



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN
UNMIS

UNMIS Media Monitoring Report, 9th April, 2006
(By Public Information Office)

NOTE: Reproduction here does not mean that the UNMIS PIO can vouch for the accuracy or veracity of the contents, nor does this report reflect the views of the United Nations Mission in Sudan. Furthermore, international copyright exists on some materials and this summary should not be disseminated beyond the intended list of recipients.

IN THE NEWS TODAY:

- **UN**
 - Security Council to hold talks on Darfur next Thursday
 - Guehenno in a tour of African states to discuss possibilities for a UN force deployment
 - WHO Sudan commends government political commitment on combating HIV/AIDS
 - UN envoy won't go to Sudan despite lifting of travel ban
 - Some African governments hinder aid - UN envoy
 - Germany considers extension of Sudan mission
- **CPA**
 - 3,000 IDPs fail to return to Nuba Mountains due to cash shortage
 - Regional leader says peace deal killed the cause of Nuba Mountains
 - El-Mirghani bids his forces farewell as they return home to Sudan
 - SPLM blames the Presidency over Wau skirmishes
- **GoNU**
 - Foreign minister declines to comment on EU draft resolution
 - Khartoum, Washington agree to restore bilateral relations
- **Khartoum State**
 - EgyptAir offices in central Khartoum evacuated following false bomb threat
 - Vice-President Kiir intervenes to resolve tensions at Juba University
- **Darfur/ Abuja talks**
 - Sudanese government says Darfur rebels attack school convoy
 - AU Chairman in Nigeria for final push over Darfur peace talks
 - African leaders meet Sudan parties to seek Darfur breakthrough
- **Eastern Sudan**
 - Eastern Front says willing to cooperate with the SPLM

HIGHLIGHTS:

UN

Security Council to hold talks on Darfur next Thursday

(*AlRai AlAam* – 9th Apr. **Khartoum, Brussels**) The Security Council convenes next Thursday a special session on Darfur, say sources.

The session, they add, will be briefed by AU chief mediator to the Abuja talks, Salim Ahmed Salim.

Diplomatic sources also say that the US Administration may appoint Roger Winter as its Special Envoy for Peace in Sudan and says Washington is not likely to impose new sanctions on Sudan despite the fact the US Congress has endorsed the Darfur Peace Act.

Guehenno in a tour of African states to discuss possibilities for a UN force deployment

(*AlRai AlAam* – 9th Apr. **Brussels**) The UN Undersecretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jeanne-Marie Guehenno, said that a UN delegation will be embarking on a tour of east African states to discuss possibilities for an AU to UN transition.

Agence France Presse (AFP), quoting Guehenno, said that the delegation will be discussing the issue with AU officials in Addis Ababa and with Sudanese authorities in Khartoum.

WHO Sudan commends government political commitment on combating HIV/AIDS

(*Sudan Vision* – 9th Apr. **Khartoum**) The Representative of the UN World Health Organisation in Sudan, Dr. Godio Sabatinelli, and the UNFPA representative, M. Muctachimi, have commended the political commitment shown by the Sudanese government towards the implementation of the HIV/AIDS programmes in the country.

They pointed to the development that occurred within the framework within the framework of combating the disease and spreading awareness and added that this commitment should be translated into action and should involve all sectors across the Sudanese society and various ministries.

Dr. Sabatinelli pointed out that the media could play a leading role in spreading this culture and said the WHO remains committed to cooperating with the Federal Ministry of Health in implementing the initiative.

The UNFPA representative pointed out that the signing and implementation of the CPA would involve huge population movements within and from outside the country and warned that this should not mean returnees and refugees should be blamed for the increase in HIV/AIDS in the country.

UN envoy won't go to Sudan despite lifting of travel ban

(*AP/ST* – 6th Apr. **Khartoum**) A top U.N. envoy barred by Sudan last week from visiting its western Darfur region was forging ahead with a previously scheduled visit to Nairobi even though Khartoum reversed its decision.

Jan Egeland, U.N. Undersecretary for Humanitarian Affairs, was to visit Darfur when Sudan Monday refused his plane permission to land. It also rejected his subsequent requests to go to the capital Khartoum and then to fly over Darfur on route to Chad.

Egeland was aware of the Sudanese government's Wednesday statement reversing its earlier position but couldn't go to Darfur now, U.N. deputy spokeswoman Marie Okabe said. It wasn't clear when the envoy would head to Darfur, but had commitments in Nairobi late this week.

Khartoum backtracked on its decision after the U.N. and European Union protested.

Egeland was to visit western Sudan to assess U.N. relief operations assisting hundreds of thousands of people. He said Tuesday that during the last four months, 200,000 people had been forced from their homes in Darfur.

Sudan told him visits to Darfur and Khartoum, in the Muslim part of the country, were too sensitive because his country, Norway, had published the offensive cartoons of Islam's Prophet Muhammad.

Egeland called the excuse ridiculous, arguing Sudan's government wanted to prevent him from seeing the deteriorated humanitarian situation in Darfur.

Some African governments hinder aid - UN envoy

(*Reuters/ST* – 8th Apr. **Nairobi**) Spurned on recent trips to Africa, the United Nations' top humanitarian official has said some African leaders are hindering the world body's work at the expense of their own citizens.

Jan Egeland, the U.N. under secretary for humanitarian affairs, this week was denied permission to visit Sudan's troubled Darfur region for a second time.

And his 2005 trip to see the impact of a slum destruction programme in Zimbabwe infuriated President Robert Mugabe.

"In most countries it's going well, but in some we do not get neither the access, the security or the support that we need in situations where it's their citizens' lives that are at stake," Egeland said when asked why some African leaders were not welcoming the United Nations into their countries.

Political considerations often get in the way, he said.

"I think it's because there is this short-term vision where they think 'I can't politically survive in my position today'," he told Reuters in an interview.

"And the inability for some leaders to stand up to truth of what's really happening in their country."

Egeland, in charge of coordinating the U.N.'s humanitarian and emergency relief work, has put a major focus on Africa since taking office in 2003.

Darfur has been on the top of Egeland's agenda, and Sudan has twice denied him access. This time, Khartoum said it had only asked him to delay his trip.

After Egeland's Zimbabwe visit, Mugabe accused him of being a "hypocrite and a liar."

Egeland was the most senior U.N. official to visit Zimbabwe since the government embarked on a slum-demolishing campaign last year. The United Nations estimated it had destroyed the homes or livelihoods of more than 3 million people.

Egeland said the United Nation's experience in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where a peacekeeping force has made it much easier to deliver aid, was a model for Darfur.

"It had a massive positive affect on humanitarian access and ability for us to facilitate the return of displaced," he said.

Egeland said a U.N. force in Darfur would have to be twice the size of the 7,000-strong African Union team there now and have the mobility to patrol an area the size of France.

"This is not a conventional war here. We have cowardly men on horseback or camels or pickups who specialise in killing women and children," Egeland said.

Sudan has refused to bow to international pressure to accept a U.N. takeover of the AU force in Darfur, but said it might consider that after a peace deal is reached with Darfur rebels.

Germany considers extension of Sudan mission

(*ST* – 7th Apr. **Berlin**) The German government considers the projected six-month extension of the Bundeswehr (German army) mission in Sudan as imperative, the German DDP news agency reported.

Foreign Office State Secretary Gernot Erler (Social Democratic Party) reminded the Bundestag (Federal parliament) on Friday that the civil war in the African country had already claimed the lives of 2 million people and displaced 4 million inhabitants.

The UN peacekeeping mission in Sudan (UNMIS) now watched the observance of the peace treaty concluded by the warring parties, in which the Bundeswehr had been involved for the past year.

Erler admitted that the implementation of the peace treaty did not make as much progress as had originally been planned. "Monitoring the process continues to be necessary," he said.

This is why the federal government applied for an extension of the assignment of German troops in Sudan for another six months.

The aim of UNMIS was to disengage troops and disarm the militias in order to end "one of the bloodiest civil wars ever". The UN Security Council's adoption of Resolution 1590 tasked UNMIS with supporting the Government of Sudan and the SPLM/A in the implementation of the CPA after 21 years of civil war.

Under the current Bundestag resolution, which will not be revised, Germany is allowed to support the UN mission with up to 75 unarmed military observers and field officers. At the moment, there are eight officers and 20 military observers deployed there.

CPA

3,000 IDPs fail to return to Nuba Mountains due to cash shortage

(*AlAyaam* – 9th Apr. **Khartoum**) A shortage in cash has caused the voluntary returns of IDPs from the peripheries of Khartoum to the Nuba Mountains area to grind to a halt.

Ramadhan Ibrahim, a member of the SPLM caucus at the National Assembly, called upon civil society organisations and the relevant parties in government to give a hand in assisting these returns to the Nuba Mountains.

Ramadhan says he has received a list of up to 3,000 IDPs who have packed their bags and are determined to go back to the Nuba Mountains before the rains set in next May and the lack of funds puts them into a dilemma as they are mainly farmers and would like to hurry before the rainy season.

The SPLM official further pointed out that the National Congress Party used to fund returns especially to the Nuba Mountains before the CPA was signed but has stopped since then. He said they may have had some sinister motives for funding those returns.

Regional leader says peace deal killed the cause of Nuba Mountains

(*ST* – 8th Apr. **Khartoum**) The leader of the Sudanese National Party, Father Philip Abbas Ghabush, has strongly criticized the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) saying it had killed the cause of the Nuba Mountains' people, who had not gained anything from it.

In an interview with the Arabic language *Al-Khartoum*, Ghabush said the citizens of the Nuba Mountains in central Sudan were paying the price for the struggle over the region between the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and the ruling National Congress party (NCP).

He said citizens were witnessing deterioration of living standards and basic services.

Ghabush praised the UN forces in the Nuba Mountains saying their presence was successful and had achieved security and stability and further questioned the uproar generated by the presence of similar troops in Darfur.

He said that what was needed was accountability for mistakes made and not outright rejection of the forces, pointing out the mistakes and violations committed by the AU forces in Darfur.

He further said that the citizens of the Nuba Mountains were making arrangements in case the south decided to secede from the north saying that under the circumstances the chances of this happening were increasing: "If the south secedes we will demand self-determination," he said.

However, He stressed that his party fully supported Sudan's unity and reiterated that they were not southerners. He said the Nubians knew nothing of the resources in their own

territory, which were being exploited and demanded Nubians to be included in decision-making positions.

Regarding the Nuba grievances, and the claim of self determination for the Nuba Mountains, please read : [Naivasha Accord Fails to Address Nuba Grievances](#)

El-Mirghani bids his forces farewell as they return home to Sudan

(*AIRai AlAam* – 9th Apr. **Kassala**) NDA leader Mohamed Osman el-Mirghani bid farewell to his troops yesterday as they embarked on their return journey back home.

El-Mirghani who was addressing the el-Fateh forces in a place 15 kilometres east of Kassala and within Sudanese territory called upon the troops to desist from conflict and violence and to seriously endeavour to clear the climate for a new era.

SPLM blames the Presidency over Wau skirmishes

(*AIRai AlAam* – 9th Apr.) SPLA Chief of Staff Waiyai Deng has travelled to Wau, the scene of recent clashes between SPLA elements.

The trip aims at defusing the tensions between elements of the SPLA who clashed recently because of disparities in salaries between same-rank officers. The clashes left four people and a woman dead and 3 people injured.

On his part, the head of the JDB technical committee says it is not a big issue and pointed out that it was a result of a simple misunderstanding.

He laid responsibility of the skirmishes on the Presidency for delaying in sending funds for these troops.

GoNU

Foreign minister declines to comment on EU draft resolution

(*Sudan vision* – 9th Apr. **Khartoum**) Sudan's foreign minister declined yesterday to comment on a recent European Parliament draft resolution calling for the imposition of sanctions on any party that rejects the deployment of UN forces to Darfur.

The draft resolution has also demanded the Sudanese government to expedite the issuing of entry visas to Sudan for humanitarian workers.

When asked about government's response to that resolution, foreign minister Dr. Lam Akoil threw the question back and asked, "did they say that?".

Khartoum, Washington agree to restore bilateral relations

(*Sudan Vision* – 9th Apr. **Khartoum**) Vice-president Taha renewed Sudan government's keenness to reach a peace agreement that will be acceptable to all parties in the Darfur conflict.

Taha who met yesterday a US delegation led by her Special Envoy to the Abuja talks reviewed with the delegation the obstacles that hamper reaching a peace agreement.

State minister for foreign affairs, el-Sammani, reveals that the two sides also agreed to restore bilateral relations.

Khartoum State

EgyptAir offices in central Khartoum evacuated following false bomb threat

(*AlRai AlAam* – 9th Apr. **Khartoum**) Central Khartoum was in a state of anxiety yesterday following a false threat that a bomb had been planted at the offices of EgyptAir in the Abu-el-Ela Building on Palace Avenue.

While police rushed to the scene and the building was evacuated, citizens turned up in the hundreds under a building facing the site to wait for the results of the search.

The building houses a number of commercial and other offices.

A source says the tip-off came through a female's voice in a phone call warning the people at EgyptAir offices that a bomb had been planted in the building. The EgyptAir offices immediately reported to the police.

The police is currently trying to trace the source of the phone call

Vice-President Kiir intervenes to resolve tensions at Juba University

(*AlSahafa* – 9th Apr. **Khartoum**) Vice-President Salva Kiir Mayardit has stepped in to defuse tensions at the main Khartoum campus of Juba University following recent violence between students and the police.

The Vice-President has ordered a postponement of the exams due to start last Saturday pending solutions to the problems that occurred when the police was called in to stop unrest as students protested the university's rejection to their appeal to form a student's body.

Darfur/ Abuja talks

Sudanese government says Darfur rebels attack school convoy

(*ST* – 8th Apr. **el-Fasher**) Sudanese authorities accused Darfur rebel forces of attacking a convoy of schools buses transporting students, who did their exams in Al-Fasher town, the headquarters of Northern Darfur State yesterday.

The students were on their way to Kutum town, and were being escorted by security officers from the armed forces and the police.

The rebel movement attacked the administrative convoy using 30 Land Cruiser vehicles and four big vehicles, the state-run SUNA said.

Osman Mohamed Youcif Kibir, the governor of Northern Darfur State, has said that the rebel Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) Minawi faction forces attacked the convoy at Donki Shata area, near Wana Mountains, adding that some members of the armed forces and the police were killed and some others were wounded in the attack.

However, he said, the government forces have caused heavy human and material losses among the rebel forces during the attack.

On the other side in a press release issued today the SLM accused the government troops of carrying out attacks against its forces in the region. It also said that SLM forces attacked a convoy of the Sudanese army near Kutum on 7 April.

The governor further added that this heinous attack was aimed at derailing the Abuja peace talks which are in progress.

AU Chairman in Nigeria for final push over Darfur peace talks

(*Xinhua/ST* – 8th Apr. **Lagos**) African Union (AU) Chairman and the Republic of the Congo's President Denis Sassou-Nguesso will on Saturday visit Nigeria to push for a breakthrough in the long-running negotiations between Sudan's government and rebels from the western region of Darfur.

The negotiations, in their seventh round, had made slow progress in the past two years but a resolution adopted by the AU Peace and Security Council on March 10 called for the warring parties to reach a comprehensive peace agreement by the end of April.

"That's why we are pushing now," Nouredine Mezni, spokesman for the AU mediation team on the conflict in Darfur told Xinhua by phone. "The remaining issues are power-sharing, wealth-sharing and security arrangements."

Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, Sudanese Vice President Ali Osman Mohamed Taha and representatives from Libya and the United Nations are also due to attend Saturday's meeting in the Nigerian capital Abuja, he said.

In spite of the signing of a ceasefire agreement on April 8, 2004, the insecurity reigns and continued fighting never stopped in Darfur. On Thursday, AU negotiator Sam Ibok introduced a revised version of the proposed enhanced ceasefire agreement in the hope that it "effectively addresses the grey areas" in the previous one.

"It would create the confidence necessary for the parties to move on to tackle the outstanding important issues such as ... the status of the forces, thus paving the way for the conclusion of a comprehensive ceasefire agreement," an AU statement quoted Ibok as saying.

In January, the AU said it could not afford a 7,800-strong African force which was deployed in Darfur in 2004, and suggested a UN takeover of the mission. Sudan has opposed to the proposal, saying that it would support the transition to the United Nations after a deal has been reached with all the Darfur rebels.

A plenary meeting is scheduled for Sunday to consider the revised document and by the middle of the present month the AU mediation hopes to table a package of proposals on the power and wealth sharing as well as the security arrangements commissions, the AU statement said.

African leaders meet Sudan parties to seek Darfur breakthrough

(AP/ST – 8th Apr. **Abuja**) Top African Union leaders were due to meet Sudanese government and rebel delegations in the Nigerian capital Saturday to try to end more than three years of deadly conflict in Darfur, officials of the continental body said.

Chairman of the African Union and Congo Republic President Dennis Sassou-Nguesso will team up with his Nigerian counterpart Olusegun Obasanjo in a meeting with Sudanese Vice President Ali Osman Taha, rebel leaders and mediators, African Union spokesman Nurreidinne Mezni said.

"We have reached a stage when we have to take (a) decision," Mezni said, adding that the meeting was expected help push the parties to an agreement. He did not give any further details.

Both the main rebel Sudanese Liberation Army and the smaller Justice and Equality Movement will be attending the meeting with guarded optimism, said Ahmed Hussein, a spokesman for the two groups.

"Because we are not the only parties in this meeting, we can't predict the outcome," Hussein said.

The Sudanese government delegation said after recent consultations it had with Obasanjo and special African Union envoy Salim Ahmed Salim, it was hopeful a draft peace document acceptable to all sides will "be available by mid-April." Saturday's meeting would be a boost to the negotiations, the delegation added in its official statement.

Eastern Sudan

Eastern Front says willing to cooperate with the SPLM

(AlAyaam – 9th Apr. **Khartoum**) The Eastern Front has announced it will engage in extensive consultations with the SPLM during the next week to lay down foundations for cooperation as they seek a just peace in eastern Sudan.

A key member of the Eastern Front said these consultations are aimed at reaching a joint stand on negotiations.