 2008 in Raga



Ibrahim Adam Ishak

Die beiden Herren, Said Mohammed Rea (42 Jahre) und Ibrahim Adam Ishak (47 Jahre) sind nach eigenem Bekunden Amir, also Befehlshaber, der Fursan-Miliz. Wir treffen sie gegen 13.10 Uhr in demselben Befehlsstand, in dem wir im Vorjahr mit Major Ahmed Hamdan al-Momin gesprochen hatten. Das Feldzeichen der Fursan-Miliz, ein Blechschild, ist immer noch am Eingangsbereich des Gebäudes angebracht. Ihre Truppe besteht derzeit aus 1.623 Kämpfern, von denen sich 500 bis 600 in Raga aufhalten. Diese würden vorwiegend auf dem Markt als Händler arbeiten. Manche von ihnen würden auch als Hirten tätig sein. Die beiden Herren erklären uns gegenüber, dass es Gerüchte gebe, wonach eine größere SPLA-Einheit von Wau aus auf dem Wege sei, um sie zu entwaffnen. Das würden sie aber nicht akzeptieren.

Ibrahim Adam Ishak: „Wir werden ihnen unsere Waffen nicht geben. Wenn sie reden, sagen wir nichts, wenn sie kämpfen wollen, werden wir kämpfen.“ Ihre Waffen – G3-Gewehre und Kalaschnikows - hätten sie von der Khartoumer Regierung erhalten. Auch gegenwärtig würden sie von der Regierung in Khartoum bezahlt. Dieser Regierung gelte auch ihre Loyalität. Die meisten der Fursan seien Angehörige des Rizeigat-Stammes. Ihre Waffen würden sie nur an die Khartoumer Regierung abgeben, allerdings lediglich dann, wenn diese sie für die Abgabe der Waffen auch bezahlen würde. Ihre Waffen wollten uns die beiden Herren nicht zeigen. Sie hätten die Waffen schon UNMIS gezeigt, diese hätten auch Fotos gemacht.



Feldzeichen der Fursan Miliz vor dem Befehlsstand in Raga





Es sind die Schloten einer Raffinerie, innerhalb von ein paar Monaten aus dem Boden gestampft. Zwei der sechs Kamine rauchen – die Raffinerie ist erst seit wenigen Wochen in Betrieb. Wir fahren an der Raffinerie vorbei, biegen links ab und fahren auf das Dorf Rier zu. Die Einwohner von Rier wurden 2005 von der nordsudanesischen Regierung vertrieben. Dort, wo das alte Rier stand, steht heute eine Rohölförderanlage. 3.500 Menschen mussten von einem Tag auf den anderen ihr Dorf verlassen, um der Ölförderung zu weichen. Das berichteten uns übereinstimmend mehrere Zeugen in Rier. Das neue Rier ist nur wenige Kilometer vom alten Rier entfernt – und 6,5 Kilometer von der Raffinerie. James Rieng Guong<sup>6</sup> (20 Jahre) berichtet uns: *„Wo du lebst, das kennst Du, es ist nicht gut, wenn man gezwungen wird, von dort wegzugehen.“* Entschädigt wurden die Einwohner von Rier bislang nicht. Ein anderes Problem in Rier ist das Trinkwasser. Eine Handpumpe soll frisches Wasser aus dem Boden bringen. Doch die Einwohner von Rier benutzen dieses Wasser nicht mehr. Ein junges Mädchen berichtet: *„Das Wasser schmeckt bitter. Wir waschen damit nicht einmal unsere Kleidung, weil es Farben angreift und die Stoffe zerstört.“* Die Menschen in Rier glauben, dass das Wasser von den Ölfirmen mit Chemikalien verunreinigt ist.

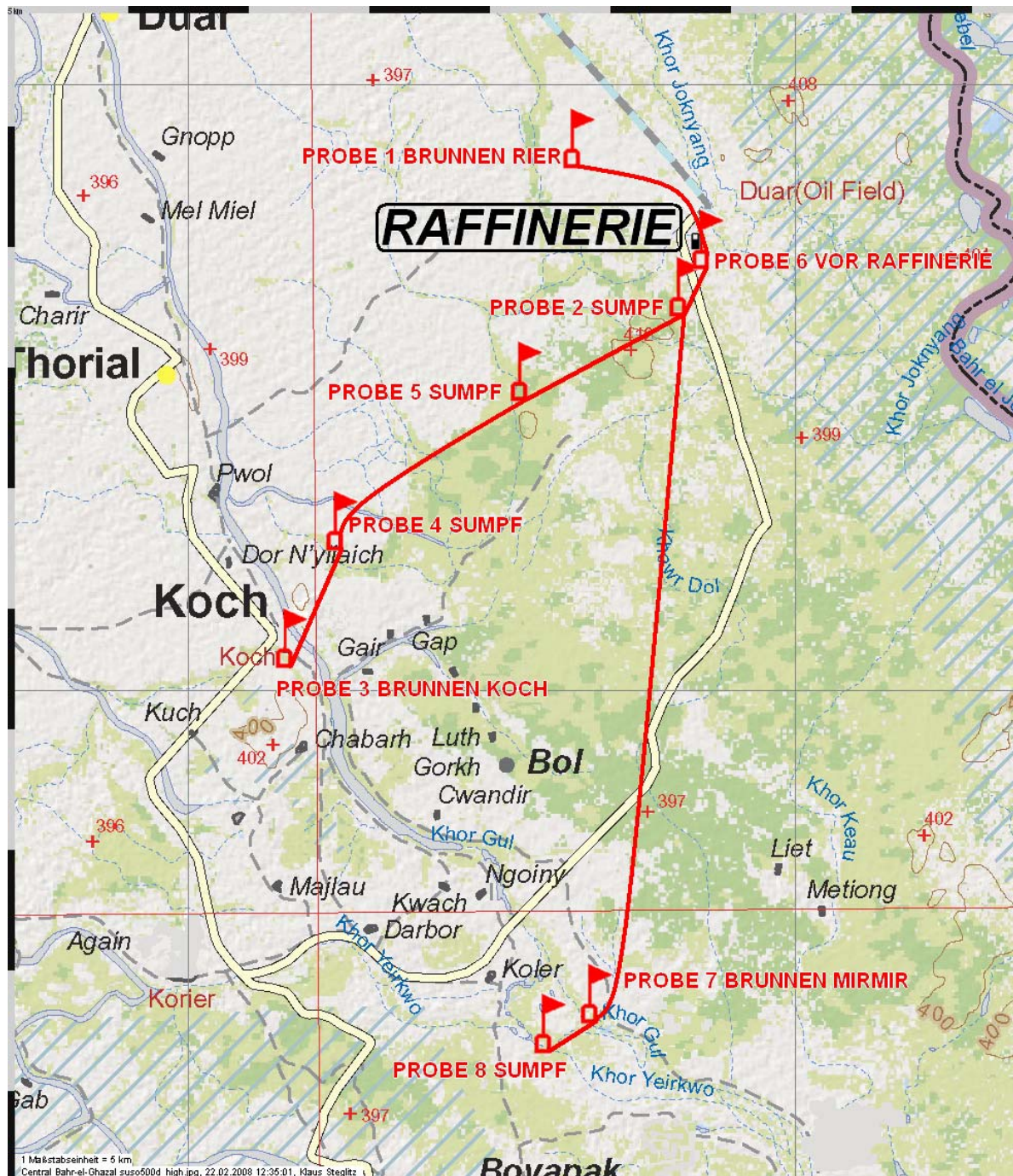


**Die Raffinerie von Thar Jath in der Nähe des Dorfes Rier**

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<sup>6</sup> Name von den Autoren geändert.





Übersicht über die Wasserprobenentnahmestellen am 13. Februar 2008

Gewöhnlich werden bei der Förderung von Öl konzentrierte salzhaltige Lösungen in die Öl-Lagerstätten injiziert (vgl. mittlere Leitung in der schematischen Darstellung), um so den Druck in der Lagerstätte zu erhöhen. Rohöl wird zusammen mit den vorher injizierten Salzlösungen an die Oberfläche gebracht (über die rechte Leitung in der schematischen Darstellung).



## 4. Humanitäre Hilfe

Bereits im Februar 2007 hatten die Hoffnungszeichen-Mitarbeiter Klaus Stieglitz und



Sabine Kapfhamer das Flüchtlingslager von Boro Medina besucht und 200 Hilfspakete verteilt. Dies war der Beginn unserer Flüchtlingsarbeit in der Region Raga, die wir im vergangenen Jahr in regelmäßigen Abständen durch Hilfsoperationen versorgt haben. Bis heute hat Hoffnungszeichen dort insgesamt 1.500 Hilfssäcke, rund 75 Tonnen Hilfsgüter, an Flüchtlings- und Rückkehrerfamilien, bedürftige Menschen und Überschwemmungsoffer verteilt. Beim zweiten Besuch ein Jahr später konnte das Hoffnungszeichen-Team keine nennenswerte Verbesserung der Lebensbedingungen im Lager feststellen. Denn einerseits verdoppelte sich die Zahl der Schutzsuchenden im Laufe eines Jahres von etwa 1.000 Personen auf mehr als 2.100. Und an-

dererseits erhalten die Vertriebenen nach unserem Kenntnisstand kaum Unterstützung. So sind weder eine einfache medizinische Grundversorgung, sanitäre Anlagen noch wetterfeste Behausungen im Lager vorhanden. Zu den größten Problemen zählen jedoch Hunger und Durst. Wie die 40-jährige Hawaia Adam Tokor klagen sehr viele Menschen, dass sie nichts oder zu wenig zu essen haben. *„Wir haben nichts, wir leben von der Hand in den Mund“*, erzählte uns Hawaia, die zum Stamm der Borge zählt. In den meisten Familien gibt es lediglich Sorghum. Auch Wasser, vor allem sauberes Trinkwasser, ist eine große Sorge im Lager. *„Hier in der Nähe gibt es kein Wasser“*, weiß Hawaia. Wie sie holen die meisten Frauen Wasser vom Fluss Boro, der etwa 40 Gehminuten entfernt liegt. Hawaia kam im April letzten Jahres nach Boro Medina, nachdem sie fünfzehn Tage zu Fuß Richtung Süden geflohen war. *„Angst, ich hatte Angst. Aus der Luft bombardierte uns ein Flugzeug, und am Boden begannen sie zu schießen“*, erinnert sie sich.

Die 125 Hilfssäcke, die wir diesmal für die Flüchtlinge liefern konnten, setzen an den täglichen Nöten und Sorgen der Menschen an. Rund 50 kg schwer, war jeder Sack gefüllt mit nahrhaften Lebensmitteln wie Bohnen, Sorghum und Hochenergie-Keksen, außerdem mit praktischen Utensilien wie Decken, einem dreiteiligem Kochset und einer Hacke. 80 Säcke überreichten wir an Flüchtlingsfamilien im Lager von Boro Medina und den Rest erhielten Familien in den Dörfern Minamba und Deim Jalab. Denn dort haben sich erst kürzlich vertriebene Familien niedergelassen, die nun ebenfalls mit leeren Händen einen Neuanfang wagen müssen. Für diese Hilfsoperation haben wir insgesamt rund 25.000 Euro zur Verfügung gestellt. Ein neuer Hilfstransport für 40.000 Euro ist bereits in Planung.





## **Anlagen**

## **New evidence for serious impact of oil-exploitation on human rights in Southern Sudan – results of a trip to oilfields**

Nairobi - After an eight-day trip to southern Sudan the German charity organisation "Sign of Hope" presents new evidence about the impact of oil exploration and exploitation on the human rights situation.

### **Oil-related violations of human rights**

During its stay in the oilfields of southern Sudan, the Sign of Hope team assessed the situation of human rights in the oilfields of Thar Jath (Unity State). The team talked to several people on the grassroots level on the impact of toxic waste on the human and livestock health situation on the local communities as well as the environment. In Rier, a village close to the newly erected refinery of Thar Jath, a young girl was complaining about the bitter taste of water there. "We do not even wash our clothes with this water, as the colours fade away and the fabrics are being destroyed," she said. The Commissioner of Koch, Peter Bol Ruot confirmed that in the year 2006 a total number of 27 adults and three children died as a result of the consumption of contaminated water. Ruot said at the moment there are up to 1,000 people have fallen sick for the same reason. The Sign of Hope panel took eight samples to investigate possible contamination of water in the vicinity of the refinery. The results of a scientific analysis will be released in the next two weeks.

According to residents of the village of Rier, they were forced by representatives of the Khartoum government - who were said to be in control of the area up to early 2008 - to leave their original village in 2005 to create room for oil companies to build facilities. The residents were evicted from their villages after short notice and were settled on nearby land. This new settlement is also called Rier, the same name as the old Rier, which has been occupied by an oil firm. Up to now, the population of Rier has not been compensated.

### **Continued presence of militias in South Sudan violates CPA**

Even though the greater Raga area is part of South Sudan, there are still pro-Khartoum militias present. This is a clear violation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between the government and the ex-southern rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army. In Raga, the key trading post in the area, the Sign of Hope panel visited military bases of the pro-Khartoum "Fursan" militia. According to their commanders, the militia has some 1,623 fighters of which 500 up to 600 are based in Raga township. The township's residents consider their continued presence as a cause of insecurity and as a threat to the stability in the region.

The commanders still receive remuneration from Khartoum which marks a serious breach of the CPA. Sign of Hope's Deputy Director Klaus Stieglitz: "We call upon the Khartoum government to immediately redeploy these forces according to the CPA."

**PRESS RELEASE**

## **Recent Janjaweed attacks in Southern Darfur**

According to eye witnesses in an IDP camp in Boro Medina, people from Darfur have been attacked by Arab militias as recently as January. "They came at three o'clock in the morning. I heard them shooting. Then I fixed one child on my back, my second child on my chest and my third child I took by the hand and ran away. After three hours of walking I stopped in order to eat. The Janjaweed took away all of my 15 cows," said a 22-year-old woman from Maalaka near Rudom in Southern Darfur. She had spent four days on her way to Boro Medina.

The team also talked to a 25 year old mother of four children, who experienced a ground attack which was carried out by soldiers of the Sudanese Armed Forces. The attack occurred in January 2008 in the village of Jokan near Buram in Southern Darfur. "They came in the late evening hours. They came on foot and on cars. They killed most of the village with their guns and especially targeted the Zaghawa people." The Zaghawa are black African tribe.

The camp in Boro Medina is inhabited by more than 2,000 Darfurian IDPs. These people are desperately lacking of food, safe drinking water, sanitation and health care. Sign of Hope distributed 125 IDP kits, bringing the total number of distributed kits in the area at 1,500 (75 tons). Each household received a kit of 50 kg maize, beans, energy biscuits, sorghum, cooking oil, sugar, powder milk, salt, plastic sheets, soap, mosquito nets, blankets and cooking pots.

## **Recommendations**

Sign of Hope calls upon the Khartoum government to ensure that the oil companies operating in Sudan fully and unconditionally protect the environment – notably surface and ground water from contamination by toxic chemicals. In addition the organisation urges oil companies to compensate those who have been displaced from their village due to clear the way for oil exploitation.

Sign of Hope is specifically asking the Government of Sudan to fully implement the security related provisions of the CPA. Klaus Stieglitz: "To this end we urge the Government of Sudan to pull the Fursan fighters out of Raga. There is no room for Fursan militia or any 'Other Armed Group' in South Sudan. In that sense, we call upon the Government of Sudan to fully implement this provision of the CPA as this step would clearly contribute to a stabilization of the security situation in the area."

Furthermore Sign of Hope urges all parties to the conflict in Darfur to issue and enforce clear orders to the armed forces and any militias under that it is prohibited to make civilians or civilian objects (including cultivated land and livestock) the target of attacks or to launch indiscriminate attacks (including burning of villages and aerial bombardments) as such attacks can amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Sign of Hope is a German-based interdenominational organisation for human rights and humanitarian assistance. The organisation has Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

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## Drinking Water in oilfields of Sudan contaminated with brine

*Singen/Germany – The analysis of eight water samples provided alarming results. The Sudanese Government must dramatically improve the quality of drinking water and avoid an ecological catastrophe.*

The water from a water borehole in Rier, a small village in an oilfield of southern Sudan, is contaminated with **salts, strontium** and **nitrate**. The analysis of a water sample produced a total salinity (total dissolved solids - TDS) of 6,600.50 milligrams per litre water (mg/l). The water sample also contained strontium to the amount of 6.7 mg/litre and nitrate amounting to 81.6 mg/l. The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommends a total salinity (TDS) ranging up to 500 mg/l. The sample at hand exceeds this recommendation 13-fold. EPA's recommendation concerning nitrate is up to 10 mg/l. This very sample exceeds the recommendation eight-fold. A nitrate concentration amounting to 81.6 mg/l can have serious effects especially on young children. Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in this dose could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue-baby syndrome.

Sign of Hope's executive director, Reimund Reubelt, states: *"The extremely high salinity and the inconspicuousness of other water wells in the vicinity can only lead to the conclusion that the water of the borehole in Rier is contaminated with produced water, which derives from the oil extraction. We assume that the drinking water of Rier was contaminated with improperly disposed of produced water. This is a perilous threat not only to the local population of Rier. We also see a looming ecological catastrophe for the largest swamplands of the world. The Sudanese Government in Khartoum has brought the oil companies into the country. To secure public health the Government must now improve the quality of drinking water dramatically and at the same time prevent an ecological catastrophe."*

Usually when oil is extracted, large amounts of saline water are being injected into the subsurface to maintain the pressure of oil reservoirs, which enhances oil recovery. When oil is extracted, large amounts of brine are typically brought back to the surface. The brine or produced water is being segregated from the oil. Often saltier than seawater, produced water can also contain toxic metals and radioactive substances. It can be very damaging to public health and the environment if it is discharged to surface water or injected into underground sources of drinking water. Presently, for each barrel of crude oil produced, approximately 9 barrels of water also are produced.

Rier is located at the edge of the Sudd in the oilfield of Thar Jath. Since several years crude oil is being extracted in this area by the White Nile Petroleum Operating Corporation (WNPOC).

**PRESS RELEASE**

39 percent of WNPOC are being held by Petronas. In the oilfield of Thar Jath the Chinese drilling companies Great Wall Drilling Company (GWDC) and Zhongyuan Petroleum Exploration Bureau (ZPEB) are also operative. A newly erected refinery, only 6.5 kilometers away from Rier, became operative just a couple of weeks ago. The Sudd is the largest swamplands of the world. A Sign of Hope panel, led by Klaus Stieglitz, took eight samples of water in order to assess the water quality around Rier. The samples were analyzed scientifically in Germany.

During the panel's stay in Rier a young girl was complaining about the bitter taste of water there. "We do not even wash our clothes with this water, as the colours fade away and the fabrics are being destroyed," she said on February 13. The Commissioner of Koch, Peter Bol Ruot, confirmed that in the year 2006 a total number of 27 adults and three children died as a result of the consumption of contaminated water. Ruot said that at the moment up to 1,000 people have fallen sick for the same reason.

Sign of Hope is a German-based interdenominational organisation for human rights and humanitarian assistance. The organisation has Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

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## **Individual submission – One language (English)**

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Language(s): ENGLISH ONLY

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Seventh session

### **Written statement submitted by Hoffnungszeichen | Sign of Hope, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status**

#### **Human Rights Situation in Sudan - Oil and Environment, Other Armed Groups and Armed Clashes in Darfur**

Sign of Hope wishes to draw the attention of the United Nations Human Rights Council to human rights abuses in Sudan related to the oil exploration and exploitation in Unity State, to the continued presence of other armed groups in Western Bahr-el-Ghazal and to recent Janjaweed attacks in Southern Darfur.

#### **Oil-related violations of human rights**

During its stay in the oilfields of southern Sudan, the Sign of Hope team assessed the situation of human rights in the oilfields of Thar Jath (Unity State) from February 12 to February 14, 2008. The team talked to several people on the grassroots level about the impact of toxic waste on the human and livestock health situation on the local communities as well as the environment. In Rier, a village close to the newly erected refinery of Thar Jath, a young girl was complaining about the bitter taste of water there. "We do not even wash our clothes with this water, as the colours fade away and the fabrics are being destroyed," she said on February 13, 2008. The Commissioner of Koch, Peter Bol Ruot confirmed on February 13, 2008 that in the year 2006 a total number of 27 adults and three children died as a result of the consumption of contaminated water. Ruot said at the moment there are up to 1,000 people have fallen sick for the same reason. The Sign of Hope panel took eight samples to investigate possible contamination of water in the vicinity of the refinery. The results of a scientific analysis will be released by the end of February.

According to residents of the village of Rier, they were forced by representatives of the Khartoum government - who were said to be in control of the area up to early 2008 - to leave their original village in 2005 to create room for oil companies to build their facilities. The residents were evicted from their villages after short notice and were settled on nearby land. This new settlement is also called Rier, the same name as the old Rier, which has been occupied by an oil firm. Up to now, the population of Rier has not been compensated.

### Continued presence of militias in South Sudan violates CPA

Even though the greater Raga area is part of South Sudan, there are still pro-Khartoum militias present. This is a clear violation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) between the government and the ex-southern rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army. In Raga, the key trading post in the area, the Sign of Hope panel visited military bases of the pro-Khartoum "Fursan" militia on February 11, 2008. According to their commanders, the militia has some 1,623 fighters of which 500 up to 600 are based in Raga township.

The commanders, Amir Sahid Mohammed Rea and Amir Ibrahim Adam Ishak, conceded that they still receive remuneration from Khartoum. This marks a serious breach of the CPA. The CPA states that upon signature of the agreement, the process of incorporation of individual members of all "Other Armed Groups" into the ranks of either SAF or SPLA shall start as soon as possible. The incorporation process should be completed within twelve months from January 2005. Under the provisions of the CPA this group had to be redeployed to the North at latest by July 9, 2007. Regarding the Fursan militia in Raga, this has not been done.

The township's residents consider their continued presence as a cause of insecurity and as a threat to the stability in the region.

### Recent Janjaweed attacks in Southern Darfur

The International Commission of Inquiry on Darfur stated in its report to the United Nations Secretary General, dated January 25, 2005, that Janjaweed is an Arab militia acting under the authority, with the support, complicity or tolerance of the Sudanese State authorities, and who benefit from impunity for their actions.

Sign of Hope found credible evidence for continued Janjaweed activities in Southern Darfur. A Sign of Hope human rights assessment team stayed in the area of Raga (Western Bahr-el-Ghazal) from February 8 to February 12, 2008. During their stay in Boro Medina (also called Sa'id Bundas), which is located 100 km to the west of Raga, the team conducted interviews on the grassroots level with persons affected by activities of Janjaweed militia. Sign of Hope found reliable evidence for very recent attacks of Janjaweed fighters in the area of Buram (Southern Darfur).

According to eye witnesses in an IDP camp in Boro Medina, people from Darfur have been attacked by Arab militias as recently as January. A 22-year-old mother of three children from Maalaka near Rudom in Southern Darfur referred to a Janjaweed attack which occurred on January 18, 2008: "They came at three o'clock in the morning. I heard them shooting. Then I fixed one child on my back, my second child on my chest and my third child I took by the hand and ran away. After three hours of walking I stopped in order to eat. The Janjaweed took away all of my 15 cows," she said to the Sign of Hope panel on February 10, 2008 in Boro Medina. She had spent four days on her way to Boro Medina.

The team also talked to a 25-year old-mother of four children, who experienced a ground attack which was carried out by soldiers of the Sudanese Armed Forces. The attack occurred on January 7, 2008 in the village of Jokan near Buram in Southern Darfur. "They came in the late evening hours. They came on foot and on cars. They killed most of the village with their guns and especially targeted the Zaghawa people," she told the Sign of Hope team on February 10, 2008 in Boro Medina. The Zaghawa are a black African tribe.

The camp in Boro Medina is inhabited by more than 2,000 Darfurian IDPs.

Recommendations

The Council should call upon the Khartoum government to ensure that the oil companies operating in Sudan fully and unconditionally protect the environment – notably surface and ground water from contamination by toxic chemicals. The oil companies must conduct petroleum operations in accordance with International good oil field practice in terms of health, safety and environmental standards. Drilling water must not be discharged in to rivers, swamps and on the ground and should be siphoned in appropriate storage tanks.

In addition the Council should urge the Government of Sudan to compensate those who have been displaced from their village to clear the way for oil exploitation.

The Council should ask the Government of Sudan to fully implement the security related provisions of the CPA. To this end the Council should urge the Government of Sudan to pull the Fursan fighters out of Raga.

In that sense, the Council should call upon the Government of Sudan to fully implement this provision of the CPA as this step would clearly contribute to a stabilization of the security situation in the area.

Furthermore the Council should urge all parties to the conflict in Darfur to issue and enforce clear orders to the armed forces and any militias under that it is prohibited to make civilians or civilian objects (including cultivated land and livestock) the target of attacks or to launch indiscriminate attacks (including burning of villages and aerial bombardments) as such attacks can amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The Council should call upon the Government of Sudan to take immediate steps to signal publicly that it is moving towards peace. Steps should include the public condemnation of human rights abuses, an end to supporting and directing the Janjaweed, and a willingness to hold officials accountable for their actions. All parties to the conflict in Darfur must stop the violence and take immediate steps to indicate that they are moving toward peace.

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Sudan-unrest-peace-oil-environment,FEATURE

Sudan villagers, environment suffer from oil boom  
by Bogonko Bosire  
=(PICTURE)=

RIER, Sudan, March 4, 2008 (AFP) - Kicked out of sleepy Nile fishing hamlets lost forever to Sudan's oil boom, villagers in the south curse a refinery for causing forced relocations, for spreading disease and ravaging the environment.

Activists also warn that the 2006 arrival of White Nile Petroleum Company (WNPOC), a consortium led by Malaysia's Petronas, in Unity State threatens the Sudd wetlands, the world's largest maze of swamps, lagoons and tributaries.

Villagers say thousands were forcefully evicted to make way for a low-sulphur crude oil venture in south-central Sudan. They say they lost venerated ancestral homes, died from contamination and saw livelihoods jeopardised.

"Since 2006, 27 adults and three children have died because of contaminated water from the oil field,"

said Paul Bol Ruoth, county commissioner in Koch, about 70 kilometres (44 miles) from Bentiu, the state capital.

The oil firm has not been reachable for comment on the allegations.

But more than 1,000 people are now sick with unknown illnesses and among the fatalities, only three have been compensated by WNPOC, local officials said.

Despite US-led sanctions to push Sudan to resolve the bloody war in Darfur, direct foreign investment in Sudan soared to 2.3 billion dollars in 2006, fueled by energy-hungry Asian economies led by China and Malaysia, just seven years after the country began exporting crude oil.

"The company (WNPOC) has no right. It's our people who have the right over their land because they need it for grazing and clean water," said Ruoth.

Deluged by a barrage of complaints from hapless villagers whose lives were already fractured by decades of civil war, he led a delegation in mid-February to assess the toll on the environment from the oil refinery.

"Since water is contaminated, we have lost several cows and goats," said an elder from the Nuer ethnic group, too fearful to give his name when talking to reporters on a visit to the area.

"We need help," he said, staring hopelessly at plumes of smoke from the Thar Jath oil refinery, named after the former village evacuated to make way for the complex and sitting in the heart of the partly drained Sudd swamp.

Villagers may be mesmerised by new roads and electricity cables, but they have seen little tangible improvement to their squalid lifestyle.

Now they are furious at the prospect of swanky hotels and malls in the swampy heartland, where government troops and ex-southern rebels pounded once each other with high explosives in the 21-year-old civil war.

"We do not care about the new development they promised us. All we need is our old, clean environment," said unemployed Peter Riek Gieng, 25, who worked as a casual labourer to help build the refinery.

When oil is extracted, large amounts of saline water, or brine, are injected into the sub-surface to maintain the pressure of oil reservoirs, which enhances oil recovery, said human rights and Christian aid group Sign of Hope.

-- 'Infants who drink the water could die' --

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Sample results seen by AFP indicated that brine from the refinery produced a high salinity, putting the concentration of nitrate at 81.6 mg/l, well above the 10 mg/l recommended by the the US Environmental Protection Agency.

"A nitrate concentration amounting to 81.6 mg/l can have serious effects especially on young children," said Sign of Hope in a statement.

"Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in this dose could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die," it said.

The head of the organisation, Reimund Reubelt, called on the authorities to act now to prevent an ecological catastrophe.

"We also see a looming ecological catastrophe for the largest swamplands of the world. To secure public health the government must now improve the quality of drinking water dramatically and at the same time prevent an ecological catastrophe," he added.

At Riek village, where local residents were relocated to make way for the Thar Jath refinery about 6.5 kilometres (four miles) away, children play around a bore-hole abandoned as a source of water for health concerns.

One oil employee, who requested to remain unnamed, told journalists that he witnessed oil workers dumping industrial waste into a nearby isolated pit in a dried swamp, which will flood in the rainy season.

"I usually see men in aprons dig up huge pits and dump toxic wastes. They do not let anybody near that area," he said.

But aid workers complain that the administration in southern Sudan is reluctant to address the issue since officials are profiting from oil wealth.

Some villagers promised a Nigeria-like struggle on oil companies.

"If the government ignores, us we will go Nigeria style," said Martin Luang, a rugged middle-aged villager alluding to the wave of kidnappings of oil workers and relations of prominent Nigerians in the restive Niger Delta.

Sudan's oil production is estimated to reach between 500,000 and 600,000 barrels per day this year, but output is expected to rise in coming years and the boom in exploration is mainly in the southern region.

Although the north-south Sudan civil war ended with a peace agreement in 2005, both sides still bicker over shares of oil revenue.

bkb/jm/hc-ns

Sudan-unrest-peace-militia,FEATURE

Peace does not pay for restless Sudanese militia  
by Bogonko Bosire  
=(PICTURE)=

RAGA, Sudan, March 11, 2008 (AFP) - Cradling a chubby child in her arms, a woman guerrilla who fought southern rebels for the Sudanese government is unrepentant: a pension from Khartoum or renewed war against her old foes.

"We will never surrender our guns to Khartoum unless it compensates us and if the SPLA tries to disarm us (by force) we will fight them," says Khawala Abdullah Ramadhan, a member of the Fursan militia.

Its members still roam Western Bahr-el-Ghazal state. They mostly supported Khartoum during its 21-year war with the ex-rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLA), whose political wing now rules the semi-autonomous south.

Although its history is shrouded in a fog of truths and half-truths, its members say the "cavalry" or "knights" movement was formed in the mid-1980s, but only became prominent in 1991, when it ended an SPLA incursion into Darfur.

"We annihilated the SPLA when they attempted to enter Darfur," bragged one Fursan member calling himself Ahmed. "Now the government has forgotten all that."

A legacy of the civil wars that have raged in Sudan for all but 10 years of its independence, there are a maze of militias in the country, dogged by tribal animosity, shifting loyalties and a history of conflict.

Based in Raga, a dusty outpost in Western Bahr-el-Ghazal, the Fursans hit hard times when the north-south civil war ended in a 2005 peace accord and the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) rewarded only the militia's 25 top commanders.

The foot soldiers -- who got nothing -- have refused to disband and surrender their weapons unless Khartoum pays them "pensions" for years in service to the government.

"We want the government to compensate us because we fought alongside its troops," said Ibrahim Adam Isaak, a 47-year-old low-ranking commander.

"The government knows 'no money, no weapons'," he told a group of reporters and aid workers at the Fursan operations base in Raga.

-- 'Shedding blood was our business'

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His comrade Said Mohamed Rayer warned of bloodshed if the SPLA makes good on its threat to disarm the militia, many of whom have set up small businesses such as groceries, but kept their guns.

"We cannot talk about war because the war is finished, but if the SPLA dares to disarm us, we get to fight them. We have spent our lifetime in war and shedding blood was our business," he warned, flashing a smile.

Under the 2005 peace agreement, militia groups in southern Sudan should have disbanded by July 2006, then either integrated into the regular Sudanese army or the former-rebel SPLA.

But the Fursans, like many other militia in oil-rich central Sudan, have refused outright calls from the semi-autonomous south to respect the spirit of the shaky accord.

They complain that Khartoum used to send them money during the war, but stopped and instead promised them jobs in the northern security services, a pledge that never materialised.

"We will never join the SPLA, we'd rather fight against them" Rayer warned. The SPLA dismisses the threats.

"These militias are just jobless, because there is no war for them to fight. That is why they are sabre-rattling," said Doung Deng, an SPLA officer.

Last April, 25 Fursan commanders and 2,000 fighters tricked the SPLA into believing they had switched allegiance into the southern force, and were paid five million old dinars (25,000 dollars) before shifting back, a UN official said.

"They are such fluid characters," the official added.

Lieutenant Colonel Babakir Mohamed, a commander in a joint unit made up of Khartoum and SPLA troops, confirmed that some Fursan commanders had been absorbed into the Sudanese army, but that several others were still out there.

"The government is waiting for money it was promised by donors to compensate them, which has not been delivered," said Mohamed.

A German human rights group monitoring the peace deal said the militia were violating the deal and undermining security.

"This is a violation of the accord and we call upon the government to ensure that its militias are disbanded," said Klaus Stieglitz, a rights expert with the Germany-based Sign of Hope.

Khartoum and the SPLA have been bickering over the non-implementation of the accord that ended Africa's most intricate war, in which at least 1.5 million people were killed and four million more displaced.

The 1983-2005 war erupted when non-Muslim southerners demanded an equal share of national development from Arab rulers, in a conflict that was worsened by oil and religion.

bkb/jm/jaz/db-ns

### **Caritas: Steigende Lebensmittelpreise gefährden Hilfsprojekte**

Freiburg (KNA) Die „explosionsartig steigenden Lebensmittelpreise“ gefährden zahlreiche Hilfsprojekte von Caritas international in Afrika, Asien und Lateinamerika. Aufgrund der jüngsten Entwicklungen auf dem Weltmarkt seien die Kosten für Schulspeisungen, Lebensmittelhilfe für Flüchtlinge und die Zusatzernährung von Aids-Kranken vielfach nicht mehr finanzierbar, erklärte das katholische Hilfswerk am Mittwoch in Freiburg.

„Getreide ist zu einem Spekulationsobjekt geworden. Den Preis zahlen die Notleidenden der Welt“, kritisiert der Leiter von Caritas international, Oliver Müller. Seit der Jahrtausendwende seien die Lebensmittel-Importkosten unter anderem aufgrund des Biotreibstoff-Booms um 90 Prozent angestiegen. Hilfsorganisationen müssen nach Angaben von Caritas international seit Monaten immer wieder einspringen, weil das Welternährungsprogramm (WFP) sich aufgrund schwindender eigener Möglichkeiten aus Hilfsprojekten zurückzieht. So habe das Hilfswerk der deutschen Caritas zum Beispiel die Zusatzernährung für ein Aids-Projekt in Burundi in Höhe von 50.000 Euro übernehmen müssen. „Das WFP zieht sich oft ohne Vorwarnung aus den Projekten zurück, so dass wir von unseren Partnern gebeten werden, den Ausfall zu kompensieren. Das übersteigt aber bei weitem unsere Möglichkeiten“, sagte Müller.

Im Zusammenbruch des bisherigen Systems kann nach seinen Worten jedoch auch eine Chance liegen. In der Vergangenheit seien durch subventioniertes Getreide aus den USA und Europa die lokalen afrikanischen Märkte zerstört worden. „Die großen Geldgeber müssen nun ausreichend Finanzen bereitstellen, um Nahrungsmittelhilfe vor Ort zu kaufen und die lokale Produktion von Weizen und Reis auf diese Weise attraktiv zu machen“, sagte Müller. Das wäre ein Systemwechsel, wie ihn Caritas seit Jahren fordere. (KNA - 2753)

### **Hilfsorganisation befürchtet ökologische Katastrophe im Sudan**

Singen (KNA) Eine ökologische Katastrophe befürchtet die Menschenrechts- und Hilfsorganisation „Hoffnungszeichen“ im Südsudan. Es handle sich um das größte Sumpfgebiet der Welt, das durch die Erdölförderung in Gefahr sei, erklärte das Hilfswerk am Mittwoch an seinem Sitz in Singen. Das Brunnenwasser des Dorfs Rier sei mit Salzen, Strontium und Nitrat kontaminiert, hieß es. Rier liege am Rande des Sudd im Ölfeld von Thar Jath, wo seit mehreren Jahren Rohöl gefördert werde.

„Wir gehen davon aus, dass das Trinkwasser in Rier mit unsachgemäß entsorgtem Prozesswasser verseucht wurde“, so die Organisation. Das sei nicht nur für die Menschen dort eine lebensgefährliche Bedrohung, sondern für das ganze Sumpfgebiet. Die sudanesisische Regierung müsse nun die Versorgung der in den Ölgebieten lebenden Menschen mit sauberem Trinkwasser sicherstellen und gleichzeitig eine ökologische Katastrophe verhindern.

Gewöhnlich werden nach Angaben des Hilfswerks bei der Förderung von Öl konzentrierte salzhaltige Lösungen in die Öl-Lagerstätten gepumpt, um so den Druck zu erhöhen. Rohöl werde zusammen mit den Salzlösungen an die Oberfläche gebracht, wo es durch sogenanntes Prozesswasser wieder getrennt werde. Oftmals salzhaltiger als Meerwasser, könne dieses Prozesswasser auch giftige Metalle und radioaktives Material enthalten. Laut „Hoffnungszeichen“ sind im vergangenen Jahr in der Region 30 Menschen am Konsum von kontaminiertem Wasser gestorben. Gegenwärtig seien bis zu 1.000 Menschen aus demselben Grund erkrankt. (KNA - 2741)

## **Christian agency warns of oil exploitation dangers in Sudan**

ENI-08-0171

By Fredrick Nzwili

Nairobi, 26 February (ENI)--A German Christian humanitarian agency, Sign of Hope, has warned of the consequences of oil exploitation in Sudan, citing possible contamination of surface and ground water by companies prospecting in the south of the country.

"Sign of Hope calls upon the Khartoum government to ensure that oil companies operating in Sudan fully and unconditionally protect the environment, notably surface and ground water, from contamination by toxic chemicals," Klaus Stieglitz, the agency's deputy director, told journalists in Nairobi on 15 February after an eight-day trip to southern Sudan.

Peace accords in January 2005 brought an end to a two-decade long war between Sudan's mainly Christian and animist South and the Muslim and Arab North. Since then, South Sudan has seen an increase in Western companies prospecting for oil.

During its stay in the oilfields of southern Sudan, the Sign of Hope team assessed the situation of human rights in the oilfields of Thar Jath (Unity State).

The team talked to people about the impact of toxic waste on human and livestock health, on local communities as well as on the environment.

In a village close to a newly erected refinery in Thar Jath, a young girl had complained about the bitter taste of water there. "We do not even wash our clothes with this water, as the colours fade away and the fabrics are being destroyed," Stieglitz reported her as saying.

Sign of Hope said the commissioner of Koch in Western Upper Nile had confirmed that in 2006 a total of 27 adults and three children had died as a result of consuming contaminated water. The commissioner, Peter Bol Ruot, said there are currently up to 1000 people who have fallen sick for the same reason, Sign of Hope reported

The interdenominational agency said residents in the village of Rier had reported that they were forced by representatives of the Khartoum government to leave their original village in 2005 to create room for oil companies to build facilities.

"The residents were evicted from their villages after short notice and were settled in nearby land," Sign of Hope said in a statement.

The agency describes itself as a German-based interdenominational organization for human rights and humanitarian assistance. [382 words]