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UNMIS**

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(By Public Information Office)

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## **HIGHLIGHTS :**

### **UN/ Agencies**

#### **UNMIS terminates 113 labourers**

(*Khartoum Monitor*) This lead story – in fact the only front-page story the paper carries today – reveals that the UNMIS served notice on 26 March to 113 individual contractors working under the Engineering Section that their contracts will not be extended beyond 31 March 2007.

The paper quotes Spokesperson Radhia Achouri as having told her over phone that there was a need to downscale the number of labourers on the grounds that the project they were working on is near completion and pointed out that this is in line with the contracts they signed which states in part that they should be informed whenever their services are no longer needed.

The labourers complain that some of them had worked for more than six months without signing any document and were not allowed to read the contracts when they were asked to sign. They also complained that UNMIS did not provide them with occupational safety.

The terminated labourers were said to have crowded before the UNMIS offices demanding their pay and are now being paid in groups of tens.

The *Khartoum Monitor* further points out that in an exclusive interview, one job seeker said that he had been promised a job for more than 13 months by the project manager and that he was eventually told by the manager when he approached him on the issue that he, the manager, was free to employ anyone of his own choice.

In conclusion, adds the paper, the labourers asked the question, “Does UNMIS come to make business at our expense?”

The paper further adds that the labourers have provided documented evidence of their claims.

#### **N. Darfur State offers condolence to AMIS in el-Fasher**

(*Khartoum Monitor*) A high delegation of N. Darfur State headed by the state government offered sincere condolences on behalf of the People of Darfur, the state government and the Sudan government on the recent killing of five Senegalese African Union Protection Force members in an ambush at Umm Barru on 1 April.

The delegation was met by the Deputy Head of AMIS at his office in el-Fasher who expressed firm resolve and commitment of the African Union Commission to accomplish its mandate at all costs and despite all odds.

On the other hand, *SudanTribune.com* reports that British Foreign and Commonwealth Office Minister for Africa, Lord Triesman, has condemned the killing of five African Union (AU) soldiers in Darfur.

“These tragic deaths bring home the reality of the risks that African Union soldiers are facing when they deploy to such troubled regions as peace-keepers. My deepest condolences go out to the families of the soldiers killed.” Lord Triesman said.

He called on all parties in Darfur conflict to stop fighting immediately and said that the AU Ceasefire commission should probe the incident in order to bring responsible to the justice.

The UK has been a leading supporter of AMIS since its inception, providing over £65m to support its operations.

*Allintibaha* daily meanwhile reports that a spokesperson for the Senegalese army says the recent ambush of AMIS troops in which 5 AMIS soldiers were killed was launched by elements of the SLA’s Minnawi faction.

He pointed out that the AMIS force was subjected to a “cowardly attack” at an isolated water point.

## **The Transition Debate**

### **African Union wants UN in Darfur too**

(*SudanTribune.com*) Darfur needs to step up its peacekeeping efforts immediately with help from the United Nations, the African Union said Tuesday.

The union’s leader, Alpha Oumar Konaré, called on the Sudanese government to hasten plans to beef up international peacekeeping operations in the region, even though it has refused proposals to supplement AU forces with U.N. peacekeepers.

"If this trend continues, the peacekeeping operation in Darfur will be in serious jeopardy," Konaré stated, adding that "it has become imperative and unavoidable, in the present circumstances, to speedily implement the three-phase approach to the peacekeeping operation in Darfur."

### **African Union can no longer cope alone in Darfur**

(*SudanTribune.com*) African Union forces can no longer cope with the dangers in Darfur and need the help of U.N. troops to prevent further "slaughter", a top AU official in Sudan said on Tuesday.

Sam Ibok, head of the AU team charged with implementing a peace agreement in western Sudan, expressed his concerns after gunmen killed five AU troops in the deadliest single attack against the African force since it deployed in 2004.

"The African Union force cannot cope with the circumstances that it finds itself in, and we have to be honest about it," Ibok told Reuters Television in an interview.

"Anybody who wants us to succeed would need to work to give us the ability to be more effective and that can only be done ... between the United Nations and the African Union."

The latest deaths brought to 15 the number of AU personnel killed in Darfur since troops were deployed in late 2004. A senior Nigerian officer working with the mission has been missing since he was kidnapped in December.

"We are not going to carry on like that anymore. We are not going to accept that these forces just be slaughtered like that by people who are not interested in peace in Darfur," said Ibok.

"We are going to try to work with the United Nations so that whoever is behind these things would be brought to trial and would be subject to the relevant international law because it is totally unacceptable." [*Follow the link for the full text of this story [African Union can no longer cope alone in Darfur](#)*]

On the other hand, the *New York Times* quotes AMIS spokesperson Nouredine Mezni as having told her in a telephone interview from Khartoum that the two attacks left the force deeply shaken. "It was unprovoked aggression," Mr. Mezni said.

The attack on Sunday underscored the vulnerability of the small, ill-equipped and demoralized force, he said. "The situation is very, very tense, and really we are deeply concerned about that increasing state of attack against" the African Union, he said. "These are the people who are working hard to help Darfur, and we are targeted by these armed elements."

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union is to meet Wednesday to discuss the attacks.

### **US envoy pours cold shower over UN chief Darfur diplomacy**

(*SudanTribune.com*) US envoy disagreed yesterday with UN Secretary General request to delay plans to press for sanctions against Sudan, saying that UN Security Council must go ahead with tough measures.

Natsios suggested that a failure to act quickly could push Congress to adopt harsher measures. According to one US official, Natsios cited bills that would support the right of states to divest their financial holdings in companies that do business with Sudan and ban those firms from tapping U.S. capital markets.

The United States and Britain are preparing a U.N. draft resolution that would impose financial sanctions on Sudan, including targeted sanctions against individuals linked to atrocities there. They are also considering imposing a "no-fly" zone over Darfur if Sudan does not agree to accept thousands of U.N. peacekeepers.

"We're continuing to look at what options we have for action through the Security Council as well as outside the Security Council," said Ben Chang, a spokesman for the U.S. mission to the United Nations. "We believe pressure needs to be maintained on the government of Sudan." [*Follow the link for the full text of the story [US envoy pours cold shower over UN chief Darfur diplomacy](#)*]

### **China calls for more flexibility from Sudan on Darfur**

(*SudanTribune.com*) China hopes the Sudanese government could show more flexibility on the Darfur issue, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Qin Gang said Tuesday.

China holds that the Darfur issue should be solved by political means and through dialogue and negotiation on an equal footing, Qin said when asked about the visit of Chief of Joint Staff of the Sudanese Armed Forces Haj Ahmed El Gaili.

Haj Ahmed El Gaili, who arrived in Beijing Sunday, was paying an eight-day visit to China, at the invitation of Chief of the General Staff of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Liang Guanglie.

Qin told a routine press conference that it has been China's basic stance that peace and stability as well as economic reconstruction should be realized in the Darfur region at an early date.

China welcomes the efforts by parties concerned to have negotiations on a peace proposal put forward by former U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, said Qin, adding "we hope Sudan can show more flexibility on the issue".

### **Sanctions on Sudan under consideration - US**

(*SudanTribune.com*) The United States is looking at the "next diplomatic steps" to take on Sudan to pressure the government to allow peacekeeping forces into the Darfur region to provide security and stability, State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said April 2.

"There are a number of different diplomatic levers that are at our disposal," McCormack said, including "[b]ilateral sanctions [and] multilateral sanctions."

He said the Bush administration currently is considering its options, and is consulting with its international partners.

"We haven't seen any actions by the Sudanese government to indicate that they're going to change their position about letting in all three phases of the AU-U.N. force," McCormack said, adding that President Bashir has attempted to add caveats to the plan "that we believe would lessen the effectiveness of that force."

McCormack said U.S. officials "still hold out hope" that President Bashir indicated a potential change in Sudan's position during recent talks with U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-

moon in Saudi Arabia. However, he said, there is no alternative to having a force deployed in Darfur, saying “it’s what needs to be done.” [Follow the link for the full text of this story [Sanctions on Sudan under consideration - US](#)]

## **CPA**

### **Toj Dinka launch initiative to transcend deadlock on Abyei**

(*Alwan*) Sources in Abyei say that the Dinka tribes in the area are consulting each other in a local initiative to transcend the deadlock over Abyei. The sources say agreement has been reached to call for a conference of the Misseriya and the Dinka in a bid to reach a peaceful solution to the problem.

## **GoNU**

### **SLM-MM welcomes formation of the TDRA**

(*Sudan Vision*) SLM Minnawi welcomes the decree issued by the President of the Republic to form the regional transitional authority for Darfur and regards that as a positive step for the implementation of the Abuja Agreement, says SLM Secretary-General Mustafa Teirab.

He expressed hopes that that members of the regional transitional authority should put the final touches to the peace agreement in Darfur. He assured that his faction is pushing forward the peace in Darfur with all concerned bodies.

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

### **Bigger GoSS capital**

(*Sudan Tribune*) GoSS Vice-President Riek Machar told a press conference at Southern Sudan Television yesterday that the proposed new plan for the new Juba City situated at Gondokoro Island extended from the southern tip of the island opposite the Nile Comfort Inn and extends all the way to Jebel Ladu.

He said that this city which will cover an area 8.7km long and 1.5km. wide will only be constructed after a consensus is reached on the issue with all stake holders through dialogue.

The VP pointed out that once off the drawing board, the island would accommodate the state house, parliament, Supreme Court, government residential areas, parks, an industrial area and a business centre and is expected to take shape before 2015. He also says a 3.5 km site has also been identified for a future ultra-modern airport.

On costs, the VP said that this and the other development plans for the other nine states of southern Sudan will need 1.5 billion dollars for implementation.

### **3 senior GoSS officials suspended in connection with vehicles purchase**

(*Sudan Vision*) A team formed by the GoSS to investigate alleged fraud in purchase of GoSS vehicles has recommended the detention of Undersecretary Isaac Makur of the finance ministry, Brg. Martin Malwal and the director who of Cardinal Company that purchased the cars.

Investigations meanwhile continue with the GoSS finance minister.

### **GoSS expresses concern to promote free media in southern Sudan**

(*Sudan Tribune*) The GoSS' information and broadcasting minister inaugurated in Juba yesterday a Southern Roundtable for Freedom for Expression organised by the Association of Media Development in Southern Sudan.

Minister Samson Kwajje said he was impressed by the initiative by southern Sudanese journalists and stake holders who organised the roundtable. He said that the GoSS media laws have been drafted and are now before the GoSS Ministry of Legal Affairs and Constitutional Development for modification before being tabled before the regional legislative assembly for ratification.

### **South Africa, Kenya Join Uganda peace talks in South Sudan**

(*SudanTribune.com*) South Africa, Kenya and Mozambique have agreed to join the southern Sudan mediated Ugandan peace talks in Juba meant to end the 20 year rebel insurgency in northern Ugandan on the mediation side, the Ugandan The Monitor said.

The call for the three to join the mediation team, led by southern Sudan Vice President Riek Machar, was a major condition the LRA set before they return to the negotiating table.

State Minister for International Affairs Henry Okello Oryem yesterday said the three countries have agreed to send representatives to join the peace talks slated to resume on April 13.

"Kenya, South Africa and Mozambique, with the invitation of President Joachim Chissano, have agreed to join the mediation team in Juba," Oryem said yesterday. Chissano, a former president of Mozambique, is now the UN Secretary General's representative for northern Uganda.

For the peace talks to resume, they demanded a retraction of the statement from Sudanese authorities, a complete overhaul of the peace talk's secretariat in Juba and improved welfare in terms of allowances for the LRA delegates.

Oryem said, "The first session will be chaired by Chissano because it was for his effort that the mediation, secretariat and the monitoring teams were beefed up."

Chissano has held two meetings with the LRA leader Joseph Kony in the Congolese jungle of Garamba, a move widely seen as a catalyst for the resumption of the talks.

But the International Criminal Court (ICC), which issued arrest warrants for Kony and four other commanders, has rejected calls to drop them paving way for the talks. People from Northern Ugandan want the LRA leaders to undergo traditional "Mato Oput" justice, a reconciliation ceremony, as an alternative to trials at The Hague.

The Uganda government says it would be satisfied with an alternative traditional system of justice to deal with LRA alleged war crimes, which include killing civilians, mutilating victims and kidnapping children to use as fighters and sex-slaves.

### **Chemical terrorists invade Juba through footwear**

*(The Citizen)* *The Citizen* daily reports that a new women's footwear that has flooded the Customs Market in Juba since early February contains explosives.

One such footwear is said to have exploded killing its wearer. Other sources say that iron filling and small bone-like component in the sole of the footwear causes permanent paralysis and eventually leads to death once it comes into contact with ones foot.

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Other Headlines:

- [Kenyans held over murder in Southern Sudan](#)
- [Civil society requested to help fight corruption in South Sudan](#)
- [Libya opens consulate in South Sudan's Juba](#)

### **Darfur/ Darfur Peace Agreement**

#### **Heated speeches in SLM burial ceremony**

*(AlIntibaha, AlSahafa)* SLM Minnawi vented fierce criticism on the government and expressed conviction that the recent Omdurman clash with the police was premeditated and meant to "punish the SLM for its support for the deployment of an international force in Darfur and the ICC process."

Speaking at the funeral rites of SLA elements that lost their life in the clash, Minnawi described the Omdurman clashes as a message and said he is not stupid as to not comprehend. He said he will never surrender his rights on three things: an international force for Darfur should efforts fail for a political solution, an ICC process for perpetrators of Darfur crimes and the demand to disarm the Janjaweed.

He described the Omdurman clashes as politically and ethnically motivated and said courage is needed to face the situation.

Minnawi also reiterated calls for the release of his prisoners and for an investigation into the Omdurman incident.

He called for unity and pledged commitment to the implementation of the CPA.

#### **Members of Darfur armed movements are sworn-in as MPs**

(*Sudan Tribune*) 12 members of the Darfur Peace Agreement signatory armed movements of Darfur were sworn in as MPs at the National Assembly yesterday.

Consultations are meanwhile still going on between the political forces in the parliament to give up eight seats for the Eastern Front as per the ESPA.

### **Darfur rebel movements reject DPA as basis for talks with government**

(*AlSudani*) DPA non-signatory armed groups have rejected recent calls by President Bashir that the Darfur Peace Agreement remains a basis for talks on the Darfur problem and say the Khartoum practices “political hypocrisy” in such talks about a political solution while sending Janjaweed militias to kill the civilians in the region. The armed groups cited the recent Nyala incidents as an example and held the governor responsible for the incident. Khartoum, they say, should not set preconditions for talks.

A spokesperson for the JEM said that the president’s speech on a solution to the Darfur crisis is not the first such statement. Spokesperson Ahmed Hussein added that the problem the have with the government is a problem of turning words into action.

### **Turjem, Rizeigat tribesmen condemn recent clash**

(*Alwan*) Turjem and Rizeigat tribesmen agree that some elements seeking to sow seeds of sedition were responsible for the recent clashes in South Darfur between the two tribes.

In a joint statement, the two tribes condemned the clashes and agreed that the reconciliation deals they reached recently will not be affected.

The two sides also highlighted the need to take the necessary measures to avoid a repeat.

### **US congressional delegation visits el-Fasher**

(*AlAyaam*) A five-team US congressional delegation is in el-Fasher for talks the state government.

The *Sudan News Agency* reports that the head of the delegation says that the US is committed to seeing an end to the Darfur crisis. He said that they have come on the “difficult mission” of meeting the African Union to get acquainted to their capabilities. He also assured that there is no enmity between the peoples of Sudan and the US.

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Other Headlines:

- **Chad says Sudan militia killed at least 65 in raid**