



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN  
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**UNMIS Media Monitoring Report, 29 January, 2006**  
**(By Public Information Office)**

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## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

### **UN**

#### **Envoy sees UN peace force in Sudan's Darfur by 2007 - report**

(AP/ST – 26<sup>th</sup> Jan. **Berlin**) The United Nations will deploy a peacekeeping force in Sudan's Darfur region by early 2007, a top U.N. envoy forecast in remarks released Thursday.

Jan Pronk said in an interview with the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung newspaper that he expected the force to be on the ground "in this year or at the start of 2007."

"That depends on the (U.N.) Security Council, which has not yet reacted to a decision by the African Union. I expect a decision in February," Pronk was quoted as saying.

Pronk, the top U.N. official for Sudan, earlier this month declared that efforts to bring peace to the vast Darfur region had failed, and called for a U.N. force of up to 20,000 troops to disarm militias and allow more than 2 million displaced people to return to their homes.

The African Union has accepted the need to transform its 7,000-strong peacekeeping force in Darfur into a U.N. force.

#### **UN peacekeeping chief sees role for force in Darfur**

(Reuters – 27<sup>th</sup> Jan. **Brussels**) The United Nations understands that it will eventually have to take over peacekeeping duty from the African Union in Sudan's troubled Darfur region, the top U.N. peacekeeping official said on Friday.

Under Secretary-General Jean-Marie Guehenno said such a mission would require a robust, rapidly deployable force with sufficient firepower to deter marauding gunmen in an area the size of France where there was no real peace to keep.

African Union heads of state meeting in Khartoum earlier this week said they would welcome U.N. support for AU troops but international forces should be African-led.

Speaking to reporters after talks with the European Union and NATO, Guehenno said members of the two organisations had most of the military capabilities required and should consider how they could help with tactical transport and firepower.

"We've seen the conclusions that the African Union reached at its latest meeting. So we understand very well that at some point the African Union will pass the baton eventually to the U.N.," he said.

The 7,000-strong AU force was performing a difficult task "because very often there is no real peace in Darfur", Guehenno said, and priority should be given to diplomatic efforts to achieve a ceasefire.

"Even if there is a ceasefire it's clear the situation in Darfur will remain difficult. There are multiple players and there will always be a temptation to get around the ceasefire.

"So that's why we say there will have to be a very robust force in Darfur which will be able to compensate with mobility for what it lacks in numbers," he said.

Guehenno sought to avoid institutional tensions between the European Union and NATO over which organisation should take a role in western Sudan.

He said NATO had provided valuable logistical support to the AU force, notably by transporting troops, but it would be a choice for each member nation as to whether to participate in future peacekeeping operations and in what framework.

The Sudanese government has rejected suggestions U.S. and European troops would be sent to Darfur, arguing the international community should instead focus on providing more equipment and funding to AU troops already in the region.

The United States has not offered any of its troops for a Darfur mission. U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said in Liberia this month she hoped there would be enough African troops to meet the challenge.

### **Indian troops to join UN peacekeeping force in Sudan**

Text of report by Indian newspaper The Asian Age website on 28 January

*(The Asian Age – 27<sup>th</sup> Jan. New Delhi)* Indian troops will soon be in Sudan for the first time as part of the United Nations peacekeeping force deployed in that African country. They got their send-off pep talk here on Friday [27 January].

The Sainik Sammelan, addressed by Lt-Gen Mohinder Puri, deputy chief of army staff, also included Indian troops bound for the UN Mission in Congo (MONUC).

But unlike in Sudan, the three infantry battalions headed for Congo - 15 Kumaon, 2/11 Gorkha Rifles and 5 Para, along with HQ 301 Infantry Brigade - are replacing existing Indian troops. For Sudan, the army is sending 8 JAK LI (Siachen) Battalion Group and 1/5 Gorkha Rifles.

Altogether, some 5,000 Indian soldiers are involved in this Congo-Sudan troop movement which would begin on 1 February and take about six weeks, officers said. India happens to be the third-largest contributor of soldiers for UN peacekeeping missions worldwide.

In Congo, the UN peacekeepers are mandated with the task of implementing the Lusaka ceasefire agreement of July 1999 through which five regional neighbouring countries agreed to end hostilities in that nation.

In Sudan, the Indian troops will be part of a multi-national force deployed to maintain peace between the country's north and south. The volatile region of Darfur in Sudan's west is also a concern of the UN Mission in Sudan. (UNMIS).

### **Thousands of civilians displaced by renewed fighting in Darfur - UN officials**

Excerpt from report by UN regional information network IRIN on 27 January

(*IRIN* – 27<sup>th</sup> Jan. **Nairobi**) Nairobi, 27 January: Thousands of civilians have been displaced by renewed fighting between Sudanese government forces and rebels in the Western Darfur region, United Nations officials said on Friday.

Most of those newly displaced had fled fighting around Golo and Daya in the Jebel Marra area of West Darfur, said Andy Pendleton, the area coordinator for the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The exact number of those displaced could not be immediately established.

The situation in Golo and Daya remained "very tense". Humanitarian agencies have been reducing their staff in West Darfur State in the past month due to rising tensions in the area, Pendleton added.

Other sources said the latest fighting in West Darfur had been going on for about five days and involved Sudanese government troops and rebels of the Sudanese Liberation Army.

Dawn Blalock, spokeswoman for OCHA in Sudan, said some 400 internally displaced persons in Sharia, South Darfur, had been harassed by militiamen on horseback. Most of them were women and children.

"OCHA has been in touch with the appropriate officials asking them to intervene in the area," she said by telephone from the Sudanese capital, Khartoum.

By Friday, at least 90 humanitarian staff working for several international nongovernmental organizations had been evacuated from Golo and Daya.

The UN Mission in Sudan said it evacuated seven of its staff from Sharia to Nyala, the capital of South Darfur, on Thursday.

Tension in the region, Pendleton said, had also been fuelled by a standoff between Sudan and Chad. The two neighbours have traded accusations for months, each side claiming the other supports its insurgents.

## **Abuja talks**

### **Government and rebels form joint monitoring committee**

(*AlAyaam* – 29<sup>th</sup> Jan. **Abuja**) The Sudan government and the rebel movements of Darfur agreed in Abuja yesterday to form a joint humanitarian facilitation and joint monitoring unit with the assistance of the AU and the UN in order to consolidate the ceasefire agreement.

On the other hand, the SLM has warned the government that the ongoing round of talks should not fail.

## **Darfur**

### **Darfur peace deal may be only weeks away - AU mediator**

(*Reuters* – 27<sup>th</sup> Jan. **Abuja**) The two main Darfur rebel groups could reach a peace deal with the Sudanese government within weeks now that Khartoum has shown signs of softening its position, the African Union's top mediator said on Friday.

"Unless something very dramatic happens in Darfur, we shall have a peace agreement in the next couple of weeks," AU chief negotiator Sam Ibok told Reuters, adding he hoped to see a deal signed by mid-February. "The implementation is another thing."

The Sudanese government has said the African Union's recent decision to delay its presidency of the organisation over concerns about Darfur had provided added impetus to reach a peace agreement.

"The onus is on the government to be more forthcoming," Ibok said. "The international community is impatient, the African Union is impatient. The people in Darfur are suffering."

Tens of thousands of people have been killed and more than 2 million people forced from their homes since the mostly non-Arab rebels took up arms in February 2003, saying Khartoum had marginalised the western region the size of France.

Six rounds of negotiation have produced a ceasefire and agreements on humanitarian access, with partial effectiveness on the ground, but major issues such as power sharing and wealth distribution are only now being discussed seriously. "We sense that there is a change of attitude on the part of the government and therefore this is also attracting a more positive reaction from the movements," said the Nigerian diplomat. "We have left behind the polemic arguments."

A framework deal agreed in the Nigerian capital Abuja could be embellished and finally signed in March, Ibok said. It would then need to be presented to other Darfur rebels who have not been party to the Abuja talks.

However, a spokesman for one rebel group said a deal would still require further concessions by the Khartoum government.

Ahmed Tugod, chief negotiator for the rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), said big differences still remained between the sides on power sharing, compensation for war crimes, distribution of taxation and security arrangements.

"If there is commitment from the government, I think we can reach agreement by February," he told Reuters. "We are not yet convinced that ... the government has made a clear determination to solve the problem by peaceful means."

The JEM and the larger Sudan Liberation Army have agreed with the government on 80 percent of the agenda on wealth-sharing, which covers issues such as war crimes compensation and distribution of tax revenues.

The parties put aside contentious issues such as rebel demands to merge the three areas of Darfur into a single autonomous region and appoint a vice-president from the region.

Instead, talks are focusing on who will run the desert region and how it will be represented in the central government's institutions, Ibok said.

"The situation on the ground continues to deteriorate and as long as you have the clashes between the government and the movements ... the level of confidence between the parties will be affected," he said.

With an AU force of 7,000 peacekeepers due to run out of money in March, Ibok called on western donors who provide most of its funding to boost their contributions rather than back a proposed United Nations force, opposed by Khartoum.

"We don't need the U.N. We have the requisite people who can do the job," he said.

### **Sudan accuses Chad of shelling Darfur, says it retaliated**

(AP/ST – 28<sup>th</sup> Jan. **Khartoum**) Sudan accused Chad on Saturday of shelling an area in its western border state of West Darfur and said its army had retaliated. No casualties were reported.

"The area of Armankul northwest of the town of Geneina, capital of West Darfur state, came under artillery shelling that continued for an hour and a half from inside the Chadian territories," military spokesman Gen. Abbas Abdelrahman Khalifa said in a brief statement carried by the official news agency, SUNA.

He didn't specify whether the attack was carried out by Chadian soldiers or a rebel group.

"Our armed forces have dealt with this aggression with a retaliation in preservation of the sovereignty of the national territories and safeguarding the lives of Sudanese subjects," Khalifa said.

The statement from did not say whether there were casualties on either side.

Khalifa said that despite Sudan's good intentions toward Chad, N'djamena was continuing "a series of aggressions on our western borders."

### **Darfur rebels attack Sudan army base**

(Reuters – 28<sup>th</sup> Jan. **Khartoum**) Darfur rebels attacked a Sudanese military base in West Darfur state on Saturday, killing 78 soldiers, a rebel leader said, accusing Chadian insurgents of working alongside Sudan's armed forces.

Sudan's Liberation Army rebels patrol in their base at an undisclosed location in North Darfur, Sudan. (AFP). Khalil Abdallah, political leader of the Darfur rebel National Movement for Reform and Development (NMRD), said 17 soldiers were also taken prisoner in the attack on the town of Arm Yakui, some 30 km (19 miles) northwest of West Darfur's main town el-Geneina. "We attacked the town of Arm Yakui today — a Sudanese military base," Abdallah told Reuters.

"We killed 78 soldiers and took 17 prisoners," Abdallah said, adding his group lost two men with five injured.

A Sudanese army source confirmed there was an attack on one of their bases in the area but could not give casualty figures.

Two other Darfur rebel groups are in peace talks with Khartoum, but the NMRD are not and do not respect a ceasefire signed between those groups and the government in 2004.

The Sudanese army source said the attack came from within Chadian territory.

"This attack came suddenly from inside Chadian territory, and we returned fire with the same force using artillery," he said. He said he had no further information from the remote region.

The NMRD operate along the Chad-Sudan border. The long border between Chad and Sudan is porous and many tribes span the frontier. Deby himself took power in 1990 in an uprising he launched from Darfur.

Abdallah said Chadian rebels, led by Mahamat Nour, had fought alongside the Sudanese armed forces in the attack.

"We don't understand why they are doing this. We have no problem with Mahamat Nour," he said.

Nour leads an alliance of Chadian insurgents called the United Front for Democratic Change, known as FUC. His group attacked the Chadian border town of Adre in December and are sworn to depose Deby.

Nour denied involvement in the clashes. "Our forces were nearby but they did not participate in the attack," he told Reuters by telephone from eastern Chad.

Sudan arrested 20 Chadian rebels in Khartoum last week, including one leader. Nour said they had been released and had left the Sudanese capital.

Sudan denies supporting the Chadian rebels. The rebels declined to say why they were in Khartoum, but Nour had written a letter requesting that his group be given an audience at an African Union summit in Khartoum on Monday.

### **Slovene president urges Libya, France to join Darfur initiative**

(*STA News Agency/BBC* – 27<sup>th</sup> Jan. **Ljubljana, Slovenia**) President Janez Drnovsek has sent his appeal to solve the humanitarian crisis in Darfur to French President Jacques Chirac and Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhafi, the president told the press on Friday [27 January].

Drnovsek asked al-Qadhafi to make good on his recent promise to send 3,000 Libyan troops to the Sudanese region. Libya, which maintains good relations with the Darfur rebels and the government in Khartoum, could play a constructive role, he added.

The Slovene president has meanwhile called on Chirac to increase France's military presence at the country's military base in Chad and help the local authorities in guarding the border between the Chad and Sudan. According to Drnovsek, such intervention could be organized faster than a normal UN-sponsored peace mission.

Moreover, Libya's military could reinforce African Union's (AU) forces already in the region, while France could place its mission within the already existing NATO effort to help the AU forces.

Drnovsek also said that he maintains regular contact with international experts with whom he is to organize next Thursday a conference on possible political solutions to the issue.

The president also announced that he is sending the famous Slovene traveller and philanthropist Tomo Kriznar to Darfur as his special envoy. Kriznar will try to assess the situation and establish contact with the rebels, Drnovsek explained.

Asked about the Kosovo issue, Drnovsek said he believes that it is imperative that Kosovo gets a new president as well as a new head of the negotiating team on the future status of the restless province.

### **EU's Solana welcomes Slovene president's Darfur appeal**

(*STA News Agency/BBC* – 26<sup>th</sup> Jan. **Ljubljana, Slovenia**) The EU's foreign policy and security chief, Javier Solana, has welcomed Slovene President Janez Drnovsek's efforts to end the crisis in the western Sudanese region of Darfur.

Javier Solana, the EU high representative for foreign and security policy, said in a letter addressed to Drnovsek that he was pleased to see the Slovene president giving so much attention to this long-lasting African conflict, Drnovsek's office said.

Solana said that Drnovsek's proposals and decision to visit Sudan in mid-February are very welcome. He added that he agrees with Drnovsek's view that decisive action needs to be taken by the international community to put an end to the conflict in Darfur.

### **Darfur needs "political agreement", UN's Annan says for Slovene daily**

(*STA News Agency/BBC* – 26<sup>th</sup> Jan. **Khartoum**) Ljubljana, 26 January: UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan has said the outlook for the western Sudanese region of Darfur is bleak unless a major new international effort is mustered in the coming weeks.

In a guest column for the Slovene daily *Delo*, Annan said that while a massive relief operation led by the UN has brought down the number of dying from hunger or disease, efforts to reach a peace agreement have failed to produce the desired results.

"The number [of the] displaced has now reached two million, while three million (half the total population of Darfur) are dependent on international relief for food and other basics. Many parts of Darfur are becoming too dangerous for relief workers to reach," Annan stressed, adding that peace talks were still far from reaching a conclusion as fighting now threatens to spread into neighbouring Chad.

Annan pointed out that, despite a chronic funding crisis, the African Union (AU) troops on the ground were doing a valiant job. "People feel safer when they are present. But there are too few of them - a protection force of only 5,000, with another 2,000 police and military observers."

On 12 January, the AU decided to renew the mission's mandate until 31 March, while expressing support, in principle, for a transition to a UN operation later this year. Annan explained that the timing of this transition was still being discussed, including at this week's AU summit in Khartoum, and pointed out that this "puts the UN Security Council clearly on the spot". "The UN Charter gives the Council primary responsibility for international peace and security," he said.

However, Annan noted that this crisis could not be solved simply by giving the present AU mission a "UN hat".

"Any new mission will need a strong and clear mandate, allowing it to protect those under threat by force if necessary, as well as the means to do so," he says, adding that countries that have the military assets that are required must be ready to deploy them.

According to him, such a force would take the UN months to deploy. "In the meantime, the AU mission must be maintained and strengthened."

Annan wrote for Delo that a donor conference was planned for 20 February and stressed that, at the same time, the massive relief operation must continue so that Darfur's people continue to receive clean water, food and other vitally needed supplies.

He also stressed that much stronger pressure must be brought on all parties - the rebel groups as well as the government - to observe the ceasefire and commit themselves to the Abuja peace talks.

According to Annan, one thing is clear: "Whatever external force is sent to Darfur can provide at best only temporary security to the people there. Only a political agreement among their leaders can secure their future, and the return of two million of them to their homes."

### **Iran says no to foreign meddling in Sudan's Darfur**

(*AlWan/BBC* – 28<sup>th</sup> Jan. **Khartoum**) The Vice-President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Dr Ahmad al-Musawi, has said he cast doubts on the enemies' intentions towards the Darfur region.

In a press conference held at the Hilton hotel [in Khartoum] yesterday morning, he urged to end foreign interference in Darfur and let the Sudanese government work towards resolving the issue in a suitable way.

He further reiterated Iran's support for a Sudanese solution in this regard, and his trust in the mediation of the AU member states to resolve the crisis.

However, he said "enemies do not want our states to resolve their own problems by themselves and they go fishing in murky water, despite the ability of each state to resolve its own problems without any foreign interference in their internal affairs".

He pointed out that Iran had provided large financial assistance to the Darfur region and that the Iranian Red Crescent had set up a clinic, which provided services to the citizens of Darfur. He said his country would strive to provide constant support to Sudan.

Regarding the letter from the Iranian president to FM Al-Bashir, Al-Musawi said was meant to illustrate Iran's policy following Ahmadinezhad's ascent to power. This policy, he said, aimed at strengthening cooperation between Islamic states, in particular African [Islamic states]states.

Al-Musawi said his meeting [with Al-Bashir] had tackled international developments and reflected the Iranian President's view on these. The two leaders also discussed the strengthening of the bilateral economic relations, so as to raise them to the level of political ties existing between the two countries.

### **Southern Sudan**

**Kiir Describes CPA Implementation As Slow, Au Summit Successful**

(*Sudan Vision* – 29<sup>th</sup> Jan. **Khartoum**) The First Vice-President, Lt-Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit, said he was satisfied with the African Union Summit convened in Khartoum, describing the Summit as successful by all standards as acknowledged by the participants themselves.

First Vice-President said Abuja is the only forum for resolving the Darfur crisis. He called on the other partner to power to give SPLM a chance to effectively participate in resolving the crisis. He said SPLM can use its relations with the Darfur armed groups, its one-time allies, to that end. The First Vice-President stressed on the two parties to Nairobi, agreeing on a definite vision for tackling the conflict in Darfur in regards to power and wealth-sharing or the security arrangements. Kiir expressed optimism about resolving the conflict, admitting that it considerably differs from the South Sudan problem with regard to the thorny issues of the right of self-determination and separating religion from the state. The First Vice-President who met with newspaper editors-in-chief, briefed the latter yesterday on what has been implemented in the CPA, which was signed last January. Kiir referred to the finalization of the interim constitution, formation of National and State Assemblies, the government of National Unity, in addition to South Sudan Legislative Assembly and South Sudan Government. Commissions, endorsement of Joint Forces laws and the establishment of Joint Defence Committee have also been completed. Kiir, referred to the seriousness of the Presidency of the republic to finalize outstanding issues. However, the First Vice-President seemed dissatisfied with issues that are still pending. In this connection, Kiir said the formation of Abyei administration is still pending, denying that the region was put of South Kordofan and expressing regret over the National Congress Party rejection of the Abyei Commission Report. The First Vice-President said the report was binding per the clauses of the peace agreement, adding that its rejection represents a violation of that agreement. Kiir pointed to the slow progress on delineation of South-South boundaries, stating that the Commission concerned has not yet begun its work. This has in turn led to non-identification of South Sudan oil resources, said the First Vice-President. Kiir expressed his full satisfaction with the agreement between SPLM and South Sudan defence Forces, welcoming Paulino Matib within the ranks of SPLM. On the other hand, Kiir attributed non-completion of forces redeployment and withdrawal of SPLM forces from Nuba Mountains and Eastern Sudan to lack of facilities and funds, denying ill-intention behind that. According to the First Vice-President, the same situation has hampered withdrawal of the armed forces from South Sudan. Kiir cited a number of causes that slowed down the implementation of CPA such as mined roads currently being cleared, fear of the Lord Resistance Army that endangers return of citizens to their home-regions and non-fulfillment of the International Community's obligations to assist in developing the South. "This slow implementation is not resulting from lack of seriousness, but to encourage the voluntary return, provision of schools, water, and hospitals," he said.

### **Sudanese VP Kiir complains peace deal slow**

(*Reuters* – 28<sup>th</sup> Jan. **Khartoum**) Sudanese Vice President Salva Kiir said on Saturday implementation of a peace deal to end Sudan's north-south civil war was extremely slow and that monies owed to the south still had not been paid.

Kiir, head of the former southern rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), became first vice president under the 2005 deal which ended Africa' longest war and created a coalition government in the capital Khartoum.

Kiir said his northern partners had not given the south half of Sudan's oil revenues as the deal requires.

"We still have not got the real share of the oil revenues," he told reporters in Khartoum, adding there were differences over the amount of oil produced in Sudan.

Sudan's two main oil fields are in south Sudan, but the refinery and oil pipelines are in the north.

The northern oil minister puts oil production at around 330,000 barrels per day (bpd), but the SPLM says it could be as high as 450,000 bpd.

Kiir said implementation of the deal was "extremely slow" and warned this behaviour would push southerners to vote for separation rather than unity.

"The events that are happening now clearly show that unity will not be made attractive," he said. "The southerners are very sensitive to this."

Kiir also called on donor nations who last year promised up to \$4.5 billion to rebuild Sudan to fulfil their pledges.

"This money has not come," he said, adding without it the southerners would not see the dividend of peace.

Many southerners complain that since the death of Kiir's predecessor and the architect of the 2005 peace deal, John Garang, the SPLM had lost its influence in the national capital Khartoum.

Kiir said he was doing his best to implement the deal, but acknowledged he may not have as much clout as he would like. "I believe I am part of the government (but) whether I have influence or not that's another thing," he said.

Garang was recognised as a national leader in both the north and south. His deputy Kiir was relatively unknown in the north when he was suddenly given the task of leading the SPLM after Garang's death in August in a helicopter crash.

### **Sudan's SPLM denounces campaign against Vice President Kiir**

(*ST* – 27<sup>th</sup> Jan. **Khartoum**) The Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) has denounced the newspapers' campaign against its leader Vice-President Salva Kiir Mayardit, saying that he has a negative role during the African Union summit, a press report said.

Official spokesperson for the SPLM's northern sector Walid Hamid told Al-Watan yesterday that what he read in the newspapers about the SPLM leader's role in the AU summit was full of fallacies.

Some daily news paper said Salva Kiir didn't campaign actively in favour of Sudan's bid for the chairmanship of the pan African organization.

Hamid said Kiir had been present and active at the summit and had told the press that he was confident that Sudan would lead the AU on the basis of previous discussions held with a number of African leaders.

He said that Minister of Foreign Affairs Lam Akol had also been present and active at the AU summit, not voicing his own personal opinion, but the view of the SPLM, which is a partner in power.

Hamid condemned the fact that Lam Akol's role had been described as positive, while Kiir's role as negative and insubstantial, stressing that the two men voiced the same policy and worked together in the government. He said that such comments were biased and disparaging, and showed a misunderstanding of the SPLM.

This is not the first time since the establishment of the government of national unity that pro National Congress Party press trade such accusations against the former rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM).

During his visit to Washington in November last year Savla Kiir had been accused of not defending the lifting of the US economic sanctions on Sudan.

## **Other developments**

### **Sudanese governing party to discuss Cairo agreement with opposition alliance**

(*SMC/BBC* – 28<sup>th</sup> Jan. **Khartoum**) The Communication Secretariat of the [ruling] National Congress party has decided to resolve the dispute, which was aroused by the National Democratic Alliance [NDA] regarding the slowness in implementing the Cairo Agreement between the two sides.

In a statement to SMC [Sudanese Media Centre] the presidential advisor and the National Congress political communication secretary, Dr Mustafa Uthman Isma'il, revealed that the National Congress secretariat had decided to hold a meeting with the NDA leaders in the next two days.

Isma'il affirmed that during the meeting they would study and review the whole Cairo Agreement signed between the NC and the NDA, as well as what had so far been implemented and what was yet to be implemented.

### **Uganda appeals for UN backing in fight against rebels**

(*UBC Radio/BBC* – 29<sup>th</sup> Jan. **Kampala**) The minister of foreign affairs, Sam Kutesa, has told the United Nations Security Council that a group of Ugandan rebels continue to terrorize innocent people in northern Uganda, Sudan and the DR Congo.

Sam Kutesa has appealed to the United Nations and the international community to rally behind Uganda's efforts to rout out the rebels currently hiding in Sudan and the DR Congo.

He told the United Nations Security Council meeting in New York that government was committed to restoring peace in northern Uganda.

The Security Council condemned the LRA [Lord's Resistance Army] rebels for killing innocent people in the Great Lakes Region.

The Council also noted with regret that the Ugandan rebels recently killed United Nations peacekeepers in the DR Congo.

## **Southern Sudan women urged to help curb Ugandan rebels' atrocities**

(*Juba Post* – 26<sup>th</sup> Jan. **Khartoum**) Elizabeth Anoka, a representative of the SPLM Movement in Kator [Bahr al-Jabal State southern Sudan] payam [district] ] has appealed to women to identify and publicize all Lord's Resistance Army [LRA] supporters, who reside in Kator payam to help end the ongoing LRA atrocities.

This was announced during the operation of Kator's SPLM branch office on 14 January.

According to Elizabeth Anoka, women in the south suffered a lot during war time and they are currently suffering under these LRA attacks. "Now we are in peace, let us point out the thorns of LRA supporters in our area to stop the killings, atrocities and insecurity in the rural areas, then women can enjoy the fruits of peace!", she announced.

Anoka urged women to resume studies and work hard in the 20per cent of political positions given to them. She also requested the provision of more clinics, kindergartens and secondary schools in Kator.