



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN  
UNMIS

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**(By Public Information Office)**

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## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

### **UN**

#### **Government rejects UN radio in northern Sudan**

(*AlWatan* – 1<sup>st</sup> May, **Khartoum**) Sources say that the federal government in Sudan has refused to grant UNMIS a permit to operate a radio station from Khartoum while the Government of South Sudan has agreed has given a go-ahead for a UN radio station in Juba.

This development comes following reports that UNMIS Radio has sent invitations for a press forum to be held at its offices in Manshiya next Wednesday.

It is worth noting that technical preparations for UN Radio in Sudan are complete and 90% of staff of the radio component are Sudanese nationals. The UN Chief of Radio is from Holland and his deputy is an Englishman.

Authorities had earlier given their consent in principle to a UN radio broadcast from Khartoum but later reneged on this decision and have set a number of preconditions and obstacles.

#### **UN Human Rights Commissioner holds talks in Khartoum**

(*AlAyaam* – 1<sup>st</sup> May, **Khartoum**) The visiting UN High Commissioner for Human Rights held talks separately in Khartoum yesterday with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, members of the Sudan Human Rights Consultative Council, representatives of UNMIS and representatives of INGOs operating in Sudan.

The talks touched on the human rights situation in the Sudan.

During this five-day tour, her second visit to the Sudan, the high Commissioner will tour the states of Darfur (starting today) and is expected back in Khartoum on Wednesday before she travels to southern Sudan next Thursday.

The High Commissioner is also expected to hold talks with the director for the National Security and Intelligence organ, the humanitarian affairs' minister, the Speaker of the National Assembly and the head of the directorate of Gender-based Violence at the Ministry of Justice. Her final meeting will be held with state minister for the Presidency of the Republic, Tilara Deng.

#### **IDPs face hostile situation in AlFateh camp**

(*Khartoum Monitor* – 1<sup>st</sup> May, **Khartoum**) UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Johann Olav Koss visited yesterday AlFateh I camp in Omdurman.

He was accompanied by UNICEF personnel and media personalities.

Members of the IDP community in the area complained of the harsh conditions they are facing with lack of water, food, shelter and medical services. They also said their children

have no schools to study in and most of them have no jobs and expect the coming rains to worsen the situation.

After hearing these petitions, the UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador expressed concern about the situation facing the IDPs. He said he was happy to be among them and promised that they would focus on child protection and education as well as water and sanitation.

## **CPA**

### **Arabic and English in Khartoum**

(*Khartoum Monitor* – 1<sup>st</sup> May, **Khartoum**) The technical committee assigned to draft the Khartoum State constitution has overcome the disputed points of the status of Khartoum State, the language, the governor and ministers' oaths and provisional laws governing the local administrative units.

The Speaker of the Khartoum State Legislative Assembly who also heads the technical committee said that the committee based used the CPA and the Constitution of the Interim Period as its terms of reference on those issues.

The two parties to the CPA agreed that Khartoum has the status of a Sudanese state and the national capital and is the symbol of its unity and reflective of its diversity. The parties also agreed that the rights of non-Muslims in Khartoum shall be protected.

Arabic has been endorsed as the official language for Khartoum State and the use of English language permitted at all levels of government and education without discrimination “made in favour of against any of the two languages,” reads the clause on the language.

The state governor shall take the same oath as the President of the Republic whereas his ministers will take the same oath as those of a federal minister, adds the head of the Khartoum State legislature.

On provisional laws governing local administrative units, the Speaker said that the committee found no basis in the CPA or the constitution for a partnership with the SPLM at the level of local administrative units.

The Khartoum Legislative Assembly sits tomorrow to discuss the draft proposed by the technical team.

### **Committee formed to redeploy forces in southern Kordofan**

(*Khartoum Monitor* – 1<sup>st</sup> May, **Khartoum**) The NCP and the SPLM have formed a committee to discuss the redeployment of forces in South Kordofan State.

The Joint Defence Board is expected to set a date for the meeting of the committee, says a member of the JDB.

Brigadier Jagoud of the JDB says there are some problems facing the implementation of the Protocols on the Security Arrangements as the agreement stipulates that the JIUs be stationed beyond latitude 56° but did not identify the location where the remaining forces should be stationed and there are three detachments in the Nuba Mountains area.

The agreement, he adds, puts the number of JIUs to be deployed to the Nuba Mountains at 6,000 with each of the parties contributing an equal number of forces, but did not state what will become of the remaining forces.

He further pointed out that the SPLA has prepared its forces to the JIUs and has deployed them to Kadugli, Kauda, Diling and Kurji since October while the SAF has not. He said the SAF was not serious in its part of the deal.

He further pointed out that no mention was made in the CPA of assembly points for DDR in the Nuba Mountains area.

### **Members nominated to the Constitution Review Commission**

(*AlRai AlAam* – 1<sup>st</sup> May, **Khartoum**) The President of the Republic has issued a decree appointing members of the National Constitution Review Commission.

The decree issued yesterday names Abel Alier as chairman of the commission.

### **GoNU**

#### **SAF says it will not hand over any of its members for trial by an outside party**

(*AlAyaam, AlRai AlAam* – 1<sup>st</sup> May, **Khartoum**) The SAF has for the first time announced it will not hand over any of its members to a trial outside Sudan.

In a statement issued by the Office of the Spokesperson of the SAF, the SAF says Mjr. Gen. Ja'far Mohamed el-Hassan (onetime Air Force Commander, Commander of the Western Military Command and listed for sanctions by the Security Council resolution) is committed to the directives of the SAF and has never deviated from the regulations governing his work.

The statement says he has been carrying the duties delegated to him as a SAF officer and that the SAF shoulders the primary responsibility for any accusations against him and shall bring him to book, should he have erred, in accordance to the SAF statutes and through its relevant instruments.

### **Darfur/ Abuja talks/ Chad**

#### **Nafei Ali Nafei says ready to step down from his position**

(*AlRai AlAam* – 1<sup>st</sup> May, **Khartoum**) Dr. Nafei Ali Nafei says he is prepared to step down from his post as Assistant to the President of the Republic if that will help solve the crisis in Darfur.

Asked of the possibilities that government will sign a partial agreement with one of the other factions in Abuja, Dr. Nafei said it is not for the government to decide but such a decision has to be taken with the participation of the international community, the mediators and the parties to the talks.

## **Darfur peace talks deadline extended for two days**

(Reuters/ST – 30<sup>th</sup> Apr. Abuja) African Union mediators agreed on Monday to give warring parties in Sudan's Darfur region an extra 48 hours to agree an AU-proposed peace deal after a midnight deadline expired.

It followed a request from U.S. officials, who said the extra time would allow for agreement on two critical security issues — the disarmament of Janjaweed militia accused of rape, murder and looting, and the integration of rebel forces into the Sudanese security forces.

"We shall stop the clock for the next 48 hours so that the opportunity is used ... by the parties to engage amongst themselves," said Salim Ahmed Salim, chief AU mediator.

Two of the rebel groups said on Sunday they would refuse to sign the peace deal in its current form, throwing into doubt two years of talks to end fighting which has killed tens of thousands.

"We are not going to accept this document for signature unless there are fundamental changes made to the document," Ahmed Tugod, the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) chief negotiator, told Reuters.

The AU had set a midnight (2300 GMT) Sunday deadline to conclude the talks and said it would not reopen substantial negotiations on the proposed text.

"If the proposal does not include all our demands we will not sign," Seif Haroun, spokesman for the SLA faction led by Minni Arcua Minnawi, told reporters.

But the chief negotiator of the SLA Minni faction, Abduljabbar Dosa, left the possibility open that an agreement could be reached in the talks in the Nigerian capital Abuja.

"The position of the movement is not fixed the document needs to be enhanced. If it is enhanced then it is possible to make an agreement."

It was not immediately known what the position of the other SLA faction — a third rebel group involved in the fighting — was on the 85-page draft peace settlement.

Before JEM rejected the deal, Sam Ibok, head of the AU mediation team, called the situation "very fluid".

Jan Pronk, U.N special envoy for Sudan, said missing the deadline by a few hours to fine-tune a deal was an option, but a major new round of talks was not.

"If the government is willing to sign, after all the wrongdoings of the past and of today ... those parties that will not sign will be held responsible and there will be political consequences," he said.

Those might include sanctions imposed by the U.N. Security Council, which has already imposed a travel ban and a freeze on assets abroad on four Sudanese — two from the government side and two rebel leaders — suspected of abuses in Darfur.

## **Rice seeks Russian, Chinese help on Darfur**

(*ST* – 30<sup>th</sup> Apr., **Washington**) The United States, signalling frustration with the world response to the carnage in Sudan's Darfur region, urged Russia, China and the African Union to do more to end the three-year-old crisis.

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice made the call as tens of thousands of Americans were expected at rallies Sunday to press for action on the conflict in Darfur.

"We also do need more support, frankly, from other members of the international community, from China, from Russia, which abstained on this (sanctions) resolution."

"And I was at NATO on Thursday and Friday, we had talks about getting more support from the African Union which has said that they want to see a UN force," she told ABC television.

Rice said President George W. Bush "has passion" about the Darfur issue and added, "We cannot be in a situation in which we don't react to this."

Rice, who attended a NATO ministerial meeting in Bulgaria last week, said "everybody understands we're not talking about western forces on the ground." Washington has suggested the AU remain the core of the operation.

"We will continue to press the Sudanese government, and we're continuing to not just talk to them, but of course we're taking some actions against those in the Sudanese government who are responsible for this," Rice said.

## **Protests in US cities seek to "Save Darfur"**

(*ST* – 30<sup>th</sup> Apr. **Washington**) Tens of thousands of demonstrators, including lawmakers and Hollywood star George Clooney, descended on Washington and other US cities Sunday to demand an end to "genocide" in Sudan's Darfur region.

Protesters converged on the National Mall in warm spring weather near the Capitol that houses the US Congress, seeking to "Save Darfur Now."

The first speaker, Holocaust survivor and Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel spoke "as a Jew and as a member of the human family," saying: "Silence helps the killer, never the victims."

"For the sake of humanity, save Darfur," he told the mostly young crowd, many of whom wore yarmulkes.

Demonstrators cheered calls for US and international action from a wide range of religious leaders, activists, politicians, celebrities and athletes, including Joey Cheek, an Olympic speed-skating champion who gave his prize money to benefit Darfur.

"It's our job to take action," he said. "We have to continue to fight because people will continue to die."

Clooney addressed the protest after having visited Sudan's western region of Darfur last week along with his father, a former journalist.

"This is in fact the first genocide of the 21st century. But there is hope, there is all of you," said Clooney, who gave numerous interviews before the event to try focus public attention on the plight of Darfur.

His father, Nick Clooney, said, "We didn't stop the Holocaust. We didn't stop Cambodia. We didn't stop Rwanda. But this one, we can stop."

Sudanese pro-government Arab militias have terrorized Darfur's black African tribes, with the conflict leaving up to 300,000 dead and 2.4 million homeless.

Similar rallies were announced by some 1,260 groups in more than a dozen US cities, including Austin, Texas; Chicago; San Francisco; and Seattle in the US state of Washington, as well as Toronto and Vancouver, Canada.

The United Nations has slapped sanctions on four Sudanese leaders for their role in the Darfur carnage and has been discussing a beefed-up UN peacekeeping force.

Earlier, US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice made clear growing US impatience with some governments for their reluctance to confront Sudan.

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The United States has been pressing to expand a beleaguered 7,000-member African Union peacekeeping contingent in Darfur into a large UN force with greater logistical support from NATO.

US legislators also spoke at the protest, including Nancy Pelosi, leader of the Democratic minority in the House of Representatives, and Democratic Senator Barack Obama, who said: "If we care, the world will care. If we bear witness, the world will know. If we act, the world will follow."

The conflict has surged as a top issue in Washington as peace talks under way in Nigeria faced a deadline on Sunday. Mediators hoped to salvage a peace agreement but two rebel groups said they would refuse to sign the deal.

Bush, who has called the Darfur violence genocide, met with activists lobbying on behalf of victims Friday, while several US lawmakers were arrested in a protest outside the Sudanese embassy in an act of civil disobedience.

After his meeting with activists, Bush pressed the government of Sudan to end the violence in the region.

But Khartoum has rejected international criticism and resisted the UN.

The Sudanese embassy in Washington issued a statement Friday calling the protests "misdirected" and "naive."

"The message that will be sent by the demonstrators to the Darfur rebels is, 'don't make peace, the US supports you,'" the embassy said in a press release, adding that such protests send "the wrong message at just the wrong time."

## **Southern Sudan/GoSS/SPLM/A**

### **Death of SPLA's Gen. Santo Ayang Deng**

(*ST* – 30<sup>th</sup> Apr. **Juba**) The Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) announced the death of Maj. Gen. Santo Ayang Deng who contracted Meningitis during his tour of duty in Northern Bahr -El-Ghazal earlier this month of April.

There are reports of high meningitis outbreaks in the area he had visited for following his return to Rumbek he was stricken with the disease. Because he does not take medicines or drugs, he lay in his house for two days

Hoping to get better as usual, but his condition deteriorated and he was rushed to hospital. From there the Rumbek hospital authorities saw his condition to be serious and referred him to Juba where he died.

His body was returned to Rumbek for burial and he was buried with full military honours. The deceased Maj.Gen.Santo Ayang Deng is survived by two wives, three daughters and six sons.

Upon completion of his secondary education, the late Maj.Gen.Santo Ayang Deng joined the SPLA in 1983 and rose through the ranks .He led the Tumsah and Tiger Battalions' .He had military training in the USA, Uganda and Ethiopia.

At the time of his death, he was Commander of the SPLA/M Army's Third Division that is based here in Rumbek .He was also appointed Director for Inspection at the general HQS and further appointed chairman for re-organizational Committee SPLA Bahr el Ghazal Region.

## **Eastern Sudan**

### **Eastern Front to hold international conference on the east**

(*AlAyaam* – 1<sup>st</sup> May, **Khartoum**) The Eastern Front is organising an international conference in Germany to highlight the issues of eastern Sudan.

Participants to the conference which may be held this month are drawn from international experts amongst others.

The Eastern Front, says a prominent member, will also launch massive media campaigns in Europe and the US to highlight the issues.

The member further pointed out that the recent meetings of the Eastern Front leadership held in the "Liberated Territories" came up with a number of recommendations that include talks with the GoNU, activating the work of the Eastern Front inside the country and the need to launch a great media campaign in Europe and the US.



## **Other Developments**

### **Northern State legislative body calls for withdrawal of powers of the dam commission**

(*AlSahafa* – 1<sup>st</sup> May, **Khartoum**) The Northern State Legislative Assembly has petitioned the government of Northern State to investigate on the recent violence around the Meroe Dam area and bring the culprits to account.

The legislative body also asked the said government to strip the Commission for Social and Environmental Affairs of the Meroe Dam implementation unit of its powers and to take over the functions of relocating the people affected by the construction of the dam.

The governors of River Nile and Northern states both affirmed commitments to address the grievances of the affected.

### **Khartoum International Airport partially closed**

(*AlRai AlAam* – 1<sup>st</sup> May, **Khartoum**) The Khartoum International Airport will be partially closed before air traffic from today until July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Reasons given by the director of the KIA for this temporary measure is that the runway is having being revamped with new runway, landing and taxiway lights