



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN  
UNMIS

**UNMIS Media Monitoring Report, 11<sup>th</sup> May 2006**  
**(By Public Information Office)**

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## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

### **UN/ AU-UN Transition**

#### **UN Secretary-General Annan says UN will take over security in Darfur**

(*AlAyaam* – 11<sup>th</sup> May. **Agencies**) The US has circulated to Security Council members a draft resolution calling for an immediate deployment of UN forces to Darfur and requesting Khartoum to cooperate with the assessment mission the UN will be sending to Darfur.

Speaking before a ministerial meeting of the Security Council, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said that the UN will take over responsibility of security in Darfur as requested by the African Union Peace & Security Council last March and in compliance to the decisions of the Security Council of 24<sup>th</sup> March.

#### **UN calls on the government of North Darfur to improve the security in the camps**

(*AlAyaam* – 11<sup>th</sup> May. **Khartoum**) The UN has called on the government of North Darfur State to improve the security situation around the IDP camps and facilitate the movement of relief workers.

UNMIS Spokesperson Baha Elkoussy said that SRSG Jan Pronk has held talks with the *Wali* [governor] of North Darfur on ongoing efforts by the UN to bridge the views of the major parties to the Darfur issue and for tribal reconciliation in the region.

The Spokesperson told *AlAyaam* that the SRSG has called on the government of North Darfur to improve the security situation around the camps and to support the AU protection forces in carrying out their duties in the best possible way and to facilitate the operations of UN and humanitarian agencies in the area.

#### **UN urges solutions to the problems of eastern Sudan and Abyei\***

(*AlRai AlAam, AlAyaam* – 11<sup>th</sup> May. **Khartoum**) The UN has underlined the need for the parties to the issue of eastern Sudan to start talks before the end of the current month.

UNMIS Principal Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the UN, Taye-Brook Zerihoun, in a statement by UNMIS yesterday, urged the parties to seat at the negotiations table in Eritrea.

Zerihoun commended the government for accepting the Eritrean government's offer to mediate.

Meanwhile, UNMIS Spokesperson Baha Elkoussy reveals that a meeting took place recently between the PDSRSG and minister Deng Alor of the Presidency. The meeting, he says, addressed the outstanding issues in the implementation of the CPA in addition to the work of UNMIS in Sudan. They also discussed mechanisms for bolstering efforts for a solution to the problems of eastern Sudan, Abyei and the Lord's Resistance Army, said Elkoussy.

Zerihwon also called upon the Council of Ministers<sup>o</sup> to help end the ongoing conflict on the issue of Darfur according to the timeline set by the ABC panel of experts last July.

The PDSRSG further complained of obstacles to the movements of UNMOs in Abyei.

Minister Deng Alor promised that the SPLM and the NCP will continue discussing the issue according to what the CPA stipulates.

The UNMIS press release also noted the Lord's Resistance Army menace in the region and called for a joint regional and international mechanism to address the issue.

*\* Full text of the UNMIS Press Release is attached as a separate supplement to this MMR*

*°The AlAyaam version quotes the Spokesperson as saying that the PDSRSG has called on the government to issue a Presidential Statement to end the conflict over the Abyei Boundaries*

### **5 year old run over by UNICEF vehicle in Bor**

(*Juba Post* – 10<sup>th</sup> May. **Khartoum**) A 5-year old boy sustained serious head injuries after being run over by a UNICEF car in Bor on Monday while on his way to a vaccination centre, says a medical assistant at the health centre.

The medical assistant accompanied the boy when he was transported to Khartoum for treatment and is now taking care of him in the Khartoum Teaching Hospital.

He said that preliminary investigation results have shown there will be no permanent brain damage to the boy but the boy is still unable to speak or eat.

UNICEF has agreed to shoulder the expenses for the treatment.

### **AU commission chairman urges UN force for Darfur**

(*AP/ST* – 10<sup>th</sup> May. **Copenhagen**) The African Union commission chairman said Wednesday that a large U.N. peacekeeping force should be deployed quickly in Sudan's Darfur region.

African Union Commission Chairman Alpha Oumar Konaré, who met Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen before a one-day conference on Africa here Thursday, expressed hope that the United Nations would decide on a proposed Darfur peacekeeping force soon.

"We need a massive and strong commitment without delay," Konaré said.

A peace agreement reached by Sudanese authorities and Darfur's main rebel group last week in Abuja, Nigeria, could help end fighting that has killed at least 180,000 people in three years and displaced more than 2 million.

The United States and other world powers are pushing for a force under the command of the United Nations that is double the size of the AU force there, but Sudan's government has yet to agree.

The AU's 7,200 peacekeepers, now low on funds, have largely been ineffective in stopping atrocities and re-establishing security, leaving tens of thousands of people sheltering in camps with little food or water.

Future U.N. peacekeepers in Darfur should include troops from several African nations, Konaré said, adding hopes other rebel fractions would soon join the tentative peace deal.

"We understand that several rebel groups have differences (in opinion), but we hope they will join," Konaré told reporters.

"Let's be clear, there is no military solution to this, the movements cannot win the war, just as the Sudanese government cannot settle this with arms," he added.

Fogh Rasmussen said Denmark would provide assistance to reconstruct Darfur worth 200 million kroner (A27 million; US\$34.5 million).

Besides Konaré, other participants will include U.N.'s deputy secretary-general Mark Malloch Brown, Mozambique Prime Minister Luisa Dias Diogo and Tanzania's foreign minister, Asha-Rose Migiro.

### **UN envoy concerned by WFP aid cut for Sudan**

(*Xinhua/ST* – 10<sup>th</sup> May. **Nairobi**) The United Nations envoy on hunger has expressed deep concern over the drastic aid cut for millions of Sudanese starting this month.

In a statement received here Wednesday, Swiss Jean Ziegler, UN special rapporteur of the commission on human rights on the right to food, called on countries to honor their obligations under a global treaty and work alongside the authorities in Sudan to help feed the millions of Sudanese in need.

"The Special Rapporteur on the right to food calls on the government of Sudan, in cooperation with the UN system, to address the problem of food security in a long-term perspective through adequate policies and programs," the statement said.

Ziegler's statement comes after the UN World Food Program (WFP) announced that it has been forced to cut food rations for millions of Sudanese following a huge shortfall in requested funds.

"Ziegler is deeply concerned by the drastic food cuts for millions of Sudanese as from May 2006," said the statement.

The UN envoy on hunger pointed out that the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights obliges states parties "to respond quickly and in an appropriate manner to emergency food situations on the territory of a state member of the United Nations."

Ziegler requested that member states immediately honour their legal obligations and ensure the realization of the right to food of the suffering populations, in close collaboration with the authorities of Sudan.

"This is urgently needed to save the lives of thousands of people in this country," he said.

**CPA**

## **Parties to the CPA overcome their differences over the constitution of Khartoum State**

(*AlRai AlAam/Sudan Vision* – 11<sup>th</sup> May. **Khartoum**) Vice-Presidents Kiir and Taha held talks yesterday which culminated in an end to the differences between the SPLM and NCP over the constitution of Khartoum State.

A phrase in the preamble was accepted by the SPLM following a slight alteration to read “Governance is in accordance to heavenly religions” instead of the original “Governance is to Allah”. Clauses also on safeguarding of the rights of non-Muslims in the national capital were also revisited.

The SPLM team in the constitution review committee are to resume sessions of the committee following a short boycott.

## **Influx of IDPs in Yei**

(*Juba Post* – 11<sup>th</sup> May. **Yei**) The Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission reporting from Yei on 3<sup>rd</sup> May said that 3,600 returnees have arrived in Yei country in the last two weeks.

The majority, says the relief agency, have come from the DRC.

## **GoNU**

### **SPLM criticizes performance of the national media**

(*Khartoum Monitor* – 10<sup>th</sup> May. **Khartoum**) SPLM’s parliamentary group chairman Yasir Arman has said the movement is not happy with the performance of the media. He stated that the SPLM perceives the national media is expressing a single opinion, alone with one party’s view and that it does not reflect the policy of the Government of National Unity (GONU).

Arman demanded that the media reflect the entire spectrum of opinions: "There is no difference between the media now and the media before the [Comprehensive] peace agreement", he said.

The Federal Ministry of Information presented before the national parliament its plans to restructure the ministry and adapt it with the requirement of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. Arman criticized the performance of the media after the statement of the federal minister, al-Zahawi Ibrahim to the parliament.

"This piece of criticism should not be misconstrued as being against the ruling National Congress", Arman stressed, adding that GONU was striving to make the media aware of its policies and also the activities of parties like the Ummah party, the Popular Congress and others.

Arman stated that the shortcomings of the media discourage the implementation of the peace agreement.

He said the upcoming referendum would be seen as a litmus test of the media as it would require a media that shows concern for political and cultural diversity, and which also acts as a reminder of the new regime: "It is in the interest of the NC to highlight the fact that there is a new regime", he explained.

### **Health minister says no apology for recommending condom use**

(*Juba Post* – 11<sup>th</sup> May. **Khartoum**) An MP on the NCP ticket has called for the resignation and an apology from health minister Ms. Tabitha Boutrous following her ministry's recommendations last Monday that people use condoms to protect themselves against HIV/AIDS.

The MP, Dafallah Hassab-el-Rasoul argues that “condom use contradicts conventions” and that the MoH's advice is impractical. He wondered whether it was the health minister's intentions to “promote condom use among the youth to encourage immorality”.

The health minister defended the ministry's line and said an apology was not warranted.

Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Atem Garang, referred the minister's statements to the Parliamentary Committee on Health Affairs for discussion and dismissed Hassab-el-Rasoul's demands for an apology pointing out that it was totally within the jurisdiction of the Minister of Health to make such a statement.

## **DPA**

### **Students take to the streets in Khartoum to protest over DPA**

(*AIRai AlAam* – 11<sup>th</sup> May. **Khartoum**) Traffic and business was brought to a standstill for a couple of hours yesterday in the central Khartoum business district as people took to the streets to protest against the recently-signed Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA).

Many were forced to walk back home from Khartoum for lack of public transport vehicles from central Khartoum.

Khartoum State Police blame the students at the University of Khartoum for starting the demonstrations which they described in a press release as “limited”.

Some students participating in the demonstrations told the paper that they were protesting against the DPA which they described as unjust and not representative of the aspirations of the people of Darfur.

Police meanwhile says it has detained a number of people who participated in the demonstrations.

### **Sudan allocates eight seats in the federal parliament to SLM-Minnawi**

(*SRS/ST* – 10<sup>th</sup> May. **Nairobi**) Sudan has reserved eight parliamentary seats for Darfur rebel Sudan Liberation Movement faction of Mini Minnawi that signed a peace accord with the Sudanese government on last Friday 5 May in Abuja.

The Speaker of Sudan's National Assembly, Ahmed Ibrahim al-Taher, disclosed that eight parliamentary seats have been reserved for the main faction of the SLM that did sign the peace agreement last week and that the SLM may take the seats as soon as the implementation of the peace agreement starts.

According to the signed Darfur peace Agreement, twelve seats in the National Assembly in Khartoum are allocated to the rebel movements.

In an interview from Nairobi where he attended the Inter-parliamentary Union assembly, al-Taher told Sudan Radio Service (SRS) that the Government of National Unity is exerting efforts to convince the Darfur rebel movements that did not sign the Abuja peace agreement last Friday to rally behind the agreement.

Speaker Ahmed Ibrahim said “I think this agreement is a conclusive agreement; dealing with the main faction is a success to the government. Perhaps some problems might be created but still we have to make some efforts to convince them to rally behind the agreement. Dr. Majzoub Al Khalifa is still urging them to come to negotiations to sign the agreement.”

On the issue of disarming the Janjaweed militia, Al-Tahir said there are “outlaws” in Darfur that will be disarmed by the government, but he did not want to refer to the Janjaweed as outlaws.

### **El-Fasher receives SLM leaders**

(*AlAyaam*, ST – 11<sup>th</sup> May. **Khartoum**) An advance delegation of the SLM is expected later today in El-Fasher.

The delegation which will be led by the SLA commander will address a rally highlighting the people on the DPA.

Despite admitting that the DPA has some shortcomings which he did not mention, Mini Minnawi who addressed a press conference in Khartoum over satellite phone yesterday confirmed commitment to its implementation in a bid to realise a transformation to democracy.

The leader of the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM), Mini Arkoi Minnawi faction, has said signing the peace agreement with the government came with the desire to bring peace for the sake of lifting the suffering of the Darfur citizens and to actively participate in development and reconstruction.

Minnawi said his movement represented the spearhead in advocating for change. He reiterated the movement commitment to implement the clauses of the Darfur agreement and added that the SLM would engage in political activities soon by setting up offices in different parts of the country so as to participate with the political forces in the country for the sake of development in the country.

Asked on the issue of international sanctions on perpetrators of crimes in Darfur, Minnawi said that this is an issue that concerns the international community and neither his movement nor the government is concerned.

Mustapha Abubakar, a spokesperson for the SLM, told the press conference at the Friendship Hall yesterday that the deteriorating situation in the IDP camps in Darfur, the fact that humanitarian aid agencies announced they are cutting down on assistance to Darfur, the looming rainy season and the militia groups out of control are among the pressures that they faced during the talks and that led them to sign the agreement in the long run.

The SLM spokesperson made mention of the fact that the death toll as a result of the conflict in Darfur has reached the 180,000 mark.

He noted the role the agreement will play in creating stability in the region through representation of the people of Darfur in the presidential and constitutional institutions.

In holding this unprecedented press conference, Minnawi meant to disprove statements of his political advisor Ibrahim Ahmed Ibrahim who said in a letter addressed to the UN Secretary General that Minnawi signed Darfur agreement under pressures.

### **Darfur peacekeepers must have arms to enforce truce - UK Blair**

(*AP/ST* – 10<sup>th</sup> May. **London**) Peacekeeping forces in Sudan's shattered Darfur region must have the arms needed to enforce a truce there, Prime Minister Tony Blair said Wednesday.

A U.N. Security Council meeting has demanded that rebel groups in Darfur join the peace deal signed last week.

Blair, asked about the deal during his weekly House of Commons question session, said it was crucial that Sudan drop its long-standing opposition to letting the United Nations take control of the force of 7,200 African Union peacekeepers in Darfur.

Sudan has said that the peace deal has largely addressed its objections to that transfer of power.

"Secondly, we have to make sure that in the new force that is deployed we have sufficient firepower that we are able to make sure that any agreement is properly policed," Blair said. "And we are looking at this now, urgently, with particularly the United States of America but other NATO partners to see what more we can do."

"The situation in Sudan is very, very serious indeed, there are thousands of people dying needlessly," he said.

Blair said the troubles in Darfur underlined the need for a standing peacekeeping force for Africa.

"In the end the problem in these situations is not just humanitarian, it's that unless the opposing sides can be kept apart - and that requires military force - it's very, very difficult for the humanitarian aid to be effective," he said.

### **Japan reaffirms financial support to Sudan's Darfur**

(*ST* – 10<sup>th</sup> May. **New York**) Japan's Senior Vice Foreign Minister Yasuhisa Shiozaki reaffirmed Tokyo's commitment to providing financial support for resolving the Darfur conflict in western Sudan in a speech to the United Nations Security Council on Tuesday.

According to the Japanese news agency Kyodo, Shiozaki expressed hope that the Abuja peace agreement adopted Friday could be implemented as soon as possible "with the strong commitment of the parties" and urged the two remaining rebel groups to also sign on to the agreement.

Tokyo is ready to study a plan to deploy UN peacekeeping forces to Darfur to assist the 7,000 African Union troops already stationed in the region, Shiozaki said, and to support "its deployment as appropriate."



Shiozaki also stressed the need for humanitarian assistance in the region, saying "improvement of the humanitarian situation in Darfur is an immediate challenge for the international community."

He said the Sudanese government's cooperation in "facilitating humanitarian activities" and funding for such activities was "indispensable."

In addition to Shiozaki, ministerial-level officials from the permanent five members of the Security Council - Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States - and UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan were also present at a special meeting of the Security Council.

"There is a vast amount to be done, and no time to lose," Annan said at the meeting. He has called the Darfur conflict, in which at least 180,000 have been killed and two million more made homeless in the last three years, "the world's worst humanitarian crisis."

## **Southern Sudan**

### **Dramatic increase in GoSS military budget**

(*Juba Post* – 11<sup>th</sup> May. **Juba**) The GoSS parliament has dramatically increased its budget for defence expenditure on the SPLA to around 40% (\$536 million) of the fiscal budget for 2006.

The total GoSS budget was unanimously agreed at and stands at \$1.3 million all of which will be raised through the oil revenue.

The assembly noted that the GoS ministries will receive a larger share of the budget than that allocated for the different states.

The Legislative Assembly described as an "abuse of privilege" the unnecessary expenditure by government officials. It says domestic and international travel rates by GoSS officials represent the highest expenditure in the budget and must be cut down to facilitate other essential services.

The Legislative Assembly called on the GoSS' Minister of Finance and Economic Planning to initiate plans to exploit southern Sudan's natural resources to supplement the oil revenue.

### **New Lord's Resistance Army base found in Limo, 30 miles south of Juba**

(*Juba Post* – 11<sup>th</sup> May. **Juba**) Local village residents and police officer Cosmos Nganki believe a new campsite for the Lord's Resistance Army is in Limo village some 30 miles south of Juba.

On 1<sup>st</sup> May bandits believed to be Lord's Resistance Army attacked cattle keepers in Kansuk village, 15 miles south of Juba, at night. The cattle keepers who were armed following similar attacks earlier managed to repel the attackers and were joined later on with some SPLA soldiers who pursued the fleeing attackers in vain.

The villagers are pleading for support from the police and the local government as they have run out of ammunition and may not be able to repulse further attacks should they occur.

The rebels are said to be using the same route through Limo for four previous attacks around the area.

## **Governors' Forum of South Sudan launched**

(*Juba Post* – 11<sup>th</sup> May. **Juba**) A five-day forum was held in Juba to help represent the interests of the states, assist in coordination between the GoSS and states, capacity development for governors and enhancing learning and sharing among them.

Vice-President Riek Machar who addressed the forum called on governors to be fully informed about the activities of the organisations that operate within their states.

Governors of the ten states and their ministers, GoSS ministers and representatives of the UN and NGOs attended the meeting.

## **Uniformed bandits repeatedly hit Yei**

(*Juba Post* – 11<sup>th</sup> May. **Yei**) Four incidents of robbery reportedly committed by small groups of men dressed in military attire have occurred within the last four days in Yei County.

UN police raised the issue with the Executive Director and the local police in Yei.

The Executive Director stated that the SPLA will relocate some troops to Lainya County and called for registration cards for all soldiers who are on authorised businesses in Yei town.

## **White Nile starts seismic tests in South Sudan**

(*Financial Times/ST* – 10<sup>th</sup> May. **London**) White Nile, the Aim-listed oil explorer run by ex-cricketer Phil Edmonds and business partner Andrew Groves, has started gathering seismic data after many months of delays at its controversial project in Sudan.

The company had been conducting seismic tests on an oilfield in the oil-rich south of Sudan known as Block Ba for more than a month, said Mr Groves, chief executive, yesterday.

It plans to drill its first well by the end of this year and could be pumping oil in 2011, he added.

White Nile will be carrying out seismic tests to map out Block Ba's oil reservoirs until November, at a cost of \$16m (£8.6m). It plans to drill its first exploration well before the end of the year, with a second well to follow in early 2007.

Questions about White Nile's operations in the Sudan have been raised after it failed to make significant progress in the last year.

It has also faced claims from Total of France that it owns the rights to the site, having conducted seismic tests in the 1980s.

The French oil group still claims to have the drilling rights to the block, citing an agreement with the government in the north.

But last year White Nile struck a deal with the new government in the south, which declared itself a breakaway republic from the north of the country following the end of a bitter civil war.

The new government, which owns 48 per cent of White Nile through a vehicle called Nile Petroleum, has said it does not recognise past agreements made by the Khartoum government.

Mr Groves yesterday said the seismic work on Block Ba had been delayed after the dynamite needed for the tests went missing on its sea journey from the US.

The current testing is focused on the western part of Block Ba, which White Nile's geologists think could be an extension of the Jonglei Basin, where ONGC of India, Petronas of Malaysia and CNOOC of China are currently producing oil.

White Nile is also spending \$2m on clearing land mines and other explosives, left by both sides in Sudan's conflict, from the area.

Shares in White Nile took off at the end of April, rising from about 100p to 180p, in spite of a statement from the company saying it knew of no reason for the rise.

They closed down 3p at 176p, valuing the company at about £558m.

White Nile listed on Aim as a cash shell in February last year and its shares rose from 10p to 138p in the first week of trading.

## **Other Developments**

### **Fire engulfs Buri power station**

(*AlAyaam* – 11<sup>th</sup> May. **Khartoum**) The local fire brigade took more than two hours to put down the flames that broke out at the Burri power station in Khartoum yesterday following sparks from some welding works.

The plant has fallen in disuse since a similar fire broke out last year and is said to have been sold to Giad company and a private investor.