



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN
UNMIS

UNMIS Media Monitoring Report, 18 January, 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**
 - UN refutes issuance of any resolution on putting Hamishkoreib under SAF control
 - UN's Guterres calls for "concerted pressure" to resolve Darfur crisis
 - SCG troops to participate in UN peacekeeping mission in Sudan

- **Government of National Unity**
 - Al Bashir leaves for Libya today to meet Debbi
 - Sudanese Minister of Justice: GoS will resist any schemes to replace AU forces with UN ones
 - GoS invites Washington to assist in implementation of peace process
 - Sudan: Vice-president to address AU executive council 20 January
 - Al Bashir Visits Juba and Rumbaik

- **Darfur**

- Fashir rejects Annan's proposal
- Gazera Scheme Forum rejects international intervention in Darfur
- Slovene president calls for "political solution" to Darfur crisis
- Sudan: Darfur rebel groups threaten to quit Abuja peace talks
- Sudanese rebels urge UN to take "firm" action to end Darfur crisis
- Sudanese journalists condemn calls for UN peacekeeping troops in Darfur
- Darfur situation cited

- **Other Developments**

- Oromo rebels say Ethiopian army, Sudan SPLA attack its positions
- Southern Sudanese leader's widow joins Ugandan president's re-election campaign
- Kenyan doctor seeks fee payment for Garang's postmortem
- Southern Sudanese leader's widow joins Ugandan president's re-election campaign

HIGHLIGHTS:

UN

UN refutes issuance of any resolution on putting Hamishkoreib under SAF control

(*Al Ayaam, 18 Jan, Khartoum*) Mr. George Somerwill, the Deputy Spokesperson and Chief of the Public Information Office of the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS), stated that UNMIS has not issued any resolution on putting Hamshikoreib under control of the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF); pointing out – at the same time – that talks are still continuing between UNMIS, Joint Military Committee, SAF, and SPLA.

In addition, Mr. Somerwill confirmed to our newspaper that SPLA did not hold back “Bitay militia” from getting to water sources; saying that both SPLA and Bitay militia have access to the same water resource.

In the above connection, Mr. Mahmoud Bitay, Hamishkoreib's Representative in the National Council (Parliament), stated to the Sudanese Media Centre that a delegation of folks' leaders held a number of meetings that continued for three days with UNMIS staff-members in Hamishkoreib, during which the delegation was able to get UNMIS

commitment to have Hamishkoreib put under control of SAF after shall have SPLA moved out of the area during the few coming days.

UN's Guterres calls for "concerted pressure" to resolve Darfur crisis

(BBC Monitoring, 17 Jan, Paris) UN High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres, in Paris today, Tuesday, urged the international community to exert "concerted pressure" so that a peace agreement can be signed in Darfur (Western Sudan), which he regards as "a very dangerous potential centre of instability" in the region.

"I'm calling on the entire international community and in particular (...) [agency ellipsis] the five permanent members (of the UN Security Council) to commit themselves to working together to ensure that a peace agreements is reached between the various parties in Darfur," Mr Guterres said at a press conference.

"Otherwise, I fear the worst and the impact will not only be negative for Darfur. There is also a risk of domino effect in the countries of the region. This is a very dangerous potential centre of instability," added the former Portuguese prime minister, who was on his first visit to France since he was appointed at the head of the UN agency in June.

In his opinion, the situation in the region of Sudan, which records over one million displaced people and 200,000 refugees in camps in Chad, is "the crisis factor the most dangerous on the African continent and even in the world".

According to him "without concerted pressure where everybody gets involved, cooperates and sets aside rivalries, it will be impossible to reach a peace agreement".

SCG troops to participate in UN peacekeeping mission in Sudan

(BBC Monitoring, 17 January, Belgrade) The Serbia-Montenegro Council of Ministers today decided that Serbia-Montenegro Army professional members will participate in the forthcoming peacekeeping operation of the United Nations multinational force in Sudan and in the peacekeeping operation in the International Security Forces for Afghanistan.

The Council of Ministers also passed a draft decision that the participation of Serbia-Montenegro Army professional members in the forthcoming UN peacekeeping operations in Liberia, Ivory Coast, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo be extended, and sent it to the Serbia-Montenegro Parliament for urgent consideration.

Government of National Unity

Al Bashir leaves for Libya today to meet Debbi

(Akhbar Al-Yaum, 18 Jan, Khartoum) Our newspaper came to know that the Sudanese president Omar Al Bashir – following an invitation rendered by the Libyan president - will leave today for Libya in order to meet the Chadian president Iddris Debbi in a bid to address the latest Sudan-Chad crisis.

Sudanese Minister of Justice: GoS will resist any schemes to replace AU forces with UN ones

(*Akhbar Al-Yaum, 18 Jan, Khartoum*) Magistrate Mohamed Ali Almardi, Minister of Justice, stated yesterday in statements given to media that the Government of Sudan (GoS) will use overall possible legitimate means, whether according to the international law or on ground, to resist any proposal in relation to the replacement of the African Union forces in Darfur with UN military forces.

GoS invites Washington to assist in implementation of peace process

(*Al Ayaam, 18 Jan, Khartoum*) The Government of Sudan (GoS) asked the US to give the Government of National Unity the opportunity in order to see to the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA).

Dr. Lam Akol, the Sudanese Foreign-Minister, demanded the US non-governmental delegation, which included US Congress Representatives, to convey a message to the US Government so as to avail successful implementation of CPA.

Further, Dr. Akol pointed out that application of any sanctions against the Sudan will inflict damages on both the North and South of Sudan.

Sudan: Vice-president to address AU executive council 20 January

(BBC Monitoring, 17 January, Khartoum) First vice-president Lt-Gen Salva Kiir Mayardit is to address on 20 January, at the Friendship Hall in Khartoum, the opening sitting of the 8th ordinary session of the executive council of the African Union (AU).

Sudan's permanent representative to the AU ambassador Abu-Zayd al-Hasan said the meeting would discuss a number of issues in the political, security, peace, social and economic fields and the issues to be submitted to the AU summit meeting of heads of state and government.

The meeting of the ministerial council would last two days prior to submitting its report to the AU Summit.

Al Bashir Visits Juba And Rumbaik

(*SMC, 17 January 2006, Khartoum*) The president of the republic field marshal Omar Hassan Ahmed Al Bashir will visit Juba, while vice president Ali Osman Mohammed Taha will visit Wau city on next Thursday, for participating the southern states celebration of the first anniversary of signing the comprehensive peace agreement CPA, the minister of state at the republic presidency Tillar Deng, said that Al Bashir will address Juba and Rumbaik people, and will convene meeting with the government of south Sudan, the legislative council, intellectuals and the representatives of the different parties.

He added that the vice president will lead a ministerial delegation to Wau city on next Thursday, while the assistant of the president of the republic Nafie Ali Nafie will head another delegation to Malakall on the same day.

Darfur:

Fashir rejects Annan's proposal

(*Al Sahafa, 18 Jan, Khartoum*) Fashir, a city in Northern Darfur, witnessed yesterday an officially organized populace protest against UN military intervention in Darfur; considering such an intervention as “new colonization”.

After having had a tour around Fashir city, the protestors submitted memorandums to the representatives of the United Nations and the African Union in Darfur, in which foreign intervention was explicitly declined.

Outham Yousif Kober, Wali (Governor) of Northern Darfur, called on the audience – during his speech to the protestors – to use every possible means in order to impede foreign military intervention in Darfur.

Gazera Scheme Forum rejects international intervention in Darfur

(*Al Ayaam, 18 Jan, Khartoum*) The General Director of Gazera Agricultural Scheme condemned, during the Forum organized by Gazera State’s General Secretariat, the trends for any international intervention in Darfur, and rejected the involvement of the UN Security Council in this matter. Further, he said that the African Union should continue undertaking its role in addressing Darfur issue in a way that ensures stability and security in the area.

Slovene president calls for "political solution" to Darfur crisis

(*BBC Monitoring, 16 Jan, Slovene television*) During a meeting on Darfur, President Janez Drnovsek warned about the deteriorating situation and called for a political solution to the crisis.

During the third discussion about Darfur, Drnovsek stressed the need for new international motions although there had already been endeavours to solve the crisis in Sudan's region.

Nicholas Harvey, head of the humanitarian issues department at the British Foreign Office, attended the discussion and explained the humanitarian aid mechanisms.

Great Britain to set up a fund for Darfur

According to Harvey, in 2005 they tried to reorganize the coordination process involving a special UN coordinator. This year, Great Britain intends to set up a special fund. The contributions will be coordinated by the United Nations.

The Slovene president said that Slovenia could join the fund.

Representatives of humanitarian organizations, humanitarian workers and representatives of the Foreign Ministry attended the meeting. They were especially interested in how Sudan could be helped.

Drnovsek will travel to Paris tomorrow and after that to New York where he will discuss Darfur with UN Secretary-General Annan.

Sudan: Darfur rebel groups threaten to quit Abuja peace talks

(*BBC Monitoring, 17 Jan, Khartoum*) A spokesman for the rebel [Darfur] movements has condemned what he described as lowering the level of the government delegation

from the high level delegation led by [Presidential] Advisor Majdhub al-Khalifah to [the low level delegation led by] Minister of Youth, Culture and Sports.

This comes at a time when AU mediators at the Abuja talks have intensified discussions with the negotiating sides in order to resume direct negotiations which were delayed since yesterday. [Passage omitted.]

Meanwhile, the spokesman for the Sudan Liberation Movement [SLM], Isam al-Haj said that the low-level government delegation confirms that it [government] is not serious in achieving peace and does not encourage the resumption of direct face-to-face negotiations.

He further announced that the joint leadership of the two Darfur movements [SLM and Justice and Equality] had notified the AU mediator of its insistence on their demands and proposals, adding that they would not compromise on any of the clauses because they represent the least of what the people of Darfur are expecting.

Speaking to Al-Ayyam newspaper regarding the rather slow process in the peace talks, Isam said: "If the talks continue at this pace, we see no point of wasting time on them".

Slovene president visits France to discuss Darfur crisis

(BBC Monitoring, 17 Jan, Paris) President Janez Drnovsek has visited Paris to present his motion for solving the crisis in Sudan's region Darfur. According to a source from the Slovene delegation, French Foreign Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy and the Senate's President Christian Poncelet have reacted positively to the motion and were pleased with Slovenia joining the efforts to solve the Darfur crisis.

The time for solving the crisis has come, Drnovsek told his two collocutors. In his opinion, the UN Security Council should join the efforts now and with a more active approach. [Passage omitted]

The Slovene president suggested to the two collocutors to invite China to join the peace process in Sudan. China has strong economic presence in Sudan and could help with strengthening the peace mission. The mission is headed by the African Union which has insufficient equipment and not enough members, he said.

Sudan: Darfur residents protest against calls for UN peacekeeping troops

(BBC Monitoring, 17 Jan, Khartoum) A big crowd today demonstrated in Al-Fashir town [Darfur, western Sudan] denouncing the UN Security Council stand and the statements of the UN secretary-general that called for the sending of an international peacekeeping force to Darfur in place of the AU force.

The crowd, which marched through various parts of the town, submitted a protest note to the AU office, the office of the [AU] Peace and Security Council and the UN office in Al-Fashir.

The protest note stressed the rejection of the Darfur people of all forms of intervention in Sudanese affairs. It pointed out that the only means of resolving the Darfur issue is through the AU.

The protest note described the AU statements as serving the interests of specific countries on top of which is the USA.

The note called on the armed rebels in Darfur to resort to the voice of reason so as to avoid embracing the usurpers.

Sudanese rebels urge UN to take "firm" action to end Darfur crisis

(BBC Monitoring, 17 Jan, Khartoum) The two main rebel groups in Darfur yesterday, Monday [16 January], urged the UN to take more active, urgent and strong measures to find a solution to the crisis that has been affecting the region in western Sudan for over three years.

In a message to the UN Security Council, the Justice and Equality Movement [JEM] and the Sudan Liberation Movement [SLM], accused the Khartoum government of "intensifying its military activities" in Darfur before every fresh round of talks.

Talks concerning Darfur are currently being held in Nigeria. The rebels are accusing Khartoum of seeking to impose a military solution in the region.

The two movements said the Security Council should take "more active, urgent and strong measures to change the tragic situation in Darfur because the Janjawid and other militia continue with lootings, killings and rapes".

The two movements called for the disarming of the Janjawid militia which are allied to Khartoum and accused of committing massacres in Darfur region, western Darfur.

They also called for humanitarian aid to arrive freely, and to liberate all prisoners of war and politicians.

Sudanese journalists condemn calls for UN peacekeeping troops in Darfur

(BBC Monitoring, 17 Jan, Khartoum) The Sudanese Journalists' Union [SJU] has termed the UN secretary-general Kofi Annan's call for the sending of European and US peacekeeping troops to Darfur as an inappropriate step that targets Sudan and unlikely to serve the security and stability of Darfur and the region in general.

A statement from the SJU said that the UN, which failed in providing financial and humanitarian support to Darfur and also failed in pressurizing the donor countries to fulfil the pledges which they made to contribute towards the peace process in Sudan before one year, should not bully Sudan, instead it should perform its duties in providing peace and security in the world in an objective and logical manner, in accordance with the objectives of the international organization and without contradiction.

The SJU said they regarded the statements by the UN secretary-general, Kofi Annan and [Jan] Pronk [UN special envoy to Sudan] as inappropriate, adding it was better for Annan to advise the parties to conflict meeting in Abuja, particularly the rebels, to be serious in the negotiation.

The SJU said the statement of the UN secretary-general encouraged the rebels to continue with their intransigence and lack of keenness in the negotiations and to continue supporting foreign intervention.

The SJU called on the UN and the EU to support the progress which had been achieved in the humanitarian and security dossiers in Darfur and push forward the Abuja talks by encouraging the political process through Abuja talks.

The SJU also called on the AU to reject any interference in its mandate and that of the continent, and to adhere to Sudanese and African solutions to the Darfur problems.

The SJU also called on the rich African countries to increase their [financial] contribution to Sudan and Darfur as well as support the AU troops in Darfur so that they can continue their work in Darfur.

The SJU stressed its support for the Sudanese people's strong opposition to any foreign intervention in Sudan, from anywhere.

Darfur situation cited

(The Washington Times, 01/17/06) The United Nations yesterday sent a special envoy to Washington to warn of the "bleak" situation in Sudan's western Darfur region, where government-backed militias have been accused of genocide against black African farmers.

Jan Pronk, the U.N. special representative for Sudan, met with senior administration officials, congressional staffers and representatives of nongovernmental organizations. "The situation in Darfur is bleak," said Emily Manning, an official in the United Nations' Washington office. "Political talks are stalled. The security situation is deteriorating."

Mr. Pronk urged the Security Council last week to deploy 20,000 peacekeepers to the African nation.

Other Developments:

Oromo rebels say Ethiopian army, Sudan SPLA attack its positions

Sudan Tribune, Jan 17, 2006 (ADDIS ABABA) — The Ethiopian rebel Oromo Liberation Army (OLA), armed wing of the Oromo Liberation Front OLF, has accused the former rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) of attacking its position in a joint military operation with Ethiopian troops.

According to a press statement in Oromo translated by the BBC Monitoring Service, the fighting took place on 9 January on western Oromia near the border with Sudan.

The OLA repulsed a major land and aerial military offensive launched by Ethiopian government forces, the opposition Voice of Oromo Liberation radio reported.

In the fighting, the OLA killed 30 Ethiopian soldiers as well as five Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) combatants fighting along the Ethiopian troops, and wounded over 45 enemy soldiers, the statement said.

Over 80 enemy soldiers and their ally fighters were put out of action in the fighting, the OLA added.

In the border offensive, the Ethiopian troops had joined forces with SPLA fighters based in the area. The Ethiopian government had airlifted weapons and a large number

of soldiers to Kigile airfield in Sudan, where they were joined by SPLA combatants for the offensive on OLA. Using three helicopter gunships and jet fighters, they launched frontal, rear and aerial offensive, but OLA fighters managed to repulse the attack, scoring an admirable victory.

Also on 9 January, Ethiopian forces launched rear and frontal offensive on the Gambela People's Liberation Army (PLA). The GPLA fighters killed many Ethiopian soldiers and wounded many more in the fighting.

Southern Sudanese leader's widow joins Ugandan president's re-election campaign

(BBC Monitoring, 17 Jan, Khartoum) The Ethiopian minister of foreign Affairs, Seyoum Mesfin, arrived in the country this afternoon to participate in the 11th AU ministerial conference.

He was welcomed at Khartoum Airport by the minister of foreign affairs, Dr Lam Akol, and the Ethiopian ambassador to Khartoum, Kedafo Mohammed Hanferi, from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Sudanese ambassador to Ethiopia, Abu-Zayd al-Hasan, said that the Ethiopian minister of foreign affairs was the first minister to arrive in Khartoum, affirming the lasting and important ties between the two countries.

Abu-Zayd said that Ethiopia was one of the member countries in the AU committee for the reconstruction of what the war had destroyed in Sudan and which is expected to meet in Khartoum tomorrow on the sidelines of the ministerial conference.

Southern Sudanese leader's widow joins Ugandan president's re-election campaign

Text of report headlined "Garang's widow campaigns for Museveni", published by Ugandan newspaper The New Vision website on 17 January

(BBC Monitoring, 17 Jan, Khartoum) Sudanese Foreign Minister Dr Mustafa Osman [title as received - Osman is a special adviser to President Umar al-Bashir] and Rebecca Garang campaigned for President Yoweri Museveni in Mukono and Kayunga districts.

Rebecca, wife of fallen Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) leader Dr John Garang, campaigned in Kayunga on Sunday [15 January]. Osman waved at the crowd in Mukono, where Museveni also campaigned yesterday.

Addressing a huge rally at Busaana in Kayunga on Sunday, Rebecca Garang said, "I greet you all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I am very happy to see you and be in Uganda again. I am also very happy to see that you are determining your future. I lost my husband but I did not lose the vision he led. M7 [Museveni] oyee! People of Uganda oyee!"

Sudan, Rwanda and DR Congo were declared Uganda's enemies during the 2001 presidential elections. Yesterday, Museveni told cheering supporters that Sudan used to be an adversary but the two states were now on good terms.

"When you scratch me, I also scratch you," Museveni said before inviting Osman to wave to the congregation at Kiyindi landing site.

Museveni said Kiyindi residents were lucky to see him because he was last in the area in March 1985 during his liberation war, while crossing from Luweero to Kenya.

He said supporters of the Movement had business acumen and knew how to kulembeka (tap resources). He was referring to the numerous businesses at the landing site.

Supporters from Mbiko, Njeru, Lugazi, Ngogwe, Nyenga, Bugaya and Nayilambi islands attended the rally.

Residents of Buikwe and Buvuma demanded a district to be named Bukunja and Museveni okayed it. They sang Museveni's praises while they mocked and hurled abuses at FDC [Forum for Democratic Change] leader Col Kizza Besigye. They were led by Mukono Movement chief Edirisa Njuki.

Besigye is scheduled to campaign in the district on 26 January.

When Museveni arrived, his enthusiasts sang, "Tajja genda, tajja genda eeh tajja genda, lwaki agenda tewali nsonga (No reason for Museveni to leave power)."

Njuki handed over a canoe to Museveni, saying he would collect votes in the area the way fishermen catch fish. Museveni was joined by two of his daughters, Patience Rwabwogo and Diana Kamuntu. He said they symbolised gender and women representation.

Museveni said his government had returned power to the people the reason the residents of Kiyindi could ask him to explain what he had done for them and constituents could recall MPs.

He said discipline had been instilled in the army.

Museveni said the government spends 8bn shillings yearly on UPE [universal primary education] in Mukono.

He promised to upgrade Kisoga-Nkokonjeru road.

Kenyan doctor seeks fee payment for Garang's postmortem

(BBC Monitoring, 17 Jan, Khartoum) A Kenyan pathologist is embroiled in a dispute with southern Sudanese authorities over their failure to pay him his fee for a postmortem examination he conducted on Dr John Garang.

Details of the report by chief government pathologist Moses Njue, following the 30 July 2005 helicopter crash that took Dr Garang's life, can be revealed today. The 2.5m shillings fee dispute is now headed for the courts.

Acting for Dr Njue, Messrs Kahiu Mbugua and Advocates are reported to have unsuccessfully sent demand notes to the erstwhile guerrilla movement's leaders.

It emerged that Dr Njue flew to southern Sudan twice - on 1 August, to examine Dr Garang's body, and on 8 August, to examine the bodies of other leaders who died with him.

Dr Garang and 12 others - southern Sudanese and some Ugandans - died when the helicopter plunged into the remote mountains on the border with northeastern Uganda.

The pathologist's visit quelled fears that some other elements might have sneaked into the aircraft. The fear followed reports by a UN spokesperson that 17 bodies had been recovered from the site, four more than the 13 on the manifest.

Medical sources now say a miscount had occurred because those on board had been dismembered and badly burnt and it would have required experts to match the body parts.

The postmortem report obtained by the [Daily] Nation shows that Dr Garang died from the impact of the crash and burns after the aircraft had burst into flames.

Dr Njue had been called in by the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement's leaders to fly to New Site and conduct the examination.

The Nation obtained two letters - one by the pathologist last 14 November and the other by his advocates on 14 December - demanding a settlement of the bill.

Contacted, Dr Njue told the Nation he had billed the SPLM because it - and not the Kenyan government - had contacted him directly at a time when he was on leave.

Dr Njue said: "I was officially on leave from the government and doing some private work at the Nairobi Hospital. At no time was our government involved in arranging for me to fly to New Site for the autopsy."

Senior Ministry of Health officials, who did not want to be named, confirmed that Dr Njue was, indeed, on leave at the time of his flight for the Sudanese job.

Last Wednesday, SPLM Nairobi representative Hiteng Cirino [name as published] declined to discuss the matter, commenting, however, that Dr Njue was "someone who does not know what he is doing".

Dr Cirino told the Nation: "You are talking about Dr Njue? Tell that man that he does not know where the future is. Does he have a contract to prove what he is saying?"

The pathologist says he has been to see southern Sudanese finance minister Arthur Akwen but without much success.

A frustrated Dr Njue said: "I want you to know that this was no ordinary person. He carried the status of head of state and anyway, it is not the practice in the medical profession to begin drafting contracts when you are contacted by patients or people who need our services. I do not understand why they are refusing to pay me as agreed before we left."