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## **THANK YOU FOR YOUR MONEY** (22.12.2010)

UN ENRICHED IN SOUTHERN SUDAN

**More than one hundred million U.S. dollars with international donors to finance the demobilization in southern Sudan. But most of the money is the pockets of the people stuck in the UN.** BY SIMONE SCHLINDWEIN



Were once great hopes greeted with: UN staff in South Sudan. Photo: Reuters

JUBA taz |

Bored Akol Alessio sitting in the classroom at the training center in Southern Sudan capital of Juba. The 70-year-old has for months every day to school and hold for three. The teacher gave him time and again prayed down the alphabet, numbers 1 to 8 p.m. repeatedly - things that the old man from childhood, knew of. He sighs: "This training will help me no further bit."

Akol served 21 years as a physician in Southern Sudan rebel army SPLA (Sudan People's Liberation Army), took care of wounded and sick. His specialty had liver disease such as leprosy and typhoid, he says. Two years ago he sent his officer to the house: He was too old. Now he must learn to live a civilian life. "I need a micro-credit to buy drugs and to open a pharmacy in my hometown, no illiteracy training." But we told him that he must complete the training, which belong to the program.

The old man is one of about 11,000 SPLA guerrilla fighters who were demobilized in June 2009 in southern Sudan. Southern Sudan is one of the most comprehensive demobilization program in Africa. After 20 years of civil war, the former guerrilla who is now official in South Sudan army, nor 140000-180000 soldiers. Of this, 90,000 will disarm. The first 34 000 of them, started their demobilization in the summer of 2009, are older men and Akol, child soldiers, nurses, sick and disabled veterans. In the second phase, from 2011 sent 56,000 combat troops home. But the UN program for this is according to research by the taz extremely inefficient.



## **DEMOBILIZATION**

International UN-funded programs for the "disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR familiar with the acronym) of fighters belonging to the standard range of UN interventions in civil war countries worldwide. Last time there was such programs in addition to southern Sudan, for example, in the following countries: Sierra Leone, Liberia, Congo, Burundi, Haiti and Ivory Coast. Here, the recent civil war armies combined and excess fighters can finally deliver on UN-collection centers of their old redundant weapons. You will receive in return for aid as take-off in the form of cash, property and / or training for the creation of a new civilian life.

A successful demobilization is important for the future of Southern Sudan. The budget of the SPLA currently consumes half of the state budget. The pay is out for three months. The government is broke. to downsize the army would prevent armed soldiers pillaging the villages and take what they need to live, or barricades set up to extort bribes.

Actually, the demobilization was supposed to start right after the peace agreement 2005th At that time, created the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) has a list of 90 000 demobilized fighters. Not as a computer data bank, but hand-written on paper. This list was checked against the payroll of the SPLA. The listed were disarmed by the SPLA and sent home - they should wait for the UN program. One of them was Akol. Then nothing happened for years. The disarmed were left to themselves. The UN list has disappeared. SPLA liaison officers now rushing through the villages to recover the people on the list. This frustrated Exkämpfer are a huge risk for the stability of southern Sudan.

## **Mismanagement of the UN**

The uneducated now training Morris Ruben, a primary school teacher, who in 1987 voluntarily joined the guerrillas. To the rank of captain, he rose up. In 2008 he was discharged. Today, he teaches his former comrades of the alphabet. About 200 pounds he get as a teacher of the month - in the army he had once received 1,000 pounds.

The former SPLA fighters are frustrated and disappointed. He have 20 years of fighting in the bush for his country, says Morris Ruben, and he would be sent with a handful of stuff home: a blanket, a mosquito net, a shovel, a bucket and a sack of corn - all things he had already and has therefore sold on the market again. Plus 860 pound entry fee, the equivalent of around 260 €. The rich do not even to send his nine children to school. "So we treated but not heroes," he says.

William Deng, president of Southern Sudan Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission (DDR), pokes fun at all this great concern. And he is angry because enough money was actually there. Many DDR programs were underfunded. Not this one. However, the money will be "corrupted by the UN," said Deng.

The tall man has lived in Canada during the war, then built up in the UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the demobilization of the military region of Ituri. Now he states: The UN has launched a program in southern Sudan, which was tailored to countries like the Congo where Congolese rebels not disarmed and must be returned to their home countries. This Exkämpfer stood on returning home with empty hands, they needed water containers, blankets, corn rations. "But our people have for years at home, probably a lot better than the blanket that we give them now," Deng said, shaking his head.

A proper program must "run effectively, quickly and transparently," says Deng and bangs on the table. But exactly at this Transparenz is the weak point, and it makes Deng, the UN development agency UNDP is responsible to manage the Demobilisierungsgeld the international community. The UNDP has to implement the program mandated international NGOs as contractors. The Society for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) through the training program in the state of Central Equatoria, and in Juba. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is responsible for Western Bahr El-Ghazal and the Irish "concern" as a sub-contractor hired. Who here which cuts off part of the cake is completely opaque, so Deng. The donor countries - including Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway - have been a total of 105 million dollars in the GDR funds paid for Sudan, which is applied to 430 million. Of which 2.4 million come from the federal government. The value of the DDR package of each ex-soldier is an average of \$ 1,500. For a total of around 200 dollars blankets, mosquito nets and other household goods bought for former combatants, and food rations for them. Teachers are paid, the training carried out, transport costs reimbursed, made evaluations.

What remains then for each Exkämpfer still only accounted for \$ 400 starting money. The reason is that international organizations must also be paid. Even the UNDP is seven percent administrative fee. "Because the program is complex, we lose out on the pipeline of money," said Deng. His Commission was not involved in the negotiations with the contractors. His objection: "There are national NGOs that are much cheaper than international NGOs." Then at the end a lot more money for people like Akol would remain.

For Deng, this mismanagement of a security threat. "The Exkämpfer think that we did steal the money that they deserve," he says.

Deng has requested an independent audit to find out where the money sags. But the UNDP only an internal audit has approved, which takes place from September to October. The result was never published, even Deng has never received the report. The taz is now before this report. It is devastating.

"The program can not be maintained in 2011," it says. There is no strategy on how the remaining parts of the budget should be driven, internal controls were lacking. For the implementation of the DDR program in North and South Sudan, the UNDP had budgeted 466 employees, with estimated staff cost of around 16.7 million dollars. So far 328 people had begun their service, but in 2010 received more than 20 million dollars. About 14 million of which went to just 50 "international experts".

The person with the highest pay grade, P6 receives in UN-speak, this year \$ 370,216, which is a monthly salary of almost 31,000 dollars - tax-free. Three employees who were not even provided in the budget of 2008 receive the salary level P5, 28,000 dollars a month, including allowances for each location. The auditors have looked at the recruitment process for these employees to the extent it was possible because much of the personnel files and lists of candidates were not available. Her conclusion: "The recruitment process is not transparent." Many of the highly paid employees according to the report not meet the UN's internal skills requirements.

The UNDP expects the program will help 20 to 25 percent of the former combatants to build a new life. Similar programs in the Congo are based on at least 50 percent. A thought experiment: If one were to press any Exkämpfer which he is entitled to \$ 1,500 cash in hand, much could open more of them, a shop, buy land or acquire Akol as drugs for the pharmacy.

Taz-demands on the UNDP response behavior. It takes weeks to arrive following reaction. "We owe it to the people in southern Sudan and our donors to make this program as successful as possible, despite the difficulties, we consider now how we can improve the program and the cooperation with the UN make more efficient. " When asked to respond to the low expectation of success, the UNDP: "The program is implemented in a country that is recovering from a long civil war, this has a decisive influence on the results."

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Open incitement

Of the 105 million donated funds are to taz information yet about 30 million left over. And as the former southern Sudanese army doctor Akol will probably never get together enough money to open a pharmacy.

#### READER COMMENTS (8)

- **27.01.2011, 15:55 | ANONYMOUS:**  
I made last year a placement at a UN organization in Bonn. U...

- **27.12.2010, 16:23 | INGRID BUCHWIESER:**  
This organization is in urgent need of reform, including its projects and Arbeitswe ...

- **12.26.2010, 11:13 | HEINZ:**  
An interesting article, with probably much justified criticism. At the ...

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