



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN
UNMIS

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(By Public Information Office)

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UN

Alor: No one has the authority to bar UN radio from operating

(*AlSudani* – 2nd May, **Khartoum**) UNMIS has refuted recent reports that the Sudan government has barred UN radio from broadcasting from Khartoum.

UNMIS Spokesperson Bahaa Alkoussy said the reports were not true but informed sourced confirm that SRSNG Pronk recently received official notification to the effect that UN radio is not allowed to broadcast from Khartoum but UNMIS regarded the notification as not more than a political statement and that the party that issued that statement did not have the authority to take such a decision and had not right to supersede an agreement reached between the UN and the Sudan government on troop deployment and UN radio.

Sources also intimate that SRSNG Pronk did contact Vice-President Ali Osman to inform him of the developments in the issue but that the V-P told him that the time was not appropriate and that the issue will be addressed once the ongoing talks in Abuja are ended.

On his part, cabinet affairs minister Deng Alor denied any knowledge of the issue but said that there is no reason to hamper UN radio as long as Khartoum has signed an agreement on the issue. He pointed out that no political body has the right to stop UN radio and that only the state has the authority to either allow or bar UN radio from airing.

On his part, GoSS information minister Samson Kwajje said that the GoSS has accepted UN radio in Juba. He pointed out that the issue has been agreed upon with the UN and is not subject to any sentiment.

Kwajje did not say when UN radio will go on air in southern Sudan but affirmed it will soon go on air in Juba and that the UN has completed the necessary preparations for that.

UN Chief of Radio, Leon Willems, gave a “No comments” to the question of whether or not the government has barred UN radio to operate.

Meanwhile UNMIS has started transporting its radio equipment to Juba from Khartoum.

The sources further intimate that the government position on UNMIS radio is still unclear and that sources within the sovereign and political apparatus of the state, by rejecting UN radio to go on air, renege on the agreement signed between the government and the UN following the Naivasha Agreement.

UNMIS had earlier said that UNMIS radio will be neutral, will support national unity and broadcast in some local languages (27 in all) and that it will be handed over as community radios supported by local organisations once UNMIS leaves.

United Nations warns of looming hunger in Darfur; government allows Jan Egeland to visit

(*AlRai AlAam* – 2nd May, **Khartoum**) Jan Egeland, the UN Humanitarian Coordinator, will be in Khartoum early next week following government permission for him to come, said U.N. Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator in Sudan, Gemmo Lodensani.

Speaking at a press conference yesterday, Lodensani warned of a possible hunger in Darfur and announced large shortfalls facing United Nations operations in the region.

The United Nations also noted the deterioration in the security situation and said this has caused it to suspend operations in many areas of Darfur such as Kabkabiya, Gireida and Haskaneita causing new waves of displacement in North and South Darfur.

He said that the situation around Gireida is bad with impossible access to Gireida and that this has caused the United Nations to withdraw.

Lodensani also said that the situation in Kalma Camp is very bad and that the agencies operating in the Darfur region are being threatened by the armed groups. He also said clashes between the armed groups in Gireida, Toweela and Krouma is hampering the flow of humanitarian assistance and blamed this on the rebel movement.

He further revealed that the armed groups have barred United Nations flights from landing in Kabkabiya and thus caused the United Nations to suspend its operations in that area as of two days previous.

He called upon the government and the international community to avail the 20 million dollars needed for meeting the requirements of 25,000 new IDPs.

Sudan foreign minister holds talks with UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

(*ST* – 1st May, **Khartoum**) Sudanese Foreign Minister, Lam Akol, has attributed slowness that had accompanied the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between the government and SPLM to the non-fulfilment of the donors to the pledges they made in Oslo.

Akol reviewed during his meeting with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Louise Arbour, and the delegation accompanying her the process of implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and what has been accomplished so far of establishment of the commissions, the Government of National Unity, the parliament and the governments of the states.

Director of Human Rights Department at the Foreign Ministry, Ambassador Osama Nogodallah said in a press statement that the Minister affirmed that all parties participating in the Government of National Unity have the political will to go ahead in exerting efforts for realizing stability and development in the country and implementation of the agreement.

He further said that the implementation process is progressing satisfactorily.

Nogodallah pointed out that Akol explained to the UN official that talks are underway for setting up Human Rights Commission.

Akol replying to a question of Ms. Arbour on Sudan stand towards the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), affirmed that the general view is that Sudan will join the agreement with some reservations.

He pointed to the revision of all legislations to be in harmony with the peace agreement. Nogodallah said that Ms Arbour praised the great cooperation showed by the government to the UN mission and the joint implementation mechanism for the peace agreement and the subcommittees.

Arbour explained that the mission found positive stances from the government in the framework of cooperation to solve all issues, which concern the parties particularly in human rights field.

Lousie Arbour, left for Neyala, capital of Southern Darfur State, on Monday as part of her current visit to the country. Arbour's programme includes visiting Juba from which she will return Tuesday to hold meetings with government officials on Wednesday.

Darfur/ Abuja talks/ Chad

Sudan to move ahead on Darfur deal without rebel signatures

(AP/ST – 1st May, **Khartoum**) Sudan's chief negotiator on Monday said rebel reluctance to sign a Darfur peace agreement was "regrettable," but declared that Khartoum would begin immediately abiding by the plan regardless.

In what were believed to be the first comments from a Sudanese official since the two sides resumed contacts under a new Tuesday deadline, the chief Sudanese negotiator said the next move was up to the African Union, sponsor of the negotiations.

"The African Union has to decide what steps should be taken if the current round (of talks) fails," chief negotiator Majzoub Khalifa told reporters.

"This would be a very regrettable situation. Anyone who obstructs peace efforts should be forced to bear responsibility," he said by satellite phone from Abuja, Nigeria, where talks are being held.

AU mediators who wrote the draft agreement had originally demanded the two sides sign it by Sunday. They extended the talks by 48 hours under pressure from the United States after rebels rejected the draft late Sunday.

Khalifa warned the rebels that they would be dealt with "seriously," saying his government, the AU and the United Nations would take "a number of steps" against them if they continue to reject the deal. He did not elaborate.

In accepting the draft, the government agreed to disarm a militia it is accused of unleashing on Darfur civilians, commit millions of dollars (euros) to rebuilding a region devastated by poverty and war, and compensate victims of the fighting.

Khalifa said the main stumbling block was the number of rebel forces to be included in the national army. The rebels also want the government to add a vice president from Darfur and unite its three states – creating a more autonomous region. And they demand that

compensation go to individual victims of violence, rather being included in plans for regional reconstruction.

UN intervenes to rescue of Darfur peace deal

(*ST* – 2nd May, **Abuja**) The African Union on Monday called on the warring parties from Sudan's Darfur region to sign the peace deal it had brokered to end their three-year conflict, saying further delay would only cause more suffering and "indiscriminate violence".

The four parties in the conflict — the two rebel groups plus the Sudanese government and pro-Khartoum Janjaweed militias blamed for a raft of abuses in Darfur — were all poised to sign the accord before two insurgent groups, the Sudanese Liberation Movement (SLM) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), rejected the deal.

The AU hailed the Khartoum government's decision to accept the deal and urged the rebel movements to do the same, "in the interest of the Darfur people, who cannot take more suffering".

"I must remind the leaders of the parties meeting in Abuja that each day that passes leads to more suffering and the deaths of innocent civilians from indiscriminate violence," said AU Commission President Alpha Oumar Konaré in a statement.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan added his voice to calls for the rebels to accept the deal on offer.

UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said in a statement that Annan "urges the parties, particularly the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), to redouble their efforts to come to an agreement without delay, so that the suffering and destruction in Darfur can be brought to an end."

Objections raised by the Darfur rebels include claims that the AU document — which they said they had received in English on March 10 but in their native Arabic only on Saturday — did not consider giving a government vice presidency to the Darfur region, nor did it adequately resolve other power-sharing and wealth distribution issues.

The rebels also want more precise undertakings about the disarming of the Janjaweed and compensation for those affected by the war, as well as a firm guarantee that the peace accord will be implemented.

Noureddine Mezni, spokesman for the parties mediating between the Sudanese government and the rebels, said that an agreement document was being finalised.

"As soon as this is ready we'll invite them to come and sign it. Consultations are going on," he said.

"The extension of the deadline does not have any meaning for us," said Saifaldin Haroun, spokesman of the main faction of the SLM.

"The AU peace proposal does not address our crucial demands," he said.

The Khartoum government delegation said it was willing to negotiate.

"The door is not closed," spokesman Abdul Rahman told reporters. "I think the government is ready for negotiations in the coming 48 hours."

US Rice says "time to shake the trees" over Darfur

(*Reuters* – 1st May, **Washington**) U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice sent her deputy to salvage Darfur peace talks in Nigeria on Monday and said it was time to "shake the trees" and complete planning for a robust security force in Sudan's western Darfur region.

Rice said Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick was going to Nigeria's capital, Abuja, to get rebel groups and Sudan's government to bridge their differences and sign a deal she hoped would ultimately be followed by a U.N. force going to Darfur.

"The president feels very strongly and very passionately about the need to get an agreement, about the need to get a robust security force, a blue-hatted (U.N.) force in to be able to protect the innocent people of Darfur," Rice said.

Zoellick's intervention came after tens of thousands of people held "Save Darfur" rallies across the United States on Sunday, calling for an end to atrocities in Darfur and for more U.S. involvement in resolving the crisis.

A Sunday deadline set by the African Union for Darfur rebel groups and Sudan's government to reach a deal was extended by 48 hours and the U.S. government hoped a major push would break the deadlock.

Rice said no one wanted to see the situation in Darfur continue and there also needed to be urgent military and logistical planning for a U.N. mission and for NATO help.

"Frankly we need to shake the trees a bit, shake the bureaucracy a little bit and say to people it's not acceptable to wait any longer for at least the planning for a robust security force," Rice told reporters.

So far, Khartoum has refused the offer of U.N. peacekeepers to supplement about 7,000 African Union troops struggling to keep the peace in Darfur, a region about the size of France.

Asked whether she thought Zoellick would manage to broker a deal in Abuja, Rice declined to make any predictions. But her spokesman called Zoellick "results-oriented."

"You have to pick your spots when it is the right time to engage on the ground personally. And Deputy Secretary Zoellick decided that this was the right moment to try to get this over the goal line," said spokesman Sean McCormack.

But chances of a breakthrough appeared slim when Sudanese Vice President Ali Osman Mohamed Taha left Abuja on Monday. A diplomat said Taha believed the rebel leaders did not want substantive talks.

McCormack urged Sudan's government to send a senior representative back to Abuja, adding that while some progress had been made, key issues still had to be resolved.

Zoellick, who has traveled to Sudan four times, will be accompanied to Abuja by Jendayi Frazer, assistant secretary of state for African affairs, and Roger Winter, special representative for Sudan.

In Abuja, Zoellick will also meet Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo as well as the commanders of the AU mission in Sudan to discuss deteriorating security in Darfur.

Southern Sudan/GoSS/SPLM/A

South Sudan receives \$212 mln as oil revenue of first quarter 2006

(*ST* – 1st May, **Khartoum**) The Federal Ministry of Finance and National Economy has announced the payment of all the dues owed to the Government of Southern Sudan from oil revenues in the first quarter of this year. The amount is 212m dollars.

In his meeting today [*1st May*] with the joint committee between the national government and the government of the South to oversee oil revenues, the undersecretary in the Ministry of Finance, Al-Sheikh Mohamed al-Maki said direct transfers to the Government of the South amounted to 162m dollars and this amount was disbursed in the period between January and March.

There was also another actual disbursement of 16m dollars in the same period, the state-run SUNA said.

He added that the remaining southern dues, amounting to 33.4m dollars, were disbursed last April.

Other developments

Turabi: Unconventional weapons entered Sudan

(*AlSudani* – 2nd May, **Khartoum**) Defence minister AbdelRaheem Mohamed Hussein has slammed recent statements of Dr. Turabi that unconventional weapons entered Sudan either as a transit point to the east and north or as a final destination for these weapons from China and Iraq.

Turabi had claimed these weapons sneaked into the country without his knowledge during his days in power.

The defence minister wondered how these weapons could have sneaked in without Turabi's knowledge and challenged Dr. Turabi to come up with evidence. The minister pointed out the Americans upturned Iraq but did not find any unconventional weapon and wondered whether Turabi was himself far cleverer than the Americans or is it logical that the Chinese would do such a thing.