



## UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN

## UNMIS

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(By Public Information Office)

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## Highlights

### UN/ Agencies

#### [Sudan still withholds \\$13 m needed for census - UN](#)

(ST) March 31, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — Sudan's government has not released \$13 million in funds needed to pay those carrying out its first census since a north-south peace deal ended Africa's longest civil war in 2005, a U.N. official said on Monday.

The census, highly politicized because it will help determine wealth and power sharing, has been delayed by disputes over the questions to be asked, funding and difficulties mapping massive, mine-ridden remote areas.

Rebels from Sudan's outlying reaches have fought central government for more equal share of resources on and off since 1955. Sudan produces more than 500,000 barrels per day of oil.

The census is due to start on April 15 and for two weeks will employ around 60,000 people throughout the million square mile nation to count the number of people, with questions on whether they are northern or southern — critical for a 2011 referendum in which southerners could decide on secession.

"This year they (the government) said they would pay an additional \$18 million ... but they have only released \$5 million as we speak," Herbert Kandeh, the chief U.N. technical adviser to the census, said.

He said this was for salaries for those filling out the questionnaires and said if employees were not paid they may be reluctant to hand over their work, so it was important to have the money as early as possible.

The government has promised it by the end of this week, but even then, it could take weeks to filter down, he added.

"The result of the census will be used to determine constituencies for power sharing and wealth sharing so that's what makes the Sudan census very unique and very political," Kandeh said in the interview with Reuters and the BBC.

### ELECTIONS

While the census would not be an electoral registration, it would help determine the spread and number of constituencies.

Under the 2005 peace deal, elections will be held by end 2009. The war was fuelled by religion, ethnicity and oil. Many in the north are Muslim and many southerners are Christian or follow animist faiths.

But after decades of north-south war much of the old distrust has complicated the census implementation, which will cost \$103 million in total, part funded by donors.

Kandeh said southern authorities kept changing their minds on including questions on ethnicity and religion but questionnaires were eventually printed with those issues removed, instead adding a question on whether people were northerners, southerners, or neither.

He said the north had rejected printing extra questionnaires for the south fearing the equivalent of ballot stuffing during the census.

However, Kandeh said despite all the obstacles he was optimistic the census would finally happen between April 15-30.

In Sudan's western Darfur region five years of war has displaced 2.5 million and international experts estimate some 200,000 have died. Many in Darfur's refugee camps distrust the government and have refused to take part in the census.

Kandeh said 34 percent of camps within Darfur and 19 percent of its administrative areas had not been accessed either because of insecurity or because they refused to take part, but he hoped that would change during discussions ahead of April 15.

Kandeh said the final census results were expected around September.

### **GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)**

#### **The Presidency will discuss today Abyei and Elections Act**

(Al-Rai Al-Aam) The Presidency will hold an important meeting today to discuss the latest developments with regard to Abyei, elections Act and Census.

Foreign Minister, Deng Alor, said President Bashir and the First Vice President Salva Kiir would hold the meeting. He said the Presidency would discuss in details the issue of Abyei, Elections Act and preparations for population census.

#### **Sudan demolishes over 6000 landmines in Juba**

(ST) March 31, 2008 (KHARTOUM) – UN peacekeepers today destroyed 6,186 landmines in an area 35 kilometers northwest of Juba, marking Sudan's compliance with the 1997 Ottawa Convention on Antipersonnel Landmine Stockpile Destruction.

UN engineers and de-mining experts from the Bangladeshi De-mining Company, part of the Bangladeshi contingent of the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS), used some 13 tones of TNT and plastic explosives to destroy the mines.

Sudanese officials attended the demolition from the federal government, the government of southern Sudan, diplomatic corps as well as the representatives of UN agencies and NGOs

From the federal government, State Minister at the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs Ahmed Haroun and State Minister at the Ministry of Transport Dr. Mabrouk Mubarak Saleem attended the demolition of landmines.

Government of Southern Sudan Internal Security and Police Minister Paul Mayom acclaimed the demolition as the first of its kind in the history of Southern Sudan. "This is a clear symbol signaling that there is no more resort to war between the SPLM and the NCP", he said.

SPLA soldiers from the Joint Integrated De-mining Unit — one of many joint units that now bring together soldiers the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and the SPLA — transported the landmine stockpiles from several locations throughout Southern Sudan to the area near Luri, about 35 kilometers northwest of the regional capital of Juba.

SPLA Captain Acien Manguek, standing beside one of the six pits filled with landmines an hour before the demolition, spoke of new friendships formed between the former enemies.

"We have become friends with them (soldiers from the SAF) because we are doing one job, fighting one enemy: mines," he said. "We were lacking equipment to do this and are very grateful that the Bangladesh [contingent of UN peacekeepers] is helping — we appreciate them very much," he added.

### [Call for UN to confront Sudan over alleged war criminals](#)

(ST) March 31, 2008 (LONDON) — The letter, distributed by U.K. charity The Aegis Trust - which campaigns against genocide worldwide - called on members of the Security Council to "visit Khartoum at the earliest possible opportunity to demand that the suspects are handed to the ICC (International Criminal Court)."

Among the signatories are Carla del Ponte and Richard Goldstone, former chief prosecutors for the International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda respectively, former U.K. justice minister Charles Falconer and former Canadian justice minister Irwin Cotler.

They called on the council to freeze the personal assets of Sudanese government officials harboring the two suspects - Ahmed Haroun and Ali Koshieb - and any others suspected of committed war crimes in Sudan's Darfur region.

"The government of Sudan has no serious intention to investigate past or ongoing crimes in Darfur," the letter read.

Haroun, Sudan's secretary of state for humanitarian affairs, and pro- government Janjaweed militia leader Koshieb have both been issued arrest warrants for war crimes by the ICC.

More than 2 million people have fled their homes, at least 200,000 have died from the combined effects of famine, and conflict since Khartoum enlisted militia allies to put down a local revolt in Darfur in 2003, according to the U.N.

#### Ceasefire Political Committee honors Chairman of Ceasefire Joint Military Committee

(Sudan Vision) UN Peacekeeping Force Commander and Chairman of Ceasefire Joint Military Committee (CJMC) Lieutenant General Jasper Lidder was honoured by the committee after his mission came to an end following his 27 months working in Sudan. During the occasion, the Commander gave the following speech of appreciation of his experience in Sudan:

"My mission has come to end after two years and three months of very exciting and very affectionate tenure here as force commander and chairman of ceasefire joint military committee. It has been a fantastic experience coming here and working with both parties trying to support the CPA and I have humbly to see that the ceasefire is held in place and the redeployment and other security protocols have been met. I am extremely grateful to the very good support extended by the two parties towards this. We are in a place where there has been a conflict for long so there are no ready made solutions. We are dealing with set up challenges which have historical linkages and therefore it requires perseverance and it requires deep understanding and it requires commitment from both two parties and the UN can only be a facilitator. And to that extent I would like to express my deep gratitude to both parties for having supported me as the force commander as well as chairman of ceasefire joint military committee in trying to meet the deadlines of the CPA. There have been several slippages but by and large the CPA implementation as far as the security protocol is concerned is on track. We successfully redeployed the SPLA from Eastern Sudan and besides the redeployment from the South is now nearly 97%. We have a little problem of voluntary demobilized soldiers and we hope we shall overcome that. The SPLA has also begun to redeploy from both the Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan. We have a problem about reconciliation of their figures because they have certain people who will be demobilized in these areas and certain people will join the police. That is also a matter of staff work and shortly we will be able to resolve it. It is a good sign that both sides are redeploying and the other armed groups stand broadly integrated into others and the joint-integrated units are also making good progress. As you know, the UN now has a role to facilitate international support to the JIUs and we have really accelerated the redeployment of the JIUs. The security situation in the ceasefire zone is stable. Of course having said that there are certain challenges which if they are not addressed they could give ground for violence and I am very sure my successor will take up from whatever I am leaving behind here and I am very optimistic that we will have very successful implementation of the CPA. I will hope and pray that Sudan grows into a very prosperous, stable and secure nation with its wide resources. I will like to express my best wishes to the entire people of Sudan, the government officials and the parties with whom I have interacted for their help they have given to me and I wish them all the best wishes.

## [Sudan Security Chief: No legislation to control foreign existence in Sudan](#)

(Khartoum Monitor) The Chief of National Security and Intelligence, Salah Abdallah Gosh, said a huge number of foreigners from different countries have illegally infiltrated the country without control.

He added that the number of foreigners in Sudan is not limited. Mr. Gosh made the statement while addressing a workshop on foreign existence and its impact on Sudanese national security. The Committee of National Defence organized the workshop yesterday.

He said that about 42212 foreigners were given Sudanese nationality and that some tribes have completely moved into Sudan with their chiefs.

Gosh went on to say that foreign existence has advantages and disadvantages pointing out the different faces of foreign existence. Mr. Gosh attributed the problem of refugees and foreigners to the absence of laws and legislation that control foreigners' movements within the Sudanese territories.

He also stated the negative effect of foreigners was very clear in the field of information exchange and its impact on roads and airports, besides introducing bad customs and traditions, which are against nation's beliefs and culture. "Diplomatic Missions are exercising supervisory role over the legislative and executive power and they speak about the elections bill, budget and presidency issues" said Gosh.

He also explained that some Non-Governmental organizations (NGOs) have crossed the red line. According to him, some NGOs registered for specific goals but actively work on other agenda. He took "medicines sans frontiers" and "relief international Organizations" as living examples of violations made by NGOs.

For his part, Interior Minister Ibrahim Mahmood Hamid said security becomes one of the state's challenges, indicating the extensive existence of foreigners through United Nations Missions in Sudan (UNMIS) and UNAMID, which he said, is according to UN Security Council resolutions, the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and the need for humanitarian work.

## [Security, Intelligence chief says national accord necessary for countering foreign presence threat \(Sudan Vision\)](#)

The Chief of National Security and Intelligence, Lt. Gen. Salah Abdullah Goush, has stressed the importance of national accord for countering the threats of foreign presence to the national security of the country, pointing out that Sudan is presently passing through an interim phase during which basic issues and ideals that govern political practices have not yet been decided.

Addressing a workshop on "The Impact of Foreign Presence on Sudanese National Security", organized by Security and Defence Committee in the National Assembly, Goush considered exploitation of political crises by some Sudanese political forces

and their adoption of stances that are in conflict with the country's interests, such as the call for foreign intervention, as political intriguing.

He alerted to the hazards and threats of foreign presence as represented in conveying confidential information about the country's undiscovered resources, trading in customs facilities and exemptions through organizations for the benefit of their countries, redundancy of Sudanese workers in the labour market and introduction of diseases such as AIDS.

He further revealed violations committed by diplomatic missions and international voluntary organizations operating in Sudan. He said they have crossed all the red lines, citing as instances violations made by some ambassadors, direct intervention into the country's internal affairs, the talk on degree and form of freedoms granted, the elections act and the state's budget. He also referred to other breaches by international organizations working in the humanitarian field that act as spies for their respective countries to relay important information on Sudan. He also drew attention to the dangers of illegal foreign presence to the security of Sudan and its neighbors.

Goush deplored the absence of national legislations that control foreign presence, civil record and population census, attributing the rise in foreign presence in the country to several factors among them Sudan's open and uncontrolled borders with neighbouring countries, its geographical location and the tolerant disposition of Sudanese people to foreigners, particularly nationals of neighbouring countries.

[SAF spokesperson: SAF will not intervene in Abyei; the issue will be resolved by the Presidency \(Al-Khartoum\)](#)

(Al-Khartoum) SAF spokesperson, Brig. Osman Mohamed Ahmed Al-Aqbash, affirmed SAF withdrawal to the north of 1956 Line adding that SAF would not violate security arrangements.

He said Abyei issue would be resolved by the Presidency, as it is the only body authorized to discuss and resolve it.

[Sudan fulfils all its commitments to Ottawa treaty by destroying more than 6,000 landmines](#)

Juba, March 31 (SUNA) - Sudan has declared fulfillment of all its commitments to the Ottawa treaty on combating anti-personnel landmines by destroying more than 6,000 landmines in Juba Monday.

The State Minister at the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Ahmed Haroun, State Minister at the Ministry of Transport Dr. Mabrouk Mubarak Saleem, representatives of the Government of Southern Sudan, United Nations Mission in Sudan, NGOs and a number of ambassadors accredited to Sudan attended the destruction process of 6,186 landmines, carried out in an area 35 kilometers west of Juba.

The Director of the National Mine Action Centre, Col. Awad Al-Bashir, affirmed that Sudan now has destroyed all its stockpile of landmines.

### [Interior Minister calls for collective popular and official efforts to face threats of foreign presence](#)

Khartoum, March 31 (SUNA) - Interior Minister Engineer Ibrahim Mahmoud Hamid has called for collective popular and official efforts to face the threats of foreign presence in the country. The minister was addressing Monday a workshop on the foreign presence and its impact on the national security, organized by the Security and Defence Committee of the National Assembly. The minister pointed out that the workshop is important for drawing attention to the threats posed by the foreign presence and working out solutions to the phenomenon. The Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Mohamed Al-Hassan Al-Amin, for his part, affirmed that Sudan would not allow overstepping the agreements and conventions it signed and that caused the foreign presence in the country. He called for working out a scientific study for dealing with the foreign presence in Sudan in all its forms in a view to control its social and economic effects. The Director of the National Security and Intelligence Service, Gen. Salah Abdallah, on his part, pointed to the danger of absence of legislations to control the foreign presence to prevent its threats to the national security of the country. Gen. Abdallah called for agreement on an overall vision for the protection of the potentialities of the Sudanese nation and conducting dialogue for realizing national consensus by the Sudanese people. He pointed out that Sudan is undergoing a stage of shaping its political future, referring in this regard to the growing role of the foreign presence and its interference in the Sudanese affairs to influence the future of the country. Presidential Adviser Dr. Amna Dirar, on her part, said the foreign presence in the country has become a reality that should be dealt with taking into consideration the civilizational heritage of the Sudan. Dr. Amna called for the integration of the foreigner, who accepts the norms, customs and traditions of the Sudan.

### **GoSS**

### [Jonglei returnees pour into Bor to participate in census](#)

(ST) March 31, 2008 (BOR, Jonglei) — Over five hundred internally displaced persons (IDPs) have returned to Jonglei after a long time in Diaspora on Sunday March 30 and ready for the fifth Sudan Houses and Population Census.

A convoy of fifteen trucks, carrying IDPs from Lobone, Magwai county - Eastern Equatoria state in Southern Sudan, stormed Jonglei capital – Bor town with drums beat singing songs of praises and proceeded to Baidit payam, twenty miles north of Bor town.

It is the first time, in more than twenty years, for some IDPs to see their motherland thus evitable to praise God. ‘leecku Nhailic..,’ a course of Christians hymn in Dinka dialect meaning ‘let praise God..’

The IDPs, mainly from the Bor community, left their homes in late 1992 and early 1993 after a tribal conflict sparked by the South-North civil war that relieved Bor of



cattle dominated economy, losing thousands lives lost to starvation and related problems thereafter. Others left Bor in early 1980s.

The fifth Sudan housing and population census is set to start on April 15 and expected to continues for two week. Counting one at his/her motherland is greatly valued since sharing of wealth and power will be based on the forth coming census.

Jonglei has being receiving her citizens from Kenya, Uganda and other parts of the Sudan increasingly this year than ever. IDPs from Bumuri, Kajokeji County in Central Equatorai state arrived last week and more are expected.

The IDPs are dogged to settle in their villages ready to be counted. International Organization for migration (IOM) is facilitating the transport in conjunction with South Sudan Relief Rehabilitation Commission (SSRRC).

### [South Sudan parliament delays April session due to national census](#)

(ST) March 31, 2008 (JUBA) — the first session of Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly (SSLA) in 2008 scheduled for 7th April has been postponed to first week of May 2008, announced the Acting Speaker, Daniel Deng Monydit. The adjournment is decided to allow MPs to participate in national census mobilisation campaign.

According to Monydit, who is also the chairperson of security and public order of the assembly, the postponement came as a result of consultation he made with both the Speaker James Wani Igga and President of the government of Southern Sudan General Salva Kiir Mayardit.

The Acting Speaker said the reasons for the postponement is to allowed members of parliament to participate in their respective constituencies during the forth coming Sudan fifth Population and Housing Census, scheduled to kick off from 15th to 30th April 2008, in order to assist in the smooth running of the counting exercise which Monydit described as a national exercise upon which many things depends.

It is to be recalled that the first session of the assembly went on recess on 31st December 2007 after having passed seven crucial bills which are the Personal Income Tax passed by presidential order and endorsed by the assembly, Constituency Development Fund, Southern Sudan Research Council, GoSS Annual Budget 2008, the Judiciary bill, the Kush Institution, and a Code of Civil Procedure bill.

As stipulated in the CPA and the Interim Southern Sudan constitution, the life span of the current interim assembly is left with only two sessions, moreover there are a lot to be done in legislations.

On the other hand people are bitterly complaining on usage of Islamic law in southern Sudan courts as opposed to conventional laws which the parliament has yet to enact.

For them to set a good foundation in the history of southern Sudan, the lawmakers need to double their efforts in the remaining two sessions so as to legislate and pass the most needed bills such as human rights and anti corruptions bill.

The southern Sudan minister of Legal Affair and Constitutional Development in an exclusive interview to Sudan Tribune accused the assembly of not passing bills and said he see no reason of damping so many bills before the assembly.

Whereas the SSLA Chairperson of Information and Culture, in the press conference he held on 15th March 2008 denied that the assembly was delaying in passing bills; instead he said the bills were not brought to the assembly from the ministry of legal affairs and constitutional development, adding that they may be on the way or waiting to be pass by the councilor of ministers then to the assembly.

The pending bills before the assembly committee of legal, affairs are; Penal Code bill 2007, the ministry of legal affairs and constitutional development bill 2007, child bill 2007 and code of criminal procedure bill 2007.

## **Darfur**

### [South Africa urged to lead UN to action on Darfur](#)

(ST) March 31, 2008 (NEW YORK) — South Africa should use its Security Council presidency in April 2008 to make significant progress on human rights crises in Darfur, Somalia and Burma, Human Rights Watch said today.

"The Security Council should be signaling hope to civilians in crisis, but so far it has failed the people of Darfur, Burma and Somalia," Kenneth Roth, executive director of Human Rights Watch wrote in a letter to South Africa's minister of foreign affairs, Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, and members of the UN Security Council.

"South Africa should lead the Security Council in a major new international effort to end horrible abuses in these places and save lives." He added.

Violence against civilians in Darfur has surged in the past three months. The Sudanese government's February 2008 offensive in West Darfur saw displacement and killing of civilians on a scale not seen since the darkest days of the crisis in 2004.

"South Africa should push Sudan to allow the swift and unhindered deployment of peacekeepers to Darfur, including troops from outside Africa," said Roth.

The rights group also urged South Africa and other Security Council members to issue a presidential statement demanding that Khartoum immediately surrender for trial the two suspects named in arrest warrants by the International Criminal Court.

Khartoum continues to obstruct the deployment of the hybrid African Union/United Nations peacekeeping force, UNAMID. Rebel groups and former rebel groups continue to commit abuses against civilians, the HRW said.

### [Darfur displaced rejects Sudan census](#)

(ST) March 31, 2008 (NYALA) — Darfur displaced people showed on Monday their opposition to conduct the fifth national census in their region. They said determined to organise a protest in the different camps to mark their indignation.

Hussein Abu-Sharati, the spokesperson of Darfur displaced and refugees told Sudan Tribune that they reject the census because they want peace before to perform it or to run the elections.

"How they can conduct the census and we are living in these precarious camps without home or security. We have missing people and we ignore whether they are alive or dead." He said.

He added that Darfur refugees are disseminated in different countries including Chad and Central Africa Republic and they can't take part in this census. He underlined that there are more than 4 million Darfuris affected by the conflict.

"The IDPs are here inside the camps but the same number of people are dispersed in the different parts of the country" he said.

Most of Darfur forces expressed rejection of the national census that expected to start on April 15. Khartoum peace partner Minni Minawi, who signed a peace deal with the Sudanese government and the rebel Justice and equality Movement declared adopted hostile position to the census in the current situation.

Abu-Sharati said that Khartoum must remove all the new elements that arrived recently to Darfur. He said that the census will legitimize them as Sudanese national inhabiting IDPs villages in the region.

The refugees' representative underlined that demand for security remains IDPS main concern for the time being.

### **Miscellaneous**

#### [Ugandan rebel leader postpones peace deal signing](#)

(ST) April 1, 2008 (KAMPALA) — The leader of Uganda's Lord's Resistance Army rebels, Joseph Kony, has postponed signing a peace deal this week to end one of Africa's longest wars because he is sick, a source involved in the talks said on Tuesday.

Kony had been due to sign the final peace accord with the Ugandan government near his hideout on the Sudan/Congo border on Thursday. Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni had been due to travel to South Sudan to sign the document later.

"I don't know why he (Kony) postponed it. The story that he's got diarrhea," the source said. "is very frustrating but in the end it's a matter for the two parties to sort out."

Neither the Ugandan government nor LRA representatives were immediately available for comment.

Progress at peace talks in neighbouring South Sudan after nearly a month of deadlock had raised hopes of an end to a two-decade conflict that has killed tens of thousands of people and forced two million more out of their homes.

However, many Ugandans remain skeptical that Kony would sign a final peace deal and some government officials have accused the LRA of using the talks to buy time to rearm.

"There's a need for some brainstorming to see what to do," the source said.

The International Criminal Court in The Hague wants Kony and two of his senior deputies for multiple war crimes including rape, murder and the abduction of children. Fearing arrest, they have never appeared at the Juba talks.