



# United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)

Media & Spokesperson Unit  
Communications & Public Information Office

## PRESS RELEASE

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### UN CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY IN SOUTH SUDAN

The United Nations has celebrated International Literacy Day since 1966, as a reminder that literacy is a human right and the foundation of all learning. International Literacy Day 2013 was commemorated worldwide under the theme of “Literacies for the 21st Century”.

In South Sudan, the Day was celebrated in Yambio, Western Equatoria, under the theme "Literacy for Peace and Nation Building". To lend its support to the Literacy Day in Jonglei, one of the most difficult parts of South Sudan, the Indian Battalion of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) provided educational supplies to the Payam administrator and teachers of Gumuruk (Pibor County). Supplies were donated on Sunday during a handover ceremony. Blackboards and easels, as well as stationary supplies, were presented to 500 pupils in support of the local school

“Literacy is much more than an educational priority – it is the ultimate investment in the future and the first step towards all the new forms of literacy required in the twenty-first century. We wish to see a century where every child is able to read and to use this skill to gain autonomy” Irina Bokova, the Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) said in a statement.

Currently, the adult literacy rate in South Sudan stands at 27 percent, one of the lowest in the world, with 2.2 million people aged between 15 and 40 illiterate, and only 1 in 10 women able to read and write.



UNMISS Indian peacekeepers donating blackboards and stationary items to teachers and students of a school in Gumuruk.  
Photo: UNMISS/Military

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