During a six-day visit to South Sudan this month, Mr. Ivan Simonovic, the United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, met with senior government officials and visited the capitals of Upper Nile and Unity states.

During his meeting with Foreign Minister Dr. Barnaba Marial Benjamin, Mr. Simonovic proposed that the warring parties exchange information about missing persons to enable families to gain access to the remains of their deceased relatives. "It would really be a great boost for the peace process that all conflict-related detainees are freed," he said.

Mr. Simonovic said he also discussed the issue of accountability for human rights abuses and violation with the foreign minister. "We agreed that peace and justice should go together," said Mr. Simonovic. Following the meeting, Foreign Minister Marial Benjamin said his government will work with the UN. "We have assured him that the Republic of South Sudan will cooperate as a member of the United Nations so that we can all work together to bring peace to our country," said the minister.

During his stay in South Sudan, Mr. Simonovic also visited Bentiu, Unity State, and Malakal, Upper Nile, two of the towns hardest hit by the conflict. "I think it is very important to end the cycle of impunity," he told reporters upon his return from Malakal. "Because of a lack of accountability in previous times, violations have been occurring. This vicious cycle has to be broken." He shared his impressions of the two state capitals "What was striking is that Bentiu and Malakal are destroyed cities," he said. "During the day, there is some life, but during the night they become ghost cities because people, almost all civilians, return to our Protection of Civilians Sites".

Mr. Simonovic said, that UNMISS would continue to protect the internally displaced persons (IDPs) at its protection sites in Bentiu and Malakal, but it was vital to “push for peace”, “if there is any common message coming from everyone, be they women or men, young or old, Nuer or Dinka, it was that people want peace,” he added.
USG Valerie Amos and UNESCO Envoy Forest Whitaker assess humanitarian conditions in South Sudan

The United Nations Under-Secretary-General (USG) for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Valerie Amos and UNESCO Envoy for Peace and Reconciliation Forest Whitaker visited South Sudan this month to assess humanitarian and educational conditions of people affected by the conflict. During their visit, the two met with women and community leaders at the UN House Protection of Civilians Sites in Juba, senior government officials and humanitarian partners and discussed ways of improving the humanitarians operation in South Sudan.

A children’s playground was officially launched at the Protection of Civilians Site behind UN House in Juba. The “Whitaker complex playground” is named after the UNESCO special envoy, and the grounds include a football pitch, a volleyball court and a basketball court.

To enhance safety mechanisms for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in UNMISS Protection Sites, UN Police advisors completed training for a community watch group in Juba. The four-day course focused on gender, child protection, the rights of women and children, local justice to deal with minor issues and crimes, dispute resolution, and the benefits of visible patrols to reassure community members.

The group, which was composed of representatives of IDPs seeking refuge at a Protection Site in UN House along Yei road, was the second group to attend the training. “We have been given knowledge and skills and we have learnt about responsibility, respect and dignity,” said one of the participants.

Rwandan peacekeepers hand over Kapuri school to authorities

The UNMISS Rwandan battalion handed over newly constructed buildings to authorities in Juba County, Central Equatoria State. During a routine patrol in May 2014, Rwandan soldiers saw pupils at Kapuri Primary School, studying under trees and in makeshift classrooms with no sanitation facilities. The Rwandans began construction in September 2014 in partnership with UNICEF, members of the Rwandan community in South Sudan and local Kapuri residents. Juba County Commissioner Stephen Wani said South Sudanese should emulate the volunteer work done by the Rwandan battalion.

“Let’s make South Sudan a home for everybody,” said Mr. Wani. “Let us forgive one another for us to go ahead.”

Simon Kenyi James, the director of Northern Bari payam, urged the Kapuri community and parents to make good use of the school facilities.

UNMISS trains IDP community watch group

“We have been given knowledge and skills and we have learnt about responsibility, respect and dignity”
From the start of the crisis on 15 December 2013, the Indian Battalion (INDBATT) Field Hospital in Malakal has served as a major source of humanitarian assistance by providing free health care services to local residents.

INDBATT has provided free medical services not only for UNMISS staff but also to over 17,000 internally displaced persons living in the Protection of Civilians Site and to the larger community in Malakal.

For the past year, the field hospital has performed over 5,000 surgeries and provided obstetrics and gynecology services to patients. Hospital staff have delivered over 70 babies.

The field hospital also has a fully equipped laboratory. Its range of free medical services includes dental care services, X-Ray scans and a whole host of other medical services that are provided only by the Indian Battalion in Malakal.

“Aiming to assist an educational system that is constantly disrupted by conflict, UNMISS South Korean engineers have handed over a classroom block to Lualdit Primary School in Bor South County, Jonglei State.

They also supplied the school with educational materials such as pens, books, desks, blackboards and rulers. “It is a meaningful occasion to offer the students this classroom building to help them achieve their education in this deteriorating condition”. South Korean Commander Lieutenant Colonel Jong Song said during the launch of the three-room block. “In order to improve their education in a conducive learning environment we have supported the Lualdit Primary school with educational supplies as well.”

Chinese peacekeepers repairing Warrap State road

UNMISS Chinese peacekeepers have begun rehabilitating a road from the Warrap State capital Kuajok to the town of Turalei in Twic County.

Speaking at the ceremony to kick off the second phase of the rehabilitation, UNMISS Acting State Coordinator Isaac Lappia said that once completed, the road would make it easier for the Mission and the government to protect civilians including internally displaced persons (IDPs). “The rehabilitation of the road is in keeping with the Mission’s mandate to provide access for humanitarian actors,” he added. “As you know, this road leads to the area where 95 percent of IDPs in the state are seeking refuge.” The Acting State Governor, Akech Tong Aleu, commended UNMISS for the initiative and pledged his government’s support to the project. “Once rehabilitated, the road will enhance provision of health, security and social services to our people,” he said. “We as a Government will cooperate and collaborate with you.”
The United Nations humanitarian coordinator appealed to “those engaging in the conflict in South Sudan” to end the violence. Otherwise, "we will see a generation of South Sudan’s children who are lost." UNMISS

South Korean contingent rehabilitates Bor-Mangalla Road

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UN humanitarian chief concludes visit to South Sudan

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WEBSITE

UNMISS Rwandans hand over Kapuri school to government

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Communities hold pre-migration meeting in Aweil East County

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Another 300 child soldiers released in Jonglei


Kajo-Keji working to settle border dispute

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Internews launches radio station in Malakal protection site

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IDP community watch group training closes in Juba

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