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SUDAN NEWS-FEED

August 8, 2005

SUDAN NEWS-FEED For Monday, August 8, 2005

Compiled as a service by the Public Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy, Khartoum, Sudan.
The Sudan News-Feed attempts to present a summary covering the spectrum of Sudanese
press and international reporting about Sudan.

This report summarizes and covers the news but does not necessarily reflect the views of
the U.S. Government.

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Top Headlines from the Sudanese Press

The following are top headlines from the Sudanese press on August 8, 2005:

******NOTE: "The Juba Post" (independent English-language weekly) has been suspended again, allegedly for not being able to pay the National Press Council's license fee (approximately \$10,000).**

"Khartoum Monitor"-- independent with pro-Southern Sudan orientation daily English-language newspaper

- Salva Meets International Community Representatives
- Ganarg's Guards to be Bury in Juba Today
- SPLM to Set Date for Kiir Swearing-in
- ACHR Urges Government to Compensate Black Monday Victims
- The United States Optimistic About the Peace in Sudan
- Public Service Announcement

- 1,600 Detained After Riots
- Dinka Tradition, Once Threatened By War, Now By Peace
- African Union Expresses Profound Shock Upon the Death of Dr. Garang
- Sudan: Interview with UN Special Representative Jan Pronk
- Ethiopia Demands a Legitimate Not a Unity Government
- Commentary (Regular Columnist): Vessels God used
- Commentary (Regular Columnist): Dr. John Garang De Mabior: What A Legendary Leader
- Opinion: The Second Diagnosis of the Khartoum Monitor Plaque
- Editorial: It Suits No Foreigner to Unify Sudan!
- Editorial: A Letter to Silva Kiir
- Editorial: Rest in Peace

[“Sudan Vision”-- pro-GOS daily English-language newspaper](http://www.Sudanvisiondaily.com)
<http://www.Sudanvisiondaily.com>

- Defense Minister Heads Enquiry Committee to Probe Riots Following First VP Plane Crash
- Investigations on Plane Crash Start
- African Human Rights Council Condemns Riots
- Minister Affirms Federal Support to North Darfur Following Heavy Rains
- Two Thousand Traders Leave Juba
- Museveni Skips Funeral
- Scova Mourns the Untimely Death of First Vice President, Dr. John Garang De Mabior
- Commentary (Regular Columnist): Garang’s Principles Will Prevail
- Commentary (Regular Columnist): Eyewitness: Mob Violence in Khartoum
- Opinion: We Must Take Charge
- Editorial: The Best honor for Garang
- Editorial: SPLM Well-Navigated to Deliver Mission

[“Al-Ayaam”-- independent daily Arabic-language newspaper](http://www.alayaam.net)
[<http://www.alayaam.net>](http://www.alayaam.net)

- An Investigation Committee Headed by Minister of Defense For Monday’s Riots
- NDA and GOS Agree On Four Committees to Complete Cairo
- 400 of the UN Forces Arrive Sudan Today
- Bakri: Al Jaz and Head of Security ON Top of Investigation Committee for Monday’s Riots
- United States Declares Cooperation with Investigation Committee For Garang’s Plane Crash
- Mauritania’s Coup De Tait Organizers Appoint A President and Fire Islamic
- Inflation Increase to 13.9
- Silva Kiir Arrival End of This Week
- Scova Urges Organization to Back up Victims of Monday’s Riots
- Life Back to Normal in Khartoum, Merchants in Souq 6 Request Additional Security

- US Delegation Commend the Government of National Unity on The Way They Dealt With Riots Following Announcement of Dr. John Garang Death
- GOS Reviews SPLM's Request to Postpone Abuja Negotiations
- Announcing of New Government Awaiting Silva Kiir's Arrival
- Two Thousand Merchants Leave Juba
- Schools Reopen in Khartoum
- Government Prepares for Next Abuja
- Political Powers Demands Big and Conclusive Movement and Warns from Ethnical and Tribal Disagreements
- Editorial: Assumptions and Lessons from the Bleeding Sadness and Lack of Security to Stop the Tsunami of Riots
- Editorial: Daring And Response
- Editorial: Let's Hold on To Dr. Garang's Ethics
- Commentary (Regular Columnist): We Have to Take the City to the Village
- Commentary (Regular Columnist): Days of Sadness in Sudan (3)
- Commentary: Monday's Sad Events, Burning Questions Looking for Answers from Officials
- Commentary: History of Investigation Committees in Sudan
- Commentary: Center for National Rumors Distribution

["Alwatan"-- independent daily Arabic-language newspaper](mailto:alwataan@myway.com)
alwataan@myway.com

- According to our Sources: New First VP Swearing-in Tomorrow, Tuesday
- Conviction and Immediate Sentencing for 750 Of Those Who Participate in Riots
- Emergency Meeting for Sudanese Journalist Union and Committee of Six To Continue The Case of Al-Watan and Alwan Newspapers
- Today, The Bells of Peace Ringing in All Schools
- Like Big Oil Producing Countries: Spread of New Phenomena of Imported Labor
- Quantities of Dora and Sorghum Distributed Free at A Number of Affected Areas
- "Good Morning" The 3 Light-houses of Economy: 2 Dollar Profit for a participant for One full Year
- Omdurman Wraps Its Wounds and Starts Conferences for Conciliation
- Administrators and Sultans Agree to Live Together in Peace and Unity
- Political and National Leader Call for Living Together for Peace and Unity
- To Be Lifted After Stability: Decreasing Hours of Curfew in Capital
- Wide Appreciation of Public Services Sector During Events
- The Government Reviews An African Request to Meet in Tanzania After Abuja
- Sentencing of Prison to 750 Accused of Involvement in Monday's Events
- Commentary (Regular Columnist): We Buried You.. But didn't Bury your Vision
- Editorial: Blue Nile and A New Phase

["Al-Adwaa"-- independent daily Arabic-language newspaper](#)

aladdwaa@myway.com

- Washington Sends Experts to Participate in Investigation of Plane Crash
- Al-Bashir Establishes a Committee Headed by Minister of Defense to Look into Last Riots
- Silva Kiir in Republican Palace Tomorrow
- US Assistant Secretary of State: Silva Kiir Has Great Leadership Capabilities
- American Optimism to Complete Peace Agreement Process and Garang's Departure Will Not Influence Negatively
- An Arabic Newspaper Published Two Weeks Ago: Israel (MOSAD) Plans to Kill Garang
- Curfew Starts At 12 Midnight
- African Union Calls GOS and Militants for Preparatory Meeting
- John Garang.. His Vision for a New Sudan and Rebuilding the Sudanese Country
- Editorial: Khartoum Fires
- Commentary: Social Peace
- Commentary: One Week Past Last Monday

"Al-Anbaa" -- the Government-owned daily Arabic-language newspaper
www.alanbaa.info

- Establishing an Investigation Committee Headed by Minister of Defense to Investigate Monday's Riots
- Washington Commends on GOS and SPLM on Handling Consequences of Garang's Departure
- SPLM Continues Today Nomination for Government and Parliament
- Taha Renews Vows of Government Seriousness in Implementing the Peace Agreement to the American Delegation
- African Union Calls for Preparatory Meeting for Abuja Discussions
- A Committee to Investigate Riots Events
- Dr. Nafii: Discussion Continue with Political Powers
- Ismail: Kampala Ready to Cooperate in Investigation of Plane Crash
- NDA Postpones Decision Making Until After Meetings of Participating Committee
- Scova calls Organization to Back up Victims of Last Monday
- Street Confirms Sticking to Peace: We Will Not Neglect Garang's Will...
- Schools Reopen Today
- Editorial: The Body Left And Thoughts Stayed
- Editorial: The Events Left and Lessons Stayed
- Editorial: Sleep Never Extended A Person's Life
- Editorial: Away from Politics, A Letter to The Greatest King in History

"Al-Rai Al-Aam" -- pro-GOS daily Arabic-language newspaper
http://www.rayaam.net

- Investigation Committee Arrives to Garang's Plane Crash Site
- Silva Kiir Assumes His duties as President of Government of the South and Meets with State Heads
- 2000 Northern Merchants Depart Juba and A Big Increase in Prices
- Khartoum Awaiting Silva Kiir's Statements
- Washington Calls for Committeemen to Time Lines for Peace Agreement and America Comfortable with GOS and SPLM Handling of Garang's Plane Crash
- Investigation Committee for Khartoum Riots
- Pronk Discusses with Silva Kiir Designing a Structure for Implementing Peace Agreement
- Convincing a Number of Northern Merchants to Stay in Juba
- UN Calls for a United Committee to Investigate Plane Crash
- Silva Kiir: Solving Darfur and East Issues is a Priority
- Musivini Calls for Review of all Ugandan Military Airplanes
- Bona: South Ready to Deal with Silva Kiir
- Commentary: Traditions That Defies Time
- Editorial: Committees of Meanings
- Editorial: Who Will Really Benefit from Garang's Plane Crash?

[“Al-Sahafa”-- pro-GOS but increasingly independent daily Arabic-language newspaper](http://www.alsahafa.info/news)
<http://www.alsahafa.info/news>

- America Helps in the Investigation of Plane Crash
- American Administration: Garang's Sudden Absence Will Not Stop Peace
- Pronk Calls for Solving Abeyi Issues By Discussion and to Establish Two Political and Security Committees
- Al Bashir Establishes An Investigation Committee for Monday's Riots Headed by Minister of Defense
- Abuja Continues on 24 August
- Pronk Urges GOS and SPLM to Quickly Implement The Peace Agreement
- Minister of Foreign Affairs: Uganda Confirmed Readiness to Cooperate with Sudan Regarding Garang's Plane Crash
- Schools Reopen Today
- 2000 Northern Merchants Leave Juba
- Editorial: Investigation Committee Dilemma
- Editorial: Question About The Dramatic Departure of Dr. Garang
- Commentary (Regular Columnist): Sudanese Church Service for Peace and Unity
- Commentary: In Leadership ... First Remarks
- Commentary (Regular Columnist): Political Parties Made of Paper
- Commentary: A Question to President Museivini ...!

[“Al-Hayat” -- pro-GOS daily Arabic-language newspaper](http://www.alhayatsdn.com)
<http://www.alhayatsdn.com>

- A Presidential Decision to Establish a High Committee to Investigate Monday's Riots

- United States Confirms Backing UP of Government of National Unity in Implementing Total Peace Agreement
- Continuation of Communication with Political Powers to Announce New Government and Silva Kiir Swears-in Tomorrow
- A Committee Headed by Minister of Defense to look into Monday's Riots
- Minister of Foreign Affairs: Kampala Confirms Her Commitment to Cooperate with GOS and SPLM in Investigations
- National Congress Party Denies Break Down of Its Bases in the South After Death of John Garang
- Taha Confirms Commitment of GOS To Continue Efforts to Complete Peace Agreement
- Darfur Committee Listens to Reports on Security and Next Rounds
- GOS Reviews Request by SPLM to Postpone Abuja Discussions
- Abdalla Badri: Silva Kiir Proved a Politician Despite his Military Background
- Kadoda: We Will Not Accept Statements Describing Silva Kiir as Preferring Separation
- Bakri Adeel: All Facts Point to SPLM Continuing on Garang's Road
- Commentary: Preventative Media
- Commentary: Letters to Whom it May Concerns

"Al-Khartoum" - pro-Democratic Unionist Party daily Arabic-language newspaper

- Committee to Investigate Khartoum Riots Headed by Minister of Defense
- Trial of Sudanese Arrested in UK on Thursday
- Government and Parliament Establishing With Silva Kiir's Arrival
- Schools Reopen in Khartoum Today
- American Preparing to Immediately Lift Sanctions on Airplane Spare Parts
- 2000 Northern Merchants Depart from Juba
- Editorial (Al Sadiq Al Mahdi): Fires in Khartoum, We Need to Establish a National Front to Contain The Issue, There must be an Immediate Solution to Issue of Those Displaced and Returning them Home
- Editorial: Was Sudanese Media Cause of Monday's Events?
- Editorial (Political Scene): Week of Sadness ... And Lessons
- Editorial: Departure of Man of Peace ... An Exceptional Tragedy
- Editorial: Fragile

"Alwan"-- pro -Popular Congress Party daily Arabic-language newspaper

- Silva Kiir Surprises All and Calls Turabi
- Alwan Suing BBC
- SPLM Calls For an International Investigation Committee
- Technical Committee from Civil Aviation Departs to Plane Crash Site
- Dr. Nafii: Garang's Death Did Not Cause Disturbance in National Congress Party Lines
- Prof. Al Amin Dafa Allah: National Congress Party and SPLM are Capable of Getting Over This
- Dr. Bashir Adam Rahma: We Have To Protect Peace From Its Enemies And Spread The Spirit Of Forgiveness And Self Control

- Dr. Riak Guy: Riots Came From Hidden People Against Peace and Fishing in Dirty Water
- Presidential Decree to Establish Investigation Committee for Monday's Riots Headed by Minister of Defense
- Taha Confirms GOS Will Continue Efforts to Complete Peace Agreement
- Commentary: They Didn't Leave Us What To Say
- Commentary: Scribbles
- Editorial: Thank You Once Again

"Al-Sharia Al-Siyasi" -- pro-GOS daily Arabic-language newspaper

- Presidential Decree to Establish Investigation Committee for Monday's Riots Headed by Minister of Defense
- US Ready to Provide Technical Support To Technical Committee Establish by GOS for Plane Crash Investigation
- SPLM Meets Today to Complete Nominations for Parliament and State Governments
- Nafii: Preparations on Way To Establish GOS
- Life Back to Normal in Khartoum and Souq 6 Merchants Ask for More Security
- Northern Merchants Depart Juba
- Commentary: Museivini Will Hang Rope Around His Neck?
- Commentary: The Leader Silva Kiir
- Editorial: Garang's Funeral, A Questionnaire of Unity
- Editorial: Burning of Pharmacies and Riots.. Dangers and Dimensions.

The following articles from the Sudanese and international press are included in full in the attachment below.

The New York Times

Sudan Buries Rebel Leader Amid Signs Of Optimism By Marc Lacey

By Marc Lacey

August 8, 2005

Xinhua

Bodies Of Ugandan Crew In Garang's Crash To Be Sent Back From Sudan

August 8, 2005

SUNA

The United States Of America Expresses Readiness To Assist National Unity Government Going Ahead With Implementation Of CPA

August 8, 2005

The Washington Post

Uniting in Prayer and Action on Darfur

By Caryle Murphy

August 7, 2005

The Voice of America

US Envoys Optimistic About Sudan Peace Process

By Noel King

August 7, 2005

The Financial Times

Sudan Hopes Peace Deal Will Outlive Garang

By Andrew England

August 7 2005

BBC

Kiir To Become Sudan VP This Week

August 7, 2005

Reuters

U.S. To Send Experts To Garang Crash Site

By Opheera McDoom

August 7, 2005

The Associated Press

American, U.N. Officials Optimistic About Continuation Of Peace In Sudan

By Tanalee Smith

August 7, 2005

The Economist

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August 3, 2005

Other websites for Sudan News:

<http://usinfo.state.gov/usinfo/Archive/2005/May/12-676357.html?chanlid=washfile>

<http://www.state.gov>

<http://allafrica.com>

<http://www.Sudanmirror.com>

Sudan Radio Service

<http://www.Sudanradio.org>

<http://Sudan.net>

<http://www.Sudantribune.com>

<http://smcSudan.net>

Civilian Protection Monitoring Team website

<http://www.cpmtSudan.org>

IRIN News (UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs--SUDAN page)

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

UN News Centre (SUDAN page)

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/infocusRel.asp?infocusID=88&Body=Sudan&Body1>

Relief Web (SUDAN page):

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/dbc.nsf/doc108?OpenForm&emid=ACOS-636PJQ&rc=1>

Alertnet (SUDAN page)

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/emergency/246397.htm>

Humanitarian Information Center for Darfur:

<http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/darfur/default>

Al Bab: Khartoum Handbook and Diary

<http://www.coreSudan.com>

Refugees International:

<http://www.refugeesinternational.org>

NATO

<http://www.nato.int/>

U.S. European Command

<http://www.eucom.mil/english/index.asp>

Sudan Buries Rebel Leader Amid Signs Of Optimism By Marc Lacey

The New York Times

By Marc Lacey

August 8, 2005

Juba, Sudan With edgy soldiers lining the roadways and parts of this southern city in ruins from recent rioting, John Garang, the rebel who become Sudan's vice president, was laid to rest over the weekend as a peacemaker who did not quite complete his dream.

Residents, many in tears, turned out by the tens of thousands on Saturday to mourn Garang, who died in a helicopter crash on July 30 after bringing this war-torn country to the brink of a new age.

A north-south war that began in 1983 has taken the lives of about two million southerners, mostly through war-induced hunger and disease.

Garang had signed a peace agreement in January that stopped the fighting and merged his Sudan People's Liberation Army with the government it had long tried to topple. Under that deal, Garang became the vice president in July, only to die three weeks later.

What will happen next in Sudan was the looming question at Saturday's funeral. Garang's death led to riots in some parts of the country, set off by his backers who accused the Islamist government in the north of orchestrating the crash. In Juba, many Muslim traders have fled in recent days after their shops were looted and burned.

Garang's widow, Rebecca, and his successor, Salva Kiir Mayardit, used the funeral to call for calm and a continued push for reconciliation. "The tragic loss of our leader has strengthened our resolve to stay united as a nation and as a people," said Kiir, a rebel general who is soon to be sworn in as vice president.

Garang, a career military man who held a doctorate in agricultural economics, was charismatic, single-minded, visionary and autocratic, all at once. Born in a humble village by the Nile, he loomed large over southern Sudan, becoming its chief ambassador to the world. He was equally comfortable in camouflage and pinstripes.

"Dr. John," as he became known, dialed up world leaders. He mobilized an array of governments to lend their support to Sudan's southerners, who are among the poorest people on earth.

Garang dreamed of a Sudan in which all the power did not rest in Khartoum, the northern capital. In the peace deal, southerners will vote in six years on whether they want to separate from the north. Garang's goal was always one country. He told friends that he planned to run for president in four years and then work to keep Sudan whole.

Despite fears that his death would endanger the peace process, there were hopeful signs at his funeral.

Guarding the many dignitaries were government soldiers and rebel forces, standing side by side. During his eulogy, President Omar al-Bashir grabbed the hand of Kiir, thrust it in the air and declared, "We will be strong and together."

Garang's grave sits on a grassy plain overlooking Juba, the capital of southern Sudan and a city that Garang and his rebels sought for years to capture but never did. The tomb features a star-shaped chamber, representing the star on the rebels' flag.

Bodies Of Ugandan Crew In Garang's Crash To Be Sent Back From Sudan

Xinhua

August 8, 2005

KAMPALA, Aug, 2005 8 (Xinhua) — Ugandan Minister of Internal Affairs Ruhakana Ruganda has said that the bodies of seven Ugandans who perished in the helicopter crash with John Garang on July 30 are expected to be sent back from Sudan on Monday.

Minister Ruganda was quoted by the state-owned newspaper, The New Vision, as saying on Monday that he was returning to help with investigation into the crash.

The Ugandan presidential helicopter Garang was traveling in went down in bad weather in mountainous terrain.

Garang, Sudanese first vice president and chairman of southern Sudan, was buried in Juba, the regional capital in southern Sudan, on Saturday, but since the crash the bodies of the seven Ugandan crew have not been returned home.

Officials from Uganda's State House and the ministries of defense, works and internal affairs were meeting on Sunday to draw a full program of preparations to honor and bury the crew, according to a report here on Monday.

The New Vision reported that fifty-six Ugandan officials, including nine ministers and eight MPs and the army commander, joined thousands at the funeral of Garang in Juba on Saturday.

"President Yoweri Museveni, who on Friday expressed uncertainty about the cause of the crash, did not attend the burial. It was the Second Deputy Prime Minister, Henry Kajura, who led the Ugandan delegation that handed over the Ugandan condolence message to the Sudanese leader, Omar Al-Bashir. The delegation flew to Juba in three chartered planes," the report said.

Meanwhile, Sudanese Ambassador to Uganda Hassan Ibrahim Gadkorim has apologized for his government's delay to release the bodies.

"We had a lot of confusion as a result of Dr. Garang's untimely death. Now that Garang has been buried, the bodies will soon be flown home," said the Sudanese ambassador while addressing thousands of Sudanese and Ugandan mourners in Kampala on Saturday.

The United States of America Expresses Readiness To Assist National Unity Government Going Ahead With Implementation Of CPA

SUNA

August 8, 2005

Khartoum, August 8 (SUNA)- The United States of America has reaffirmed its backing for the efforts exerted to implement the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) signed between the government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) in Nairobi, Kenya, last January, saying the two parties to the agreement have stressed their resolve to implement the provisions of the accord. Ms Constance Berry Newman, Assistant Secretary of State, African

Affairs, and Mr. Roger Winter, the Special Representative of the Assistant Secretary of State for Sudan told a group of journalists in a briefing at the Hilton Hotel here on Sunday that they met with each of the Vice President Ali Osman Mohamed Taha and Foreign Minister Dr Mustafa Osman Ismail, in Khartoum, and First Vice President Salva Kiir Mayardit and Mrs. Rebecca Garang de Mabior widow of the late Dr Garang, in New Site in the south, who all underlined their resolve to go ahead with the implementation of the CPA.

Ms Newman said the various political parties and officials she met in the south and in Khartoum have reaffirmed that they would work to find a solution to the question of Darfur and that this issue was kept alive in all the meetings of the American delegation with officials in the National Unity government. Mr. Winter said he was optimistic about the situation in the Sudan and the implementation of the agreement which was the result of industrious efforts exerted by the late Dr Garang and the government's ruling National Congress party who were able to overcome their differences and concluded these accords.

Winter said his country would work with the Sudanese for a unified Sudan but that it was in the hands of the Sudanese people to achieve this by fully implementing the provisions of the CPA without alternation or changes. Winter told the meeting which was organized by the Head of the Public Relations at the US Embassy in Khartoum, Dr Elizabeth Colton that the Sudanese have to overcome many political and psychological obstacles and work to make unity an attractive option for the southern Sudanese through development and improvement of the living conditions of the population there. Ms Newman and Mr. Winter who represented the United States Administration in the funeral of Dr Garang, who died in the crash of the Ugandan presidential plane last Saturday, have commended the wisdom with which the Sudanese Government of National Unity handled the riots incidents that followed the announcement of the death of the First Vice President. Ms Newman pointed out to the security cooperation between the government and the SPLM during the funeral saying although this was not sufficient to generalize but it was a good sign of how people could cooperate in the Sudan in the implementation of agreement and accords in the future. She praised First Vice President Kiir and Mrs. Rebecca who she said have a clear vision of what should be done and how it should be done within the National Unity Government. The US delegation has meanwhile said the United States was ready to provide technical assistance for the committee probing the plane crash pointing out that five American experts are now ready to come to the Sudan when the government decides to begin the probe and that the First Vice President Kiir would give the go ahead as stressed by the Foreign Minister Dr Mustafa Osman Ismail. She stressed that the Americans and all other countries would work under the leadership of the National Unity Government team.

Uniting in Prayer and Action on Darfur

The Washington Post

By Caryle Murphy

August 7, 2005

In the beginning, they acted on their own.

Harriet Shugerman, moved by images of the genocidal killings in Darfur, pushed her Bethesda synagogue to sponsor an interfaith prayer service.

Evangelical pastor Brian McLaren, appalled that the violence was entering a second year, suggested to his Montgomery County church that it organize five outdoor services at Washington landmarks. And Baptist minister Amy Butler prodded her D.C. congregation to hang up a green-and-white banner that said "a call to your conscience" and "SaveDarfur.org."

Today, their individual initiatives are part of a growing movement that has united a wide array of religious groups. Experts say the crisis in Sudan's Darfur region, where state-supported militias have ravaged about 2,000 villages and caused the deaths of an estimated 400,000 people since early 2003, has become the rare issue on which diverse faith-based communities have found common cause.

"The horror of genocide in Darfur has galvanized an unprecedented coalition of theological actors . . . [and] moved people of faith across this amazing spectrum to cry out with a single voice," said Shaun Casey, associate professor of Christian ethics at American University's Wesley Theological Seminary. "That's what is unique about Darfur."

Casey compared the movement to past faith-driven campaigns that pushed for debt relief to poor countries and famine relief to Somalia, which eventually led to U.S. military intervention there. "It's word-of-mouth and television pictures and newspaper photos," said Casey, and people "are deeply moved by the massive humanitarian suffering."

One reason faith-based groups find it easy to unite on this crisis is that it was not precipitated by U.S. policies or intervention and thus is not trapped in the vise of partisan politics, clergy said.

"There's not a lot of ambiguity in this issue on what the right thing is to do," said the Rev. Rachel Cornwell, pastor at Bethesda United Methodist. It's easy to see, she added, "that by being silent we're being complicit." Her church joined forces with its neighbor across the street, Congregation Beth El, in the summer of 2004 to hold up signs saying "Pray for Darfur" during rush hour on Old Georgetown Road.

By contrast, the Iraq war "was a harder issue for our church to take a position on" because of the congregation's theological and political diversity, Cornwell said.

The movement is harnessing the resources that make religious organizations powerful actors in social and political causes: moral outrage, motivated volunteers and powerful tools of communication, including one called prayer.

It also reflects the "well-established pattern of the faith community believing they have a prophetic witness, an obligation to be a goad to the conscience of the country," said Rabbi David Saperstein, head of the Religious Action Center, the Washington advocacy office of Judaism's Reform movement.

April Vega, co-pastor of The Church in Bethesda, a tiny nondenominational Christian congregation, recalled being deeply disturbed in October after she and co-pastor Robert Kang read a "heartbreaking" newspaper article about Darfur. "We wrestled with this," she said, explaining that they wanted to do something but had no idea what.

"We can't go over there. . . . We were feeling powerless and yet we're the church, we should be able to do something," Vega said. "To be honest, we didn't act on it for a couple of months, we just had it in the back of our minds."

Then, in the spring, Vega heard about the five weekends of public prayer for Darfur being organized by two Christian evangelical groups. Five to eight members of her 40-strong congregation attended each event.

Vega's church also hosted an interfaith service July 17, which furthered her congregation's connections.

"The interfaith quality of this movement is really one of the best things," Vega said. "It's really cool."

Darfur resonates with faith communities for several reasons, activists said.

For many Jews, it echoes their experience with the Holocaust and commitment to "Never Again."

"Obviously, with our own history of genocide . . . it hits a nerve," said Shugerman, a member of Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation in Bethesda, which sponsored an interfaith service at a downtown D.C. synagogue in December. Shugerman also helped launch a regional Jewish task force of more than 25 organizations that is organizing "DC Loves Darfur," a fundraising appeal for Darfur refugees in all area synagogues during the High Holy Days.

Others have gotten involved because of guilt about the inaction of the world community, including their own denominations, during the 1994 genocide of 800,000 Rwandans. Several people credited "Hotel Rwanda," a movie released in December, with spurring them to act.

At the same time, Christian evangelicals who had long lobbied for an end to the persecution of Christians in southern Sudan easily segued into the Darfur crisis, whose victims were mostly Muslim. In August 2004, 35 evangelical leaders wrote President Bush urging the U.S. government "to take a more decisive role to prevent further slaughter and death."

The Rev. Richard Cizik, vice president for public policy for the National Association of Evangelicals, said he initiated the letter because "this issue was not getting the attention from the administration that it should."

Cizik strategizes about Darfur with David Rubenstein, head of the Washington-based Save Darfur Coalition, a year-old alliance of more than 130 umbrella groups, many of them faith-based, including the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The coalition has sponsored several events to raise awareness of Darfur and prompt people to write legislators and donate humanitarian relief. It also distributes a "faith action packet," which includes a history of the Darfur crisis, suggestions on how to include Darfur in sermons, and "sample interfaith, Christian, Muslim and Jewish prayers."

Rubenstein, who is Jewish, said faith-based groups are an essential part of the campaign. "Our government, our leadership, our institutions, our society walked away from our responsibility to stop the unceasing killing in Rwanda because religious institutions did not step up when it was not in the news," he said.

Saperstein's center was among the first organizations to focus on Darfur, sending out its first alert urging rabbis to discuss it in sermons in May 2004. In July 2004, a coalition of religious and human rights organizations organized a symbolic "die-in" demonstration in Lafayette Square. And in August 2004, the Roman Catholic Washington Archdiocese asked all parishes to pray for people in Sudan.

McLaren, founder of Cedar Ridge Community Church, proposed the series of outdoor worship services to his 600-member congregation in February to demonstrate that "as people of faith, we believe in a God of justice." He contacted Sojourners, another progressive Christian evangelical ministry headed by the Rev. Jim Wallis. They invited Saperstein's center to participate, and when Rubenstein's Save Darfur Coalition expressed interest in joining, "there was an instant partnership," McLaren said.

The last of the outdoor services was on a sweltering Sunday in mid-July. About 450 Washington area residents, many wearing green rubber bracelets saying, "Not on Our Watch," knelt on the hot pavement outside the White House and prayed for U.S. officials to act to halt the killings.

Though each service drew fewer than 500 people, they were "people of various faith traditions and perspectives and political viewpoints . . . [who] came together on very hot Sundays to worship in very public places," said Sojourners press secretary Jack Pannell.

Another facet of the faith-based campaign was seeded in January when Colleen Connors, who had wanted to do something about Darfur for months, drove by Congregation Beth El and saw its banner declaring "Save Darfur."

"I almost crashed my car. I said to myself: 'That's it. Every community of faith should have a banner up like that,' " said Connors, who worships at Temple Sinai in Northwest Washington.

Connors joined forces with fellow congregant Laura Kumin and Jamie Butler of Adas Israel Congregation to make her concept a reality. So far, 10 congregations have hoisted Darfur banners, and more are on order from their Web site, <http://www.savedarfurbanner.net> .

Amy Butler, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Northwest Washington, said she was moved to order a banner after hearing Kumin talk about how "people of faith cannot remain silent on this issue."

At today's worship service, Butler added, her congregation will view a short documentary on Darfur distributed by the Save Darfur Coalition.

It will be, she said, another small step taken from the conviction that "here we are in the capital of the free world, we are people of faith, and we should be able to effect change."

US Envoys Optimistic About Sudan Peace Process

The Voice of America

By Noel King

August 7, 2005

The Sudanese Peace Agreement is a "done deal," says U.S. envoy to Sudan, Roger Winter. Mr. Winter and envoy Constance Newman, said Sunday they expect the agreement to hold, despite Mr. Garang's death in a helicopter crash.

Last week Sudan was shaken by rioting that erupted following his death, which triggered unsubstantiated rumors that the northern government may have been responsible. One hundred-30 people were killed in ethnic clashes between north and south Sudanese. The violence led some to question whether the peace deal that ended two decades of civil war between north and south Sudan would weather the storm.

Mr. Winter told reporters Sunday that Sudan and the international community have reasons to be optimistic, and he stressed that no changes should be made to the present agreement.

"I'm optimistic under the circumstances. The deal is done. If this had happened a few months ago with an undone deal, I think it would be a potentially much riskier circumstance. The deal is done. It's recognized internationally. It's legal. It's the deal," he said.

Mr. Garang was a charismatic leader, and a key figure in the peace process. He assumed the vice presidency one month ago and was expected to contribute to ending the humanitarian crisis in the troubled western Darfur region as well as smaller uprisings in eastern Sudan.

Ms. Newman said a lesson could be learned from Mr. Garang's passing.

"Dr. Garang had relationships with governments and with rebel groups that could have made a difference. But what we have to do, all of us now, is look for other ways to get to the governments that influence rebel groups, get to the rebel groups," she said. "There is always a danger in the world of depending on one person. We always need to relieve that one person of having the sole responsibility of saving us all."

Both U.S. envoys expressed faith in the leadership abilities of Mr. Garang's successor, Salva Kiir Mayardit.

Mr. Mayardit's agenda differs from Mr. Garang's on at least one key issue. As part of the peace deal, in six years, southern Sudanese will vote on whether to remain united with northern Sudan or to secede and form its own nation. Mr. Mayardit has been known advance a separatist agenda,

while Mr. Garang wanted a unified Sudan. Mr. Winter said the Sudanese government will have to work hard to keep the nation unified.

"If they want to see a unified state of Sudan, if they really want it to happen, they've got a major psychological and political obstacle to overcome, which is the sentiments of much of the population now. That means responsive government, it means justice," said Mr. Winter.

"It means a whole package of things, including development that enable people to see that peace is worth it."

At the request of the Ugandan government, the United States will provide material support for the investigation into Mr. Garang's death, but the U.S. government will not be involved in the investigation itself. The Sudanese government will conduct the inquiry, which has been called a formality by the Sudanese Government and by Garang's Party, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement.

Mr. Mayardit is expected to be inaugurated in a small, subdued ceremony on Tuesday, in marked contrast to Mr. Garang's lavish celebration one month ago.

Sudan Hopes Peace Deal Will Outlive Garang

The Financial Times

By Andrew England

August 7 2005

Amid tears, eulogies and promises that his vision of a peaceful Sudan would be fulfilled, John Garang, the former rebel leader and vice-president, was buried over weekend in a southern city that was at the frontline of the civil war he led.

With his erstwhile enemy, President Omar al-Bashir, in attendance, the ceremony in Juba ended a tempestuous week for Sudan rocked first by news of Garang's death in a helicopter crash, then by riots and violence in Khartoum and Juba that killed at least 130 people.

Garang's death last Saturday also raised concerns about the durability of a peace deal that ended a 21-year war between southern rebels and Arab-dominated governments in Khartoum. Under that deal, Garang, leader of the southern Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), was sworn in as vice-president on July 9, three weeks before the crash. He was a key architect of the accord and deemed crucial to its success.

The impoverished south is inhabited mainly by Africans who follow traditional beliefs or are Christians, while the north is Muslim with a mix of Arab and African peoples. Both Mr al-Bashir and Salva Kiir, Mr Garang's successor as leader of the SPLA, used Saturday's funeral to pledge their commitment to the peace deal as thousands gathered in the hot sun, with Arabs from the north dotted among the masses of southerners to whom Mr Garang had been a beacon of hope.

“The SPLM is a vehicle without reverse gear,” Mr Kiir said. “His vision will not perish after his departure.” Mr al-Bashir promised that he was dedicated to implementing the agreement “letter by letter, until the last letter”.

As the leaders spoke, government and SPLA soldiers stood side by side providing security, giving a glimpse of unity for the day. When Mr Garang's coffin was taken to its burial site, four government soldiers and four SPLA fighters acted as pallbearers.

But the fact that soldiers lined the streets in such large numbers, even taking up positions in a tower at the All Saints Cathedral where the funeral service was held, indicated that nobody was willing to take chances in a nation blighted by decades of conflict.

During the war, the SPLA tried several times to capture Juba from the government but never succeeded, and the group's fighters only began to move into the city in preparation for the funeral.

Last week's riots by angry southerners, many of whom felt the government must have been responsible for the helicopter crash, and the retaliatory attacks by northerners, highlighted the deep mistrust between the communities and the volatility of the nation.

There have been no indications that the crash, which occurred in bad weather, was caused by foul play. However, on Friday Yoweri Museveni, Uganda's president, poured fuel on to an already volatile situation by saying: “It may be an accident or it may be something else.”

The helicopter Mr Garang was using was a Ugandan presidential aircraft. Jan Pronk, the UN envoy in Sudan, said there was no reason to assume it “was anything else other than an accident.” He added: “We hope the spirit of today will bring people together. Let's forget the events of the last couple of days. Africans and Arabs are bound to live together.”

But even without Garang's death, the task of implementing the peace deal is considerable. And the challenge Mr Kiir faces attempting to fill Garang's shoes is daunting.

Although criticised for his autocratic leadership, the 60-year-old former SPLA leader was recognised as a skilled political operator who had garnered the respect of officials in Khartoum and western diplomats while holding the often fractious south together.

In contrast, Mr Kiir avoided the limelight and is regarded as battlefield military man, not a politician. Some analysts suggest his leadership would be more collective and open, but there are also concerns he will pursue a secessionist agenda. Under the peace deal, southerners will vote in referendum at the end of a six-year transition on whether to secede.

Garang always publicly trumpeted the argument for unity, and Mr Kiir attempted to allay concerns that he would take a different approach. “I have neither taken the helm of the leadership to take SPLM away from its path or to redefine its objectives,” he said. “Let the gossip-mongers cease their gossip.”

Kiir To Become Sudan VP This Week

BBC

August 7, 2005

Salva Kiir, who took over as Southern Sudan's leader following the death of John Garang, is due to be sworn in as Sudan's vice-president this week.

The swearing in ceremony will be take place in Khartoum on Tuesday, President Omar al-Bashir's office announced.

Mr Kiir will succeed former rebel leader Mr Garang, who died three weeks after becoming vice-president as part of a deal to end decades of conflict.

Despite his death both sides have vowed to press ahead with the peace process.

No let up on implementation

On Saturday thousands, including many African leaders, turned out to pay tribute to former Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) leader Mr Garang as he was buried in the southern town of Juba.

Mr Garang's death in a helicopter crash on 1 August sparked riots that left 130 dead and fears that the peace process, which ended more than 20 years of civil war between the government and southern rebels, may be threatened.

But Mr Bashir has pledged that the peace deal will be implemented to the letter.

Mr Kiir echoed this view at the funeral, assuring mourners that the ex-rebel leader's vision of peace would not be allowed to perish.

"As sure as day follows night, the torch he has kindled shall not be extinguished. Not under my command," Mr Kiir said.

Figurehead

Mr Garang's widow Rebecca spoke of her pride in her husband, and urged people to remain united behind the peace accord.

For more than 20 years, Mr Garang led the southern rebels in a civil war against the government and was seen as a symbol of hope by many in the south.

Mr Garang steered the rebels through a bloody war against the Islamic government in Khartoum, which left at least 1.5 million people dead.

He ruled the group with an iron hand, imprisoning or killing anyone who threatened to stand in his way.

But he managed to keep the disparate movement together, despite many disagreements.

The conflict in Sudan ended with the signing of a peace agreement in January and Mr Garang became vice-president in a new government of national unity.

U.S. To Send Experts To Garang Crash Site

Reuters

By Opheera McDoom

August 7, 2005

KHARTOUM, Aug 7 (Reuters) - The United States is sending experts to help investigate the helicopter crash that killed Sudan's First Vice President and former rebel leader John Garang, U.S. officials said on Sunday.

Roger Winter, the U.S. deputy secretary of state's special envoy for Sudan, also said he was optimistic Garang's death would not derail the implementation of a peace deal he signed in January to end Africa's longest civil war.

Winter attended Garang's funeral in the southern town of Juba on Saturday with Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Constance Newman.

Garang's death in a helicopter crash last weekend, just three weeks after becoming first vice president, shocked the nation and sparked riots in which 130 people were killed.

Newman said the United States had been requested to help with the investigation into the July 30 crash.

"The U.S. has agreed and in Nairobi already are five experts from the National Transportation Safety Board -- the best that we have -- ready to move to the site to carry out the investigation," she said.

The experts will feed information to a joint investigation commission to be formed this week by the government in Khartoum and Garang's former rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), she said.

The Ugandan presidential helicopter Garang was travelling in went down in bad weather in mountainous terrain and his supporters have said they do not suspect foul play.

But Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni said on Friday the cause of the crash was unclear and he could not rule out the possibility it was not an accident.

ARCHITECT OF PEACE DEAL

The 21-year civil war broadly pitted the Islamist Khartoum-based government against the mostly Christian, animist south, complicated by issues of ethnicity, oil and ideology. It claimed 2 million lives, mostly through famine and disease.

Garang was the architect of the January peace agreement, which set up a power-sharing government and allowed southerners to vote on independence in six years, and his death raised fears it may collapse.

But Winter told reporters in Khartoum: "The deal is done ... If this had happened a few months ago with an undone deal, it would have been a potentially much riskier circumstance."

He added the SPLM was strong and that new leader Salva Kiir, Garang's deputy and military chief, enjoyed a broad following within the group.

"He (Kiir) has a reputation for being collegial in the way he does business ... we all know that wasn't always Dr John's trait," Winter said.

Winter said he was not worried by Kiir's separatist tendencies, while Garang was vocal in his support for unity, because Kiir represented the majority view in the south.

"Something like 96 percent of the people of the south don't support unity," he said. "I'm not sure the hill is any higher -- it was high in the first place because the stats show that Dr John was almost alone with his (support for) unity," he said.

Newman and Winter said U.S. attention also remained focused on a separate conflict in the western region of Darfur, which has killed tens of thousands over the past 2-1/2 years.

The United States has called the Darfur violence genocide, a charge the government denies.

American, U.N. Officials Optimistic About Continuation Of Peace In Sudan

The Associated Press

By Tanalee Smith

August 7, 2005

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP) _ American officials expressed optimism Sunday that Sudan's fragile peace would hold and that a strong, unified new leadership would continue forward despite the death of dominant southern leader John Garang.

Garang's death in a July 30 helicopter crash sparked riots in Sudanese cities and raised fears that the peace agreement he helped reach in January might fall apart.

Connie Newman, head of the State Department's Africa bureau, and Roger Winter, special representative to Sudan, said they were assured in recent days by leaders of the government and Garang's Sudan People's Liberation Movement that both sides are committed to implementation of the January peace agreement with no changes.

Winter, a negotiator in lengthy peace talks that finally that ended the 21-year north-south civil war, said Garang's death at this time could be viewed as "destabilizing" but that he was optimistic anyway.

"Why do I think it is possible to be optimistic? First, the deal is done," he said of the comprehensive peace agreement. "It's recognized internationally, it's legal, it's the deal."

The agreement, incorporated into the interim constitution last month, brought Garang to the capital as first vice president in a government of national unity. He died in a helicopter crash on July 30, just three weeks after being sworn in and before he and his partners in the presidency could name their Cabinet and the rest of the national unity government.

Winter and Newman also praised new SPLM head Salva Kiir Mayardit as a strong leader who would continue Garang's plans for Sudan.

"His vision builds on that of Dr. Garang," Newman said. "I can understand why the leadership decided that he was the right person to take over."

"The man is no slouch intellectually, and he is a leader," Winter said of Kiir, who has already taken over the SPLM and will be inaugurated as first vice president on Tuesday.

Newman said a team of five experts from the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board were in Nairobi ready to assist with the investigation into the crash.

"They're the best that we have," she said of the NTSB team. The government and SPLM had said it was an accident but still plan an investigation and have asked other countries, including the United States, Uganda and Kenya, to assist.

She said the United States and other countries participating in the investigation would report to the national unity government, which is leading the probe.

In Juba, southern Sudan, the U.N. envoy for Sudan, Jan Pronk, applauded the moves that the SPLM and government have made to reassure people that the peace agreement has not died with Garang.

"It shows unity. It shows a commitment to peace and, perhaps, out of this very tragic accident, something good will flourish _ a greater commitment to unity and peace than ever before," after laying a wreath at Garang's tomb, a day after he was buried in the Nile River city.

Pronk pressed the government and SPLM to form commissions to guide and monitor the implementation of key aspects of the peace accord.

"When these institutions are not there, you cannot easily go forward because the SPLM works separately, the government works separately and the United Nations (works separately). So we have to do it together," Pronk said.

He said he urged Kiir on Sunday to resolve differences with pro-government militia in the south which are not part of the SPLM.

"There are groups which have become quite agitated of late," Pronk said. He declined to say more about them, but NGO workers have told The Associated Press that some pro-government militiamen have recently kidnapped women and children, holding them as bargaining chips.

The NGO workers spoke on condition of anonymity as they feared straining their relations with the Sudanese government.

The peace provides for the militiamen to be integrated either into the national army or into a new army of southern Sudan, which will be dominated by their former enemy, the Sudan People's Liberation Army.

SUDAN

The Economist

August 3, 2005

The death in a helicopter crash of John Garang, Sudan's southern rebel leader turned vice-president, has sparked unrest in the capital, Khartoum, and put the country's recently negotiated peace accord under strain

FEW men have managed the transition from guerrilla leader to political leader with as much international acclaim as John Garang, leader—until his death in a helicopter accident this week--of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM). For 22 years, he led Sudan's mainly Christian and animist south in a bloody armed struggle against the Country's Muslim Arab government up north in Khartoum. It was a struggle that finally ended in victory in January when Mr Garang won almost total autonomy for south Sudan in a comprehensive peace agreement, known as the CPA, with the central government in Khartoum. The new political reality was ceremoniously confirmed as recently as July 9th, when Mr Garang was joyfully sworn in as Sudan's first vice-president in a power-sharing government headed by his old enemy, President Omar al-Bashir. Under the deal, the south is entitled, after six years, to have a referendum that could lead to complete independence--though Mr Garang said he would prefer extreme autonomy.

The CPA was one of the few recent bright spots in a continent still plagued by civil wars, famine and corruption. So Mr Garang's death shocked not only his own people but has shaken all of East Africa, where he had become a confidant of presidents and a folk-hero to many ordinary people. Worse, many fear that without Mr Garang's forceful leadership, the whole peace agreement may unravel. That seems to have been avoided for now. But Mr Garang died at a pivotal moment in the creation of a fledgling south Sudanese state. Will it, in the next few weeks, survive the loss of its founder?

Mr Garang died in a Ugandan government helicopter while flying back to south Sudan after meeting Uganda's president, Yoweri Museveni. It probably ran out of fuel while looking for an emergency landing spot in bad weather. But until an official investigation definitively rules out foul play, some will suspect he was killed by any one of his numerous enemies. As it is, his death sparked riots on the streets of Khartoum by some of the millions of southerners who live in dreadful conditions on the fringes of the city, waiting to return to their homeland, and who

bitterly distrust the Khartoum government. More than 100 people were reported killed there and in several southern Sudanese towns, including Juba, the region's biggest. On Wednesday August 3rd, amid continuing clashes in central Khartoum, thousands of people were reported to be trying to flee the city.

The immediate roots of the conflict between north and south go back to independence from Britain and Egypt in 1956. The mainly Christian, African south argued that it had little in common with the Muslim, mainly Arab north, and petitioned to secede. That was rejected, so a war for independence started. Mr Garang took over the leadership of the struggle in 1983, and eventually brought the central government to the negotiating table by force.

In the process, some 2m people lost their lives, and millions more were displaced. Mr Garang himself was guilty of his share of brutality, and the SPLM's armed wing, the Sudan People's Liberation Army, does not have a pretty human-rights record. Mr Garang, partly educated in America, was an autocrat by temperament who took personal control of the SPLM. Many argued that this was just as well, as the fractious movement would otherwise have fallen to pieces long ago, driven by ethnic and political jealousies and rivalries.

Indeed, the main fear in the hours after Mr Garang's death was that the SPLM's other commanders would threaten the peace by instantly fighting over the succession. So peacemakers were relieved that within a couple of days the SPLM had confirmed Mr Garang's deputy, Salva Kiir, as its new leader; he automatically becomes Sudan's first vice-president too.

So far, other rivals, such as Riek Machar and James Wani, have kept quiet.

Mr Kiir says his movement remains wedded to the peace agreement, as does President Bashir. On Wednesday, Mr Kiir had meetings with America's special envoy to Sudan, Roger Winter, and South Africa's foreign minister, Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, at which he also pledged to strive for peace in the western region of Darfur, where government-backed Arab militiamen have been terrorizing black Africans for more than two years.

But Mr Kiir takes over at a delicate time. A new constitution is still being negotiated for the south. And he will need all his skills to manage the SPLM, which currently has no constitution, since Mr Garang had recently dissolved its leadership council and its quasi-parliament, the National Liberation Council.

Is Mr Kiir up to the task? Like Mr Garang, he is a Dinka, from southern Sudan's largest ethnic group, and is widely respected by southerners as a military commander in the bush. On the other hand, he has taken little part in the negotiations, and his relatively low profile means he may lack the charisma to cajole everyone into line as Mr Garang did. He is also a little known to the international donors now risking billions of dollars to try to rebuild Sudan. Everyone involved knows that if he slips up, the hyenas--from within his own ranks, let alone those in Khartoum--are waiting to pounce.