



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN
UNMIS

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(By Public Information Office)

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HIGHLIGHTS:

UN

UNMIS Security Guards on strike over delayed pay

(*Khartoum Monitor* – 30th Apr. **Khartoum**) Security Guards in the United Nations Mission in Sudan went on strike yesterday in protest over delayed overtime an increment by the UNMIS Security Administration, a guard who opted for anonymity told the *Khartoum Monitor*.

The guard said that the 142 guards employed by UNMIS were furious over what they described as the tactics of the security officers over the issue. They say they work 8 hours per shift and have no off-days.

They blame the delay in payment of their dues to the absence of the SRSB Jan Pronk who is currently in Abuja to push forward the peace talks between the government of Sudan and the armed groups of Darfur.

No senior official could be reached to comment on the issue and the guard supervisor declined to comment saying it was an internal issue.

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights arrives

(*AlAyaam* – 30th Apr. **Khartoum**) The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Louise Arbour, arrived here yesterday on an official visit during which she will hold talks with government officials over the human rights situation in the country.

The director for technical assistance and external relations at the Sudan Human Rights Consultative council said that the High Commissioner will also be visiting Nyala, el-Geneina and Juba to get acquainted to the situation there.

She will also be holding talks with the ministers of justice, foreign affairs and humanitarian affairs and the state minister for the Presidency and other key officials concerned with the human rights issue.

CPA

Partners to the CPA reach understanding over the capital

(*AlRai AlAam* – 30th Apr. **Khartoum**) The committee charged with closing the view of the NCP and the SPLM over the constitution of Khartoum State has managed to reach a common ground on the issue following closed-door meetings.

Tilara Deng, the state minister at the Presidency and member of the committee said that the committee has reached an understanding on the issue and will hold a press conference today to announce the results of their discussions.

Darfur/ Abuja talks/ Chad

Darfur rebel SLM rejects integration of its forces in the army*

(*ST* – 28th Apr. **Abuja**) Mahjoub Hussein, spokesman for the rebel Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/SLA) in western Sudan Darfur, stressed that the issue of merging the movement's forces into the Sudanese army or disbanding them is considered "a red line before the interim stage".

He said that "approaching this line means that the government's delegation would have to pack its luggage (in Abuja) and go back to Khartoum with no-one regretting its departure".

In an interview with the London based Al-Hayat conducted with him over the internet, he said that the forces of the Sudan Liberation Movement will fight Al-Qa'idah if it attempted to move to Darfur. Hussein told Bin-Ladin that Darfur "is not Iraq" and that an entry of Al-Qa'idah operatives into Darfur would hasten the deployment of UN forces.

He also spoke about the war in neighbouring Chad saying it has "cast its shadows" over the Darfur peace talks.

** The full text of the statement is attached separately*

AU, UN put pressure on Darfur parties to come to an agreement

(*ST* – 28th Apr. **Abuja**) The warring parties from Sudan's devastated western region of Darfur said Friday they were confident of meeting a deadline for striking a peace deal in the three-year-old conflict.

African Union and United Nations officials have warned the Khartoum regime and its rebel foes that they must come to an agreement at Abuja peace talks by Sunday or face further international isolation.

War has been raging since early 2003 in Darfur, a poverty-stricken desert region the size of France, and humanitarian officials estimate between 180,000 and 300,000 civilians have died of disease, hunger and militia attacks.

On Tuesday, the African Union presented delegates with a draft peace deal and urged them to sign it this week. By Friday, AU officials and delegates from both sides were saying they thought a deal was possible.

"All the concerned parties are working towards achieving that. It is in the interest of all the suffering people in Darfur that peace is restored as quickly as possible," chief AU mediator Sam Ibok said.

Under the proposed peace deal, Sudan would create a "Transitional Darfur Regional Authority" whose prime responsibilities would be to ensure the safe return of displaced communities and organise a Darfur referendum.

The vote will decide whether Darfur should unite as one administrative unit or remain three separate states under Sudan's federal structure.

In addition, the Janjaweed will be banned from approaching refugee camps — which they have in the past attacked — and demobilised rebel fighters will be integrated into the Sudanese army.

A Darfur rebel leader will become a "senior assistant" to the Sudanese president, and the parties will ensure that Darfur's crippled rural economy is revived and that the region receives a fair share of national income.

Ibok said the delegates had met Nigeria's President Olusegun Obasanjo, the former AU chairman who is hosting the talks, and that his latest intervention had spurred the peace process forward.

"He hopes that at the end of this 7th round of talks on the Darfur crisis, all the parties will get something. There will be no winner, no vanquished. Everybody will feel satisfied," Obasanjo's spokeswoman Remi Oyo said.

The rebel movements were Friday studying the 85-page AU document and were to meet later in the day to agree a final position on the document, a spokesman for the two groups, JEM negotiator Ahmed Tugod, said.

"We are very hopeful that we will meet the Sunday deadline set by the AU," he said, explaining that an earlier delay had been due to a language problem.

"Although we are yet to receive the Arabic version of the AU document, we will make do with the English version... Almost 70 percent of our delegation do not understand English, but we will carry them along," he said.

Sudan's vice president, Ali Osman Taha, said: "We have heard the advice of President Obasanjo on how the talks will come to a successful end by the April 30 deadline.

"On our side, we have reiterated the commitment of the Sudan government to have a positive conclusion to the negotiations going on here," he said, adding that the government regarded the AU draft as a good basis for a deal.

One AU mediator, however, also said that an extension of the deadline by "three or four days" could not be ruled out if it would bring "a final peace that all of us have been hoping for."

"Of what use will it be if these Sudanese depart from here without achieving peace that they have come for?" he asked. "Failure in Abuja would only intensify the suffering of the Darfur people," he warned.

Southern Sudan/GoSS/SPLM/A

SPLA pursues Lord's Resistance Army into DRC

(*AlSahafa* – 30th Apr. **Southern Sudan**) The SPLA has started putting its warning to the Lord's Resistance Army into action and reports say the two sides clashed near Lasu with the SPLA chasing the Lord's Resistance Army up to the DRC border.

Meanwhile MONUC says it is investigating allegations that a group of UPDF soldiers from Uganda has crossed into the DRC on two trucks in pursuit of the Lord's Resistance Army.

Sudanese dinar resisted by Yambio people

(SRS/ST – 28th Apr. **Nairobi**) The introduction of the Dinar currency to Yambio County in Western Equatoria state is being resisted by traders and many ordinary people in the area.

The Nile Commercial Bank introduced the Dinar (US dollar is equivalent to 235.016 Sudanese dinars) as legal tender in Western Equatoria state earlier this month, for the first time since before the war broke out.

Banks deputy manager Lawrence Wanga told Sudan Radio Service (SRS) that the introduction of the dinar has brought — what he called — “a lot of confusion in to the market.” He added that the bank will educate people about the value of the currency and its exchange rate against other currencies.

Wanga: “In fact, it is going to be very difficult, but we are going to try so that people understand the dinar and its importance, because so many people say the dinar has got no value and it is too weak. But that is not true. The dinar is the currency of Sudan which is going to be used in the country.”

Some traders in Yambio County told SRS that the dinar is not being accepted by local people in the market. They say its rejection is affecting their businesses because the people have not yet understood the value of the currency.