



## UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN

## UNMIS

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(By Public Information Office)

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

##### **Sudanese President to visits Eritrea today**

(ST) April 8, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — President Omar al-Bashir will head tomorrow morning, Wednesday, to the Eritrean capital Asmara on a visit for one day.

Al-Bashir is expected to hold talks the Eritrean President Isayas Afewerki on bilateral relations and ways of enhancing cooperation between the two countries

Eritrea, which in war with the neighbouring Ethiopia, watches with wary the Sudanese rapprochement with Ethiopia. Asmara also tries to play a role in the resolution of Darfur conflict and Sudan Chad relations.

Al-Bashir's delegation to Eritrea includes Nafi Ali Nafi Presidential Assistant and in charge of Darfur talks, Mustafa Osman Ismail Presidential, Gen. Bakri Hassan Saleh, Minister at the Presidency and the General Salah Abdallah Gosh, the head of the security and the national intelligence service.

##### **Al Bashir receives the representative of the United Nations Secretary General to the Sudan**

Khartoum, April 8 (SUNA)- The President of the Republic Field Marshal Omar Al Bashir has received the Representative of the United Nations Secretary General to the Sudan, Ashraf Qazi and reviewed with him the process of the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and all issues of relevance to the role of the United Nations Mission in Sudan.

The UN official has pointed in press statements following the meeting that he has listened to the President of the Republic on all issues relevant to the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, the situation in Abyei, the borders demarcation, the redeployment of the forces, the preparations for the coming population census and the elections that will take place next year.

He said the meeting has also reviewed all the issues related to the mandate of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan, in helping the two parties implement the CPA. He said the meeting also touched on the report he would submitting about the role of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan during the coming meeting of the international organization that will be held in New York for this purpose. MA/MA

#### [President Bashir decides not to take part in Security Council meeting](#)

(Alсахafa)- Reliable sources have ruled out participation of President Bashir in the international Security Council Summit, scheduled for 17 April in New York.

The sources attributed the decision to the coincidence of the Summit's deadline with Bashir's earlier engagements.

They added that the invitation was not preceded by previous notification, pointing out that the Security Council did not extend the invitation in an appropriate time that could allow the President to coordinate his program.

#### [Miseria delegation links solution of Abyei crisis with cancellation of experts report](#)

(Rayalsha'ab)- A delegation representing Miseria tribesmen from Mairam area, South Kordofan has linked opening the roads leading to Abyei with the cancellation of the experts report on Abyei, drawn in July 2005.

The delegation, currently visiting Khartoum, accused the SPLA of attacking Miseria tribesmen and looting their cattle north of 1956 borders, saying that cancellation of the experts report, opening the roads to Abyei and halting attacks by SPLA on Miseria represent fundamental agenda for dialogue with SPLA.

The delegation, which represents the various clans of Miseria tribe, warned from the collapse of the security situation in Western area of South Kordofan, appealing to the Presidency institution to interfere to put an end to Abyei crisis.

#### [Dutch minister visit to Sudan is just delayed – official \(ST\)](#)

April 8, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — Sudanese government deferred a planned visit by for Dutch Defence Minister Eimert van Middelkoop to Khartoum but denied cancellation of the visit saying it was just delayed.

The Dutch press led by the newspaper Volkskrant speculated Tuesday that Sudan had refused to deliver the visa reacting to a controversial anti-Islam film made by a right-wing Dutch parliamentary deputy that appeared on the Internet last month.

"We didn't deny him the visa.... We don't have any particular position against any Dutch minister," said the spokesperson of the Sudan's foreign ministry, Ali al-Sadiq.

A Dutch MP known for his anti-Islamic views, Geert Wilders, in his recent film "Fitna", criticised the Koran, Islam's holy book, claiming it incites violence by Islamic extremists.

The Dutch government has distanced itself from the film.

Last February, Sudanese president Omar Hassan Al-Bashir ordered that no Danish diplomat be received in the country to protest re-publication of cartoons considered insulting to prophet Muhammad.

Today morning the Dutch government confirmed Khartoum's failure to deliver the visa without elaboration. "We can confirm that the visa was not delivered, therefore the minister decided to postpone his journey," a Dutch official said.

The Sudanese official said the visit is delayed due to Sudanese minister commitments.

"It's only that... due to prior commitments the minister of defence of Sudan was unable to see the minister because he's already engaged." Sadiq said.

He added that they consult with the Dutch embassy in Khartoum to find a better date where the visit can take place.

Van Middelkoop had planned both to meet Dutch UN observers in the south, and also meet Sudanese government officials in the capital Khartoum.

The Dutch are part of the joint UN and African Union force of some 26,000 soldiers and police in the war torn Darfur region.

#### [Foreign Observers arrive for census](#)

(The Citizen) Foreign observers have arrived to monitor the national census, the chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on population in Parliament has said.

Thirty-four foreign experts have already arrived to Khartoum to monitor the census and there are thirty-six local experts who would accompany them in this mission.

#### [No fair elections in Sudan without reviewing key laws - SPLM](#)

(ST) April 8, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — Sudan's elections next year will not be fair if parliament fails to review key laws before the end of June, the deputy speaker of the national parliament said on Tuesday.

The SPLM Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Atem Garang, told Reuters that there would be no transparent and fair elections in the country, if the lawmakers fail to revise key laws on police, national security, media and the electoral law.

The two chambers resumed yesterday their parliamentary activities. Speaking to a joint session of the National Legislature the Sudanese president repatriated his commitment to implement all the signed peace agreements.

According to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, presidential, parliamentary elections should be organised next year. Also the state assemblies and governors are concerned by these elections.

A 2005 peace deal ended war between Sudan's northern government and southern rebels, but both sides accuse each other of foot dragging over revising the laws set out under the agreement.

"You cannot have transparent and fair elections unless you amend laws connecting to the political process," said deputy speaker Atem Garang, from the former southern rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement.

Garang told Reuters the laws had to be revised during the current parliamentary session, which began on Monday and ends at the end of June, to allow enough time for them to take effect before the elections in 2009.

Security service exercises extended powers with regard to the detention of political opponents, prevention of political meeting and public liberties generally. SPLM and the opposition parties often underline the unconstitutional character of these laws.

The official medias from Television, news agency and radios are always controlled by the dominant National Congress Party of Omer al-Bashir.

## **GoSS**

### [South Sudan Census enumerators ready \(Miraya FM\)](#)

The South Sudan Census, Statistic and Evaluation Commission said that the training of the enumerators will be completed by Wednesday.

The head of the South Sudan Census, Statistic and Evaluation Commission, Isiah Chol, said that he did not receive a final decision on the issue of including ethnic and religion in the Census Questionnaire Form.

### [SPLA accused of attacking northern merchants and foreigners](#)

(Alwan)- Two Somali nationals were reported to have been assassinated by SPLA and undisciplined militias in the on going process of attacking northerners and foreigners living in the south.

Meanwhile, a group of 20 soldiers from SPLA rushed into Dr Amir Al Daai house a UNESCO staff and attempted to force him out of his house – but they failed after the interference of some citizens.

However, reliable sources told (Alintibaha Daily) that these armed bandits revolted under the name “New Unit”, attributing their mutiny to non-absorption in either military institution or the civil service

## **Darfur**

### [Sudan's Foreign Minister, Joint envoy discuss deployment of Darfur peacekeepers](#)

(ST) April 8, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — Sudanese Foreign Minister Deng Alor discussed on Tuesday with the head of Darfur joint mission Rodolphe Adada, the

status of deployment of United Nations- African Union peacekeeping troops in the war-torn region of Darfur.

Adada attributed the current delay in the deployment to logistical difficulties relating to construction of the necessary infrastructures before the deployment of the troops.

"UNAMID is providing the necessary infrastructure and logistical arrangements for effective deployment in Darfur. UNAMID engineers, administrators and logisticians are working full force to ensure that plans are implemented in an efficient and timely manner." The hybrid force said in a statement on the meeting.

The coming two months are expected to witness the deployment of additional military personnel from Egypt and Ethiopia. Equipment for the Egyptian troops has already arrived and is being transported to designated locations in Darfur.

"An advanced force of approximately 90 is already on the ground, and the remaining troops should follow soon." The UNAMID said.

As for the final date for the completion of deployment of the hybrid peacekeeping forces, Adada indicated that the deployment could hardly be completed before 2009.

According to Resolution 1769 adopted by the UN Security Council in July last year, the 26,000-strong UN-AU hybrid peacekeeping forces should have been deployed in Darfur by Dec. 2007.

But until now, only some 10,000 troops have arrived in the western Sudanese region, including some 7,000 African troops who had been sent there in 2004 in accordance with an AU plan to enforce a ceasefire in the region.

Ali Al-Sadiq, spokesman of the Sudanese Foreign Ministry, said the meeting came as part of regular meetings Adada holds with the ministry, after the signing of an agreement between the Sudanese government and the UN and AU on the status of the peacekeeping forces in Darfur early this year.

Adada and Alor also tackled the normalization of Chad- Sudan relations within the context of the Dakar Agreement. A meeting to follow-up on the implementation of the agreement is due to take place in Libreville, Gabon, on 10 April 2008.

Adada was requested by UN Secretary General to attend the Libreville meeting, as observer. He said, "The Secretary General attaches great importance to normalization between Chad and Sudan, which has a direct impact over security and stability in Darfur and the entire region. It is crucial that the two countries remain steadfast in their resolve to restore peace and stability along their shared border."

During the course of his visit to New York, Adada is also expected, on 22 April 2002, to deliver to the Security Council a Ninety-Day report on progress made by UNAMID in the implementation of its mandate.

[Normalization of Sudan-Chad relations crucial for Darfur peace - envoys](#)

(ST) April 8, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — Sudan's deteriorating relations with Chad have stalled the Darfur peace process in recent months and normalization is a prerequisite for any lasting peace deal, said the U.N. and AU envoys for Darfur.

Chad's long and porous border with Sudan's Darfur region has long been the base for rebels from neighbouring nations to stage attacks against their central governments.

"We have to have normalization between Chad and Sudan to create a credible political process," U.N. envoy Jan Eliasson told reporters on Tuesday after a meeting with Sudan's foreign minister in Khartoum.

"We simply cannot divorce the situation in Darfur from the situation in Chad — this is a crucial aspect," he added.

International experts estimate some 200,000 people have died and 2.5 million have been driven from their homes in five years of violence in Darfur after mostly non-Arab rebels took up arms accusing central government of neglect.

Many of those who fled crossed the border into already crowded refugee camps in Chad, worsening the humanitarian situation in that volatile area.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Ali al-Sadig agreed Chad was a major obstacle to peace, but he said the envoys could have done more to advance the process.

"The envoys try to justify the slowness because of ... the rebels multiplying everyday and the worsening bilateral relations," he said.

"(But) definitely they could have done more especially towards (rebel leaders) Abdel Wahed and Khalil Ibrahim, the two main stumbling blocks."

Ibrahim's Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) is the main rebel military power fighting with the government in Darfur, while Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) founder Abdel-Wahid Mohamed al-Nur has refused any talks until some conditions are met.

The envoys attempted to start talks in October but they failed almost immediately because most major rebel groups boycotted with many rejecting the venue Libya.

Eliasson said the next step would be a meeting between the rebels and Khartoum to discuss security arrangements hopefully leading to a ceasefire.

But AU envoy Salim Ahmed Salim said they were still consulting all sides on the venue and time of the talks.

Salim said an agreement in Senegal in March between Sudan and Chad to end hostilities was a positive step but was not the first time the two nations had signed deals.

"The real challenge on the part of both the government of Sudan and the government of Chad is the actual implementation of the agreement," he said

#### 64 persons killed and wounded in tribal clash in Buram Locality in Darfur

(Alsudani)- Twenty persons killed and other 44 injured when a group of people from Falata and Salamat tribes clashed with Habania tribesmen at Buram locality, South Darfur State.

Eyewitnesses told (Alsudani Daily) Tuesday that the clashes erupted while some people from Habania tribe were chasing a group of Falata, who looted their cattle at Karadis area, Buram locality.

In the meantime, Commissioner of Buram locality Eisa Mohamed Abdalla survived when his vehicle exposed to firing enroute from Buram to Nyala, at Falata areas.

#### Medicine sans Frontier Accuses Darfur Rebels of impeding Humanitarian Work

(Rayalsha,ab- SMC)- Justice & Equality Movement (JEM) confiscated three tractors on their way from Fashir to Kutum in northern Darfur loaded with five water pumps and some mini cars. An eye witness says the equipment and cars were shifted to Chadian border town of Adri. on common borders with Sudan. JEM commander Sabil Hussein said that his movement confiscated the tractors as war booties.

Hussein said after confiscating items his movement releases the drivers. Relief organizations working in eastern Chad namely Medicine sans frontier, UNICEF and WFP issued an official statement protesting to Chadian authorities what they described as looting organizations vehicles from Darfur and smuggled them into Chad. The statement accused the involvement of some Chadian official institutions of issuing ownership certificates for the looted cars.

#### Darfur rebel groups unite in Juba

(The Citizen) Representatives from five Darfur rebel factions have united under the United Resistance Front (URF) this Tuesday in Juba.

SPLM Deputy Secretary General for Southern Sector Ann Itto, congratulated the URF for the decision they have taken to return to Juba for their official announcement of the unification they have reached. "We hope the two main factions SLM/A and the URF will work hard to convince those who have not joined the two main factions to join the unification that is achieved by many of the rebel factions," said Itto.

Itto pointed out that, there is need to convince people like the leader of JEM so that they can come to join the rest of their colleagues who are now struggling to unite under two main factions.

#### UNAMID Muslims soldiers protest bringing pigs meat in Mission's barracks in Darfur



(Alhayat- SMC)- A number of African Muslim soldiers working with UNAMID in Darfur protested yesterday on ground that a Switzerland company imported pork meat as part of food supplies for hybrid troops.

Some UNAMID soldiers said that the protesters told the mission that they rejected providing of any food prohibited by Islamic religion. They said that UNMID and the company knows in anticipation that the majority of hybrid troops are Muslims.

The protestors however considered that importing of pork food targets to insult the Muslim feelings.

The sources said the company had previously faced sharp criticism for sacking local staff workers and replaced them by others from African countries.

### [Sudan says Chadian troops support Darfur rebels](#)

(ST) April 8, 2008(KHARTOUM) — Presidential Assistant, Nafi Ali Nafi, said Sudan is ready to counter any Chadian invasion supportive to the rebel Justice and Equality Movement.

Nafi said there is no fighting between the government army and any of the rebel movements in Darfur except with "Khalil Ibrahim's movement which is fighting with the support of Chadian troops." He further reaffirmed the readiness of the army troops to confront it.

The chef of the Sudanese government delegation to Darfur peace talks was speaking to the press following a meeting with the UN and AU envoys to Darfur who are visiting the country.

Nafi stressed the stability of the security situation in Darfur except isolated gangs attacking relief materials and humanitarian workers.

He also claimed that part of these gangs belongs to the rebel groups opposed to the Darfur peace agreement saying that a number of the looted vehicles are in the Chadian capital N'Djamena now.

While Chad and Sudan accuse each other of backing rebel groups in both countries, the Chadian rebels and the Sudanese rebels also trade accusations of supporting the governments ruling in Khartoum and N'Djamena.

Also, President Idriss Deby describes as "mercenaries" of Sudanese government, the rebel groups which try regularly to topple his regime.

### **Miscellaneous**

#### [Ugandan rebel Kony to sign peace deal](#)

JUBA, Sudan (Reuters) - Uganda's fugitive rebel commander Joseph Kony will sign a final deal on Thursday at the remote Sudan-Congo border to end one of Africa's longest wars, the chief mediator at peace talks has said.

South Sudan's Vice President Riek Machar said Kony's shadowy Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) guerrillas had told him their leader was at the location and that the signing ceremony, which was postponed from last week, would take place as planned.

"The LRA delegation has assured me that Kony is in Ri-Kwangba and he is ready to sign the peace deal on Thursday," Machar told Reuters in the south Sudanese capital Juba.

The elusive Kony and two of his top deputies are wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague for war crimes including rape, murder and the abduction of children during their two-decade insurgency.

Fearing arrest, they have never attended the long-running talks in Juba, instead staying hidden in the lawless wilderness of Garamba Forest in the northeastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

Diplomatic sources involved in the negotiations said Kony's final intentions were far from clear.

No outsiders have seen him in months, and even if he breaks cover to sign a final agreement, his fighters have refused to lay down their arms until the ICC warrants are scrapped.

Uganda's government has said it will ask for the indictments to be lifted only after a final deal is reached. It was not clear whether that meant the rebels had to disarm first too.

"We've done everything that could be done to make sure the two sides agree to sign," Machar said late on Tuesday.

"Let's wait and see what happens."

## DISTRUST

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni is expected to sign the deal at a separate ceremony planned in Juba for April 15 that local officials say will be attended by regional leaders including Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir.

Huge mistrust remains between Kampala and the rebels after a civil war that killed tens of thousands of people and uprooted 2 million more in northern Uganda and destabilised neighbouring parts of south Sudan and eastern Congo.

In the latest twist, LRA representatives in Juba accused the Ugandan security forces of using former LRA combatants and negotiators to try to urge their commanders to quit the bush.

The rebels' chief negotiator David Nyekorach-Matsanga said that violated an earlier truce agreement and must be stopped.

What happens next might depend on the ICC, which says its warrants for Kony and two other commanders -- Okot Odhiambo and Dominic Ongwen -- remain active. The U.N. Security Council could ask it to put them on hold if there was a real chance for peace.

Agreements already signed by Kampala and the rebels set up a special division of Uganda's High Court to deal with offences committed during the civil war.

The ICC says only a judicial process delivering stiff jail terms for grave crimes is acceptable as an alternative to the world court. And they say Uganda has a legal obligation to arrest and hand over the three men if it can.