

- [HOME](#)
- [NEWS](#)
- [News by Country](#)
- [Top News](#)
- [Sport](#)
- [World](#)
- [Oddly Enough](#)
- [Blogs](#)
- [INVESTING](#)
- [VIDEO](#)

AlertNet
Humanitarian News

Do More With Reuters
RSS 

Professional Products
[Financial](#)
[Media](#)
[Support](#)

Partner Services
[Career Centre](#)

[About Thomson Reuters](#)

South Sudan will have relations with Israel-official

Sat Jul 16, 2011 8:43am GMT

[Print](#) | [Single Page](#)

[\[-\] Text](#) [\[+\]](#)

CAIRO (Reuters) - South Sudan, already recognised by Israel, will forge relations with the Jewish state and hopes to help bring peace to the Middle East, the new state's vice president said in remarks received on Friday.

Riek Machar, speaking to Alhurra television after the UN General Assembly in New York admitted South Sudan to the United Nations on Thursday, said that most of his country's neighbours had diplomatic relations with Israel.

"Therefore we will have relations with all the Arab and Muslim countries and even with Israel..." Machar said in Arabic, according to a transcript in English sent to Reuters on Friday.

"As a matter of fact, we look forward to playing a role in solving the existing issues in the Arab world, even the issues between Israel and the Arab countries."

"We fully understand the issues in the Arab world, particularly the Palestinian issue and the right to have a Palestinian state," he added.

South Sudan, most of whose people follow Christian and traditional African beliefs, became independent on Saturday in line with a January referendum that was the culmination of a 2005 peace deal ending decades of civil war with the north.

Israel recognised South Sudan on Sunday, offering the new state economic help after it seceded from the mainly Arab and Muslim north -- which has no relations with the Jewish state.

Machar said Israel's recognition of South Sudan followed Juba's recognition by Arab countries including north Sudan, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates.

"We need international peace. We will have relations with all Arab countries. Israel initiated relations with us. This is not a strange development," he added.

© Thomson Reuters 2011 All rights reserved

AFRICA BLOGS

Will bandages mend broken ties in the DRC?

The relations between First Quantum and the Democratic Republic of Congo have gone from bad to worse in recent months, after the country expropriated the miner's \$765 million Kolwezi copper tailings project in September. [Blog](#)



Africa optimism rising

When some of the most influential figures in emerging markets finance spoke to a group of Reuters editors, they were asked about top picks for growth beyond the so-called BRIC countries of Brazil, Russia, India and China. [Blog](#)



Nile River row: Could it turn violent?

The giggles started when the seventh journalist in a row said that his question was for Egypt's water and irrigation minister, Mohamed Nasreddin Allam. [Blog](#)



Libya: a mixed bag

It has debt levels to die for and huge amounts of oil, but economically it's lagging and political concerns remain. Speakers at a Libyan trade and investment forum this week saw the North African country as a mixed bag. [Blog](#)



If Guinea Can...

If Guinea can pull off free and fair elections this weekend, it will lay the foundations for what could be one of Africa's most unexpected and significant good news stories. [Blog](#)



Africa takes the stage in London

Africa is providing a lot of fine material for the London theatre these days. [Blog](#)



LATEST ALERTNET CRISES NEWS

Powered by [Reuters AlertNet](#). AlertNet provides news, images and insight from the world's disasters and conflicts and is brought to you by [Reuters Foundation](#).