



## UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN

## UNMIS

**UNMIS Media Monitoring Report, 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2006**  
**(By Public Information Office)**

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## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

### **AMIS-UN transition**

#### **Pronk denies having been summoned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

(*AlAyaam* – 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb. **Khartoum**) SRSJ Jan Pronk has denied having been summoned by Sudan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The SRSJ pointed out that he was asked verbally to come to a meeting at the foreign ministry and added it is a normal occurrence as such meetings do take place through the initiative of either the UN or the Sudan government.

Mr. Pronk also said he believes there is a misunderstanding of the UNMIS mandate whose activities are governed by the CPA and called on the Parties to disseminate the contents of the CPA.

Pronk says his meeting with the 'victims of the Merowe Dam project', on the situation on Darfur and his reports on the CPA all are within his mandate.

The SRSJ describe as true the contents of the recent statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs following his meeting with the acting minister.

#### **Pronk: No Concrete Evidence of SAF Support to LRA**

(*Sudan Vision* – 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb. **Khartoum**) The UN has denied the existence any evidence substantiating Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) support to the Ugandan LRA (Lord's Resistance Army).

"The President of the Government of National Unity had said that no support is being given to LRA and I have to believe the President. As a matter of fact, we do not have evidence that support is still given to the LRA," said the United Nations Special Representative to Sudan, Jan Pronk at a press conference yesterday adding that he does not exclude that some individuals are continuing to give support to the LRA. He was however quoted as reiterating absence of a concrete evidence to confirm that. Mr. Pronk also expressed his disagreement with the statements saying that the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) is in difficulties. "I told the Security Council that the CPA is on track. But there are problems that could encounter any agreement," said the UN Special Representative. Mr. Pronk stressed that cooperation between the government of National Unity and UNMIS (United Nations Mission In Sudan) will continue quoting that part of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs statement following his meeting with the State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ali Kurti on Monday 20th February 2006, affirming the agreement between the two to continue dialogue to achieve more coordination and understanding. Pronk added that the UN would continue working within its mandate. The UN Special Representative also stated that after his visit last week to Darfur, he came back with a strong impression that all the people of Darfur, irrespective of their tribal or political loyalties including the rebel movements wanted peace. He stressed that peace in Darfur can only come from Abuja, which he described as " the only game in town." Mr. Pronk said he does not know about the spread of fighting 15 kilometers outside Hamashkoreib as reported by some media, but according to him, there is a status quo.

## **Sudan government ready to fund AMIS mission**

(*AlAyaam* – 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb. **Khartoum**) The Sudan government has intensified efforts to block an AMIS-UN transition in Darfur ahead of the session tomorrow of the Security Council.

The government is carrying heavy lobbying to convince the 15-member Council to allow the AU mission in Darfur to continue and has tabled a number of proposals to guarantee the flow of the funds necessary for its sustainability.

Minister of State for foreign affairs, el-Sammani el-Waseela, says the next session of the AU Peace and Security Council may not declare the AMIS has failed in its mission. He cited the Presidential Statement by the Security Council that says that the Council will only regard the AMIS has failed in its mission if it has run out of options for funding.

El-Waseela who leads Sudan's delegation to tomorrow's session of the Security Council said that the Sudan delegation to the talks will inform the Security Council that the time is not right for a foreign intervention in Darfur taking into consideration the bitterness felt by the citizens following the publication of the cartoon in the Danish paper depicting Prophet Mohamed.

“Running an AU operation will also be a lot more cheaper than UN forces and add to that the fact that the AU forces have gained experience in resolving conflicts in Darfur”, he adds.

El-Waseela further pointed out that the government has informed member-states in the AU Peace and Security Council that it is ready to provide the funding necessary to sustain the AU operation should the donors fail to secure those funds and has other alternative options for the funding to be tabled before the meeting.

He further pointed out that the Sudan will invite the UN to Darfur without any AU mediation should it deem there is need for a UN presence there as Sudan is a full-fledged member of the organisation.

## **Parliament to debate on international troops**

(*AlRai AlAam* – 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb. **Khartoum**) Parliament sits today to be briefed by foreign minister Lam Akol on the recent press reports over a possible AMIS-UN transition.

Meanwhile, Speaker Ahmed Ibrahim el-Tahir says consultations are underway with the National Congress party and the other political forces over this issues that “shall not entertain compromise”.

SPLM's Yassir Erman confirmed there are consultations with the NCP on this issue but pointed out that the SPLM is always of the view that there is a third solution apart from international intervention or confrontation with the international community.

## **Opposition forces reject international intervention in Darfur**

(*AlAyaam* – 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb. **Khartoum**) The Communist Party of Sudan parliamentary bloc has declared its rejection to any foreign political or military intervention in Sudan.

MPs representing the Communist Party have blamed the government for allowing the situation to come to such levels by not implementing the Resolutions of the Security Council.

A spokesperson for the bloc called upon the government to implement those resolutions and start disarming the *Janjaweed*, convene the National Comprehensive Conference and implement the Naivasha and Cairo agreements.

On possibilities of a parliamentary bill being issued condemning the intervention, he pointed out that the Communist Party does support such a bill but not in its totality as the root causes of the problem have to be resolved.

MPs on the NDA ticket said they will not endorse government policies on Darfur but also reject the presence of non-African troops in Darfur. They blame government for the situation. The leader of the NDA parliamentary bloc called upon the government to disclose its position on the earlier interventions (presence of the UN forces based on the CPA and the AU forces in Darfur) and why it now rejects foreign presence.

“What is the difference – are the forces currently present in Darfur African forces or forces that have undertaken European training?” he wondered. He points out that there are a number of Canadian army officers with the AU in Darfur alongside others.

Hassanein, the leader of the NDA parliamentary bloc, cited two options before the Sudan which are that either the government compromises sovereignty by allowing in international forces or confront the international community.

“Government”, he says, “is responsible for bringing the Sudan before such a dilemma.”

He said they have not been consulted on any bill rejecting such an intervention but support a rejection and only point out that the root causes of the problems be resolved.

### **Kibir: Opposition in Darfur opposed to deployment of international forces**

(*Sudan Vision* – 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb. **Khartoum**) North Darfur Governor, Mohamed Yousif Kibir denied that opposition political forces in his State agreed to the replacement of the AU forces in Darfur by International ones while meeting with UN Secretary General Representative to Sudan in Khartoum.

Kibir, said in press statements yesterday that the meeting between Pronk and opposition forces was not unknown by his government. He pointed out that his government had informed the American Congress Delegation visiting the country that the Darfur problem cannot be solved through international forces, but through presenting visions to the parties to help them reach a peaceful solution. On his part, West Darfur State Governor, Shartai Jaafar denied closure of roads between Genaina and Chad pointing out that the tense situation that erupted between the two countries negatively affected citizens' movements. The Governor held Chad responsible for the continued violations between the two countries and its failure to be committed to the Tripoli agreement hence this has culminated in a number of violations. Shartai Jaafar denied presence of any security impediment for the flow of humanitarian assistance stating that it was the outlaws who attacked relief convoys. He reassured that the security situation in his state is stable but warned against the gravity of the humanitarian situation and called for urgent intervention by the government and the international community.

### **US wants UN force to Darfur before AU decision**

(AFP/ST – 21<sup>st</sup> Feb. **United Nations**) The United States wants the UN Security Council to quickly approve a resolution to send UN troops to Sudan's strife-torn Darfur region before the end of the month, US ambassador John Bolton said.

Washington has introduced elements of a draft resolution that would deploy UN peacekeepers to the western Sudanese region to replace the beleaguered African Union (AU), Bolton said.

But Arab and African members of the Security Council said Friday that the world body should wait until the AU decides to give its consent on March 3, Bolton said.

"I said 'no, we're not going to wait for that, we're going to go ahead and circulate these elements of the resolution,'" he said.

"It's important that we proceed, we want to try and do what we can to get a resolution ... by February 28, and we'll go as fast as we can," the US envoy said.

The UN Security Council earlier this month approved contingency planning for UN peacekeepers to take over from the 7,000-strong AU force in Darfur but, despite strong pressure from Western governments, Khartoum has so far remained implacably hostile to the deployment of UN troops there.

### **US not sure of UN Darfur force resolution this month**

(AFP/ST – 21<sup>st</sup> Feb. **Washington**) The United States acknowledged it may not meet its goal of securing a resolution on a UN peacekeeping force for Sudan's Darfur region while president of the Security Council this month.

President George W. Bush and other US officials have pushed for a UN move to strengthen a beleaguered African Union force in Darfur, where up to 300,000 people have died over three years of what Washington calls genocide.

But with seven days to go in the US stewardship of the Security Council, deputy State Department spokesman Adam Ereli said, "I can't promise you that there's going to be a resolution introduced in the next week.

"I can say that whether we're the president or not of the Security Council, the United States will push to marshal international efforts in support of peace in Darfur," Ereli told reporters.

John Bolton, the US ambassador to the United Nations, said Monday Washington had begun circulating elements a draft resolution to deploy UN peacekeepers to Darfur, scene of one of the world's worst humanitarian crises.

Bolton said Arab and African members of the Council had urged waiting until the AU decided to give its consent next month but he replied, "We want to try and do what we can to get a resolution ... by February 28."

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice last week said the process was being held up by the lack of a formal request for help from the African Union, which has 7,000 troops in Darfur and should form the core of the new contingent.

But US officials said they were also awaiting the report from a UN assessment team that is in Sudan looking at logistical needs for the peacekeeping operation.

"They are dragging their feet and we're getting a little impatient," said one senior State Department official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Ereli called on the assessment team to speed its work. "There's urgency to the matter," he said. "People are dying in Darfur and we need to act to stop it."

He said the United States was working closely with the African Union, NATO and United Nations but added, "When specific actions will be taken as part of this effort is a little bit difficult to say right now."

Bush said Friday that ending the violence in Darfur would probably require double the number of peacekeepers there now, led by the United Nations with strong NATO support.

## **UN**

### **UN calls on Darfur rebels to avoid relations with heads of neighbouring states**

(*AlAyaam* – 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb. **Khartoum**) SRSB Jan Pronk has called on the rebel movements of Darfur to focus their efforts on the issues of the region and avoid relations with heads of neighbouring states as such relations only complicate the issue.

He said these heads of states also use them as tools to achieve their own interests.

He further said in a press conference yesterday that the international community has pressured the rebel leaders who were not in Abuja and revealed that Khalil Ibrahim and Minnawi are on their way to Abuja to give impetus to the talks. He also said that the UN has urged them to be serious with the talks and end ceasefire violations and the infighting between them.

The SRSB deplored the irregularity of the sessions of the joint military committee for the ceasefire and pointed out that the ongoing fighting in Gureida and Sheiriyah and the shooting of the military aircraft are all clear violations of the ceasefire agreement.

SRSB Pronk also revealed that he held talks with tribal, local and political leaders in North Darfur and briefed them on the Abuja talks and the possible AMIS-UN transition. They asked him, he said, to convey their message to the government and the international community that they want peace.

Pronk further pointed out that the UN has never requested for a transition. The AU, he said, will take a final decision on the issue on 3<sup>rd</sup> March but talks are meanwhile continuing to make the AU remain in Darfur as long as possible.

### **Russia to send 200 peacekeepers to Sudan**

(*UPI/ST* – 21<sup>st</sup> Feb. **Moscow**) A contingent of 200 Russian peacekeepers will fly to Sudan in mid-April to join U.N. forces already there, a senior military official has said.

Gen. Sergei Shevchenko, deputy commander of the Russian air force, said Monday that, in addition to the troops, four fully equipped Mi-8 (Havoc) military transport helicopters and

over 100 metric tons of cargo would be airlifted to Sudan, the RIA Novosti news agency reported.

President Vladimir Putin on Feb. 7 signed a decree to send Russian troops to the northern African state, where for 21 years Muslims in the north and Christians and animists in the south fought a civil war before agreeing to peace in 2005.

The Russian troops and helicopters will support rapid deployment forces, airlift troops, evacuate the wounded, conduct aerial surveys and search operations, and deliver U.N. personnel and equipment to locations across Sudan.

Russian peacekeepers will bring their own equipment and will be independent from other nations' contingents, Shevchenko said.

In addition to Sudan, Russian troops are participating in U.N. peace missions in Kosovo, Haiti, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Burundi, Ethiopia, Eritrea, the Middle East and Georgia, the Russian Foreign Ministry reported.

## **CPA**

### **Five killed as SAF, SPLA clash**

(*SRS website* – 21<sup>st</sup> Feb. **Malakal**) Five people were killed and one was seriously wounded in Kaka town, Manyo County last week when a fight broke out between an SPLA soldier and two Sudan Armed Forces soldiers.

The two Sudan Armed Forces soldiers—Corporal Ahmad Saya and Line Corporal John Alison Ali—were among the dead. The other 3 killed were civilians.

A military intelligence officer in Kaka, Safi Adam, told Sudan Radio Service that the violence started when a drunken SPLA soldier allegedly shot and killed the 2 SAF soldiers who were on night patrol. Mr. Adam says other SAF troops in the area then randomly killed 3 people from one area family to avenge the death of their fellow soldiers.

A teenage girl who survived the assault told Sudan Radio Service in Athidhwoi that her father Olim Pagan Amol and her 9-year old brother were killed while they were sleeping.

The SPLA soldier accused of starting the incident has been detained and is awaiting trial.

### **SPLA elements clash with citizens in Kassala**

(*AlAyaam* – 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb. **Khartoum**) Two people were killed and two others injured yesterday following clashes between SPLA elements and citizens in Kassala, a source that opted for anonymity reports.

The source says that the police brought the clashes which he described as 'limited' under control.

The clashes started following the killing of an SPLA soldier by a citizen in a house in Hai-el-Arab in Kassala following a heated argument. SPLA soldiers then gathered and started firing shots at random causing the two deaths and injuries and causing chaos as terrified citizens fled.

Police and security forces quickly brought the situation under control without further escalation and dealt with the issue as a criminal case with no political motives.

The local health minister disclosed that the state government then held talks with SPLA officials and both sides agreed that the issue was of an individual nature and should be handled by the courts.

Charges have been brought against the person who killed the SPLA soldier in the argument and the soldiers responsible for the random shooting that resulted in the death and the injuries.

### **Bari Community deplores land policy in Juba**

(*Khartoum Monitor* – 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb. **Juba**) Representatives of the Bari tribe of Juba and its environs met with the Bahr-el-Jebel governor last Monday to protest against the land policy followed by the GoSS.

They took issue with the issue of land in the Kassava area allocated to the Haggar Cigarette and Tobacco Co. and the areas allocated to the Public Works Company, the WFP and the American Consulate at Jebel Kujur without prior consultation with the communities concerned as stipulated in the CPA.

The governor described their resistance to land allocation to investors as obstructing prospects of development in Juba town.

### **Darfur/ Abuja talks**

#### **AU envoy discusses UN force deployment with Darfur Rebels**

(*ST* – 21<sup>st</sup> Feb. **Abuja**) The AU special envoy in the Sudan Baba Gana Kingibe held a series of separate meetings with Darfur rebels groups in Abuja in order to discuss the eventual transition from AU to UN force in Sudan's Darfur.

The Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission in the Sudan, Ambassador Baba Gana Kingibe, from 19 to 20 February 2006, held separate briefing sessions in Abuja with the Sudanese rebels groups, consulting them to elicit their views on the proposed transition from the AU Mission in the Sudan (AMIS) to a UN force, in order to report back to the Ministerial Session of the AU Peace and Security Council scheduled for 3 March 2006.

The meetings were chaired by the Head of the AU Mediation Team, Ambassador Sam Ibok.

According to a press statement issued by the AMIS spokesperson, Nouredine Mezni, Kingibe explained that the UN which was already handling humanitarian activities in Darfur would take over the Security aspects of the mission, while the Political responsibility including the Abuja Peace Process and implementation of an eventual peace Agreement, would remain with the African Union.

Kingibe stated that AMIS which had performed creditably, easing the tension and reducing incidences of gender based violence, was the first ever African initiative by Africans in solidarity with their African brothers and sisters under the new principle of non-indifference.



The transition, he said, was inevitable in the long run for the simple reason that it would create a more efficient single Peace Support Operation for the whole of the Sudan, bringing coherence and synergy to post-conflict operations in the country.

The Special Representative emphasized that the UN would, in principle, not move in without the approval of the Government of the Sudan, a peace Agreement or at least, a working and holding Ceasefire Agreement.

He added that it might take up to 9 months to build up the 15,000 strong Force that would be needed by the UN. Such a Force, he stressed, would have African character, and would not exclude troops from the existing AMIS forces.

Meanwhile, the Peace and Security Council of the African Union would reinforce its technical and operational, as well as its command and control capacities. The African Union, he further stated, would hand over AMIS in full confidence in the success of the mission and not out of any sense of failure.

Kingibe called on the rebel movements to continue to lend their support to the AU Mission and the ongoing Talks, and invited them to convey their views on the proposed UN take over.

The leaders of rebels groups commended the AU for its AMIS initiative; and the latter, for its role in stabilizing the situation on the ground.

They took note of the transition proposals and the detailed information given by Ambassador Kingibe, and indicated that the conclusions of their decision-making organs would be conveyed to the AU Commission in due course.

### **Britain threatens measures against parties to the Abuja talks**

(*AlRai Alaam* – 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb. **Khartoum**) Britain's Minister for International Cooperation who is currently on a tour of the country told a meeting with the government of North Darfur yesterday that the international community is running out of patience towards the situation in Darfur and may take more effective measures against the negotiating parties in Abuja.

The visiting minister pointed out that the priority should currently be on achieving peace to end the conflict.

The minister also disclosed that the AU has tabled before the UN a memorandum requesting a transition of its AMIS to a UN operation and the reason, adds the minister, is not only financial.

Minister Benn urged the parties to facilitate the work of humanitarian agencies.

She further added that the special courts in Darfur are not satisfactory in their results and have not won the confidence of the international community.

On his part, the deputy governor of North Darfur urged the international community to look at the Darfur issue in a just manner and to exert enough pressure on the rebel movements who, according to him, have caused a deterioration in the security situation.

He cited the tribal reconciliation conference (so far 16 of them in North Darfur) as examples of the steps his government has taken to gain the trust of the local community. He confirmed

government commitment to all conventions and agreements and denied allegations of genocide.

### **Sudan curfew hinders AU force peace mission in Darfur**

(Reuters/ST – 21<sup>st</sup> Feb. **el-Fasher**) Sudan is hindering an African Union peace mission's ability to monitor a tentative truce in the Darfur region by imposing a curfew and restricting airport access, the head of the mission said on Tuesday.

"Of course with the curfew, the airport shut, there are some constraints because if we cannot move about in that hour we cannot know what the government is doing in that hour," said Collins Ihekire, head of the AU military mission in Darfur.

Ihekire said the government had been flying helicopters offensively, a breach of the ceasefire signed in April 2004, which has since been widely ignored. Last week rebels shot down a government helicopter in South Darfur and captured a pilot alive and are still holding him.

"Those were helicopter gunships supporting their troops fighting with the SLA (Sudan Liberation Army) ... offensive flying," he added of the two helicopters the government used in the attack.

The government has imposed a curfew in el-Fasher from 2100 until 0630, U.N. officials said. The AU also says the airport in el-Fasher, the force headquarters, is closed from 1800.

Visiting British International Development Minister Hilary Benn, pledged another £20 million to support the African Union force in Darfur.

Benn urged the local state governor to lift the curfew. "I can see no justification for imposing a curfew on peacekeepers," he said.

A state minister, Adam Haribush, told Benn that rebels were seeping into the town at night and it was impossible to differentiate the AU forces from rebel troops.

"The rebels are even within the AU base and are taking their cars to go around the town at night," he declared in Arabic, but which the government translator did not repeat in English.

The AU's Ihekire told Benn the Sudanese army was also using white helicopters and vehicles, the same colour used by the AU peace monitoring force and aid agencies working in the vast region, which compromised their neutrality.

### **Southern Sudan**

#### **LRA's expulsion is the task of Sudan's Army and SPLA - Salva Kiir**

(ST – 21<sup>st</sup> Feb. **Juba**) The First Vice-President and president of Southern Sudan government, Lt-Gen Salva Kiir Mayardit, has affirmed that the responsibility of expelling the Ugandan Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) from the South is a joint responsibility between the armed forces, the Sudan People's Liberation Army and the joint forces.

During a press conference this evening before leaving Juba for Khartoum, Salav Kiir said no detailed plan had been formulated to expel the LRA from the Equatorial states to date.

He said the concerned parties would draw up a plan and they would be the ones to announce it.

During his visit to Juba on 14 February, the president Omar al-Bashir, has instructed the government of southern Sudan to take full security responsibility to expel the Ugandan Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) "from the south within one month starting from today".

In a press statement to the BBC yesterday, the president of the government of southern Sudan accused the Sudanese army of supporting the LRA. But Khartoum denied it.

### **Sudanese army says it has no connection with LRA rebels**

(*ST* – 21<sup>st</sup> Feb. **Khartoum**) The Sudanese army denied a press statement of First Vice-President, president of Southern Sudan government Lt. Gen. saying it is still provides assistance to the Ugandan rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in the southern Sudan.

Official spokesperson for the armed forces Abbas al-Khalifah said that the armed forces were committed to supporting and implementing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, something which disproved accusations made by the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) that the Sudanese army supported the LRA.

Sudanese First Vice-President said in an interview to BBC, he has no prove but still he believes that Sudanese army support Ugandan rebel Lord's resistance Army.

"We can do nothing but deny these accusations. We are now working at withdrawing the armed forces from the south and we have already started to do so gradually," he added.

International Crisis Group on Wednesday 11 January 2006 accused Sudan of supporting the LRA. "There are credible reports that elements of Sudanese military intelligence still aid them," the report said.

Led by self-proclaimed prophet Joseph Kony, the LRA uprising has uprooted more than 1.6 million people, killed tens of thousands and diverted scarce funds needed to fight poverty in the east African nation of 27 million people.