



## UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN

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**(By Public Information Office)**

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## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

### **Reactions to possible AMIS-UN transition**

#### **Parliament to debate on international troops to Darfur next Wednesday – government may summon SRSG Pronk to explain**

(*AlSahafa* – 20<sup>th</sup> Feb. **Khartoum**) Parliament will deliberate in its session next Wednesday the issue of a UN military intervention in Darfur pending a final decision on the issue.

*AlSahafa* has learnt that influential members of the NCP and the SPLM are against an AU-UN transition and expect government to summon SRSG Pronk to explain his recent activities in Darfur. Informed sources say they do not rule out his expulsion should he continue to transcend his mandate. The sources further point out that there are officials who demand that he be summoned for an explanation over his recent activities in Darfur and have put much pressure on the government and the National Congress party not to accept the AU role in Darfur to be taken over by the UN. The source adds that the government's view is only to succumb to the will of the people by not allowing such an intervention.

On the other hand, the Spokesperson for the Sudan government delegation to the talks in Abuja Amin Hassan Omar pointed out that talk about an international military intervention in Darfur only sends wrong signals to the rebel movement who think that the NATO is coming in to uproot the government in Khartoum.

Omar who was speaking to the press in Abuja pointed out that this could only happen under a Chapter VII deployment which will then put the government into confrontation with the international community but ruled out such a possibility.

#### **Government rejects international troops in Darfur**

(*AlSahafa* – 20<sup>th</sup> Feb. **Khartoum**) State minister for foreign affairs el-Sammani el-Waseela said that Vice-president Taha in a meeting yesterday with the visiting US delegation briefed the delegation on the developments in the implementation of the CPA in the last five months and on the facts surrounding the conflict in Darfur.

Speaking to the press following the Vice-president's meeting, the state minister said that Taha told the Congressional delegation that the conflict in Darfur is no more than a tribal conflict over farmland and water sources. He said it is just a state of lawlessness and could never be described as genocide. The Vice-president, said the state minister, told the delegation that it was the residue of the draught and desertification that the region suffered and which later turned into a political problem in which hostile foreign parties joined in.

The Vice-president pointed out that it was through the strong will of the parties that the CPA was reached. He said that the government delegation to Abuja has a full mandate but the rebel delegations do not have the strong will to enable them reach an agreement.

#### **SSDF Denounces Entry of International Forces in Darfur Region**

(*SMC* – 19<sup>th</sup> Feb. **Khartoum**) The SSDF led by Gen. Gordon denounces the idea of the entrance of international forces to replace the AU forces in Darfur.

SSDF Commander in Chief Gen Al Nur Al Tom Daldom says that the presence of the international forces will have negative impacts on the region in particular and Sudan in general.

He said these forces could be disease carriers and would encourage secession. The general has called upon the rebel forces in Darfur to reject this issue.

### **AU to decide on prospects of deploying international troops to Darfur on 3<sup>rd</sup> March**

(*AlRai AlAam* – 20<sup>th</sup> Feb. **Khartoum**) The AU Peace and Security Council sits on the third of March to set to rest the debate over possibilities of an AMIS transition to a UN high mobility operation in Darfur.

Sudan will be represented in a session and evaluation of the AU role in Darfur and consultations over the efficiency of the AU forces – both prior to the decisive session – but will not participate in the decisive session of the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March. Foreign minister Dr. Lam Akol is likely to lead Sudan's delegation to the two sessions which will brief the AUPSC on government's official views over the possible transition.

On the other hand, the Charge d'Affaires at the Sudanese embassy in Washington reports that the US press has uncovered that the Church is behind the escalation of the pro-transition campaign. He pointed out that the fact that the AUPSC is to decide on the issue on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March bars the US from passing a bill on the transition before the Security Council when it takes over the presidency.

Meanwhile sources reveal that 20 MPs have petitioned the Speaker of Parliament to request the Minister of Foreign Affairs to issue a statement explaining the position of the Government of National Unity vis-à-vis the issue of an AMIS-UN transition.

## **CPA**

### **NCP members opposed to change in the civil service, says Alor**

(*AlAyaam* – 20<sup>th</sup> Feb. **Khartoum**) Minister for Cabinet Affairs Mr. Deng Alor acknowledges that SPLM ministers are having difficulties in carrying out the demands of their respective portfolio because of the prevailing mentality from their NCP colleague that reject the changes brought about by the CPA.

He called upon these ministers to stand to their tasks and view themselves as primarily responsible for their ministry.

He also called for the formation of the National Civil Service Commission so that the south may have its share in these ministries and other institutions.

### **SPLM determined to draft constitution for capital**

(*AlAyaam* – 20<sup>th</sup> Feb. **Khartoum**) The SPLM has launched consultations over the constitution of the National Capital.

The SPLM will however not base the draft on the existing draft constitution for the states endorsed by the Permanent Constitutional Review Commission on the grounds that it does not reflect the dictates of the Constitution of the Interim Period.

Parliamentarians in the Legislative Council are at the head of this campaign which also seeks to shelve the controversial Public Order Laws on the grounds that it is unconstitutional, lay control mechanisms over the state security organs and allow the legislature to better carry out its role in monitoring the performance of the executive and guarantee transparency in its institutions, among other things.

## **GoNU**

### **Taha calls for stronger NCP-SPLM partnership**

(*AlRai AlAam* – 20<sup>th</sup> Feb. **Khartoum**) Vice-president Taha has underlined the need for a stronger and more harmonious partnership between the NCP and the SPLM in South Kordofan State.

In a meeting with the governor of South Kordofan, the Vice-president called for coordination meetings between the federal and state ministries in order to determine the duties and functions of each so as to coordinate between them.

### **SPLM tables issue of Meroe Dam before parliament**

(*AlAyaam* – 20<sup>th</sup> Feb. **Khartoum**) The Secretary-General of the SPLM-Northern Sector, Ramadhan Mohamed Abdallah, said in a press conference yesterday that the SPLM has tabled before the parliament the issue of those affected by the construction of the Meroe Dam project for debate.

He said that SPLM strongly supports their cause and calls upon the government to recognise the elected committee as their legitimate representative.

A high rank member of the committee said that they have no political motive as has been circulated by some quarters and all they seek is to remain in their land.

### **NSIS general manager appreciative of performance of the Sudanese press**

(*Sudan Vision* – 20<sup>th</sup> Feb. **Khartoum**) The chief of National Security and Intelligence Service, Major General, Salah Abdallah Goush commended the performance of the Sudanese press, describing it as convincing and balanced under the current circumstances of the interim period the nation is passing through.

"The general performance of the Sudanese press has been convincing particularly as to the Darfur crisis, and peace agreement, in addition to the progress of its implementation," Goush told editors of the Sudanese dailies yesterday. He added that that performance was up to the standard of responsibility.

The talks between Major General Goush and the leading journalists focused on the relationship between the press and the various organs and the contribution of the former to issues of peace and co-existence.

## **Darfur/ Abuja talks**

### **SLM warns against bilateral agreement in Abuja**

(*AlAyaam* – 20<sup>th</sup> Feb. **Khartoum**) The SLM has warned the government against signing a bilateral agreement with SLM-AbdulWahid.

The SLM says AbdulWahid decided to sever ties with the Minnawi faction and the JEM in order to realise selfish gains.

Isam-el-deen el-Haj, SLM Spokesperson, says the government seeks to reach a bilateral agreement with the AbdulWahid faction in order to create splits within the movements and destabilise the demands of the people of Darfur.

Government sources say however that the government is committed to a comprehensive agreement in all parts of the Sudan and does not object to signing a bilateral peace deal with any of the factions that seek peace because peace is what the people of Darfur need.

### **Officer of the Chadian Republican Guards confirms his country's support to Darfur rebels still continue**

(SMC – 19<sup>th</sup> Feb. **Khartoum**) Former Deputy Commander in Chief of the Chadian Army Gen. Sabi Ageed has announced he has joined the opposition forces which leads the fight to topple President Deby.

General Sabi defected alongside Gen. Asaga, the former commander, and 400 others of different ranks.

An officer at Chad's Republic Guards reports that the situation has become critical as many senior army officers are opposed to N'djamena's involvement in the conflict in Darfur. He furthermore accuses N'djamena for violations of the recent Tripoli declaration signed with Khartoum.

He said Daby's regime has continued its military support to the Darfur rebels through opening camps from inside Chad to carry out military training of, especially, SLA-Minnawi.

He said that the Chadian government also gave the Minnawi faction the logistics assistance for the movement of troops through areas of Amri and Tura to Muhajeriya and Dar-el-Salam.

## **Eastern Sudan**

### **Govt Endorses SD2 billion for development in Kassala**

(SMC – 19<sup>th</sup> Feb. **Khartoum**) Government has endorsed SD2 billion for development in Kassala State.

Minister of health in the state Babikir Ahmed Digna however calls on eastern rebels to put down arms and resort to peaceful resolution. He maintains that development could be realized in peace and not through the barrel of the gun.

He reminded that the influx of refugees and IDPs phenomenon which hindered development could be eradicated if war continues.

### **Kassala Sate declares meningitis under control**

(ST – 19<sup>th</sup> Feb. **Khartoum**) About 12 persons said have died of meningitis infection in Kassala state out of 44 reported cases.

Minister of health in the State Babikir Ahmed Digna said the most of infections occurred during the 50 days ago. He noticed that the disease has brought under control, after the vaccination campaign.