



## UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN

## UNMIS

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(By Public Information Office)

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## UN/ Agencies

### [UNAMID condemns fighting and bombing in West Darfur](#)

(ST) April 13, 2008 (EL FASHER) — The hybrid peacekeeping mission condemned yesterday fighting between the Sudanese army and the rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) in KushKush, in West Darfur.

JEM troops attacked, on Saturday Kushkush base of the Sudan armed Forces, 45km, north of El-Geneina and west of Jabal Moon, in West Darfur. The two parties claimed victory but no casualties were published.

The "UNAMID condemns all actions of violence and calls upon all parties to cease hostilities with immediate effect and resort to dialogue," said a press statement signed by Nouredine Mezni, the spokesperson of the joint mission.

Sudanese army said the rebel forces moved from the Chadian area of (Borak), which leads to Jebel Moon. It also accused Chad of supporting the attack by 100 vehicles.

### JEBEL MARRA BOMBING

The joint mission also condemned air strikes carried by the Sudanese army against the positions of the rebel Sudan Liberation Army in Tor area, western Jebel Marra on Thursday, April 10.

## GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

### [The Presidency reaches a compromise ending crisis over census, the exercise will be conducted on 22 April](#)

(Al-Rai Al-Aam) The Presidency declared the deferment of the population census to 22 April 2008 instead of tomorrow in a compromise to end NCP-SPLM crisis erupted following the unilateral decision by SPLM to postpone the census in Southern Sudan.

The Presidency issued six-point press release to address the current crisis in which it decided to go on with the census after a week.

GoSS Presidential Affairs Minister Luka Biong told the newspaper this morning that the meeting underscored the need for comprehensive and simultaneous census.

He said the Presidency directed all level of government to facilitate and remove all obstacles impeding the return of IDPs and to provide the necessary facilities.

SPLM Secretary General and Cabinet Affairs Minister, Mr. Pagan Amun, said the decision to postpone census in Southern Sudan reflected the consensus of the people

of the South. He accused NCP of printing a census questionnaire in a manner other than what was agreed upon adding that non-inclusion of religion and tribe in the questionnaire represent a violation of the interim constitution and constitute an attempt to obliterate multiplicity in the Sudan.

He said the Government of Southern Sudan has the right to postpone census.

The following is the full text of the press release issued by the Presidency following its meeting yesterday:

### **Press release by the Presidency, Government of the Sudan, on census**

The Presidency met yesterday evening, Sunday 13.4.2008, for discussion on the GoSS decision to postpone population census in Southern Sudan. The Presidency, after lengthy discussion in which the lofty interest of the country are taken into consideration and guided by spirit of the CPA, it arrived at the following decision:

**First:** the population census, by its nature, requires to be conducted starting from the same 'base-night' all over the country and at the same time. The Presidency decided to be committed to that during conduction of the census.

**Second:** The Presidency is the authorized body to conduct the census and guarantee coordination and harmony among the various levels of government to achieve the census process and make it a success.

**Third:** After review of the developments that accompanied the set date for the start of the census process, the Presidency decided to start the census on Tuesday night 22 April 2008 all over the country.

**Fourth:** The Presidency directs GoNU, GoSS and competent authorities to work together to mobilize additional resources and to exert more efforts to remove any obstacles hindering voluntary IDPs return and to secure their safety.

**Fifth:** All level of government and competent authorities are required to exert their utmost efforts to secure the population census process in all stages across the country with provision of necessary resources for that.

**Sixth:** in view of the special nature of this census, the Presidency instructs competent authorities to use surveys, results and analysis of the census for familiarity with extent of social and cultural diversity in the country in a manner that will contribute towards serving the purposes of planning and sustainable and balanced development, and to render services and consolidate the positive values of diversity.

**Sources: Akhbar Al Yom Daily Arabic newspaper, 14 April 2008**

### **[Vice President Taha: A group within SPLM is hindering peace](#)**

(Al-Sahafa) The Vice President, Ali Osman Taha, at press conference he held yesterday had criticized the Government of Southern Sudan for postponing census in the region and warned of the consequences of such step.

He said GoSS decision was politically and constitutionally defective and run counter to the CPA. He said the two partners were facing a real test adding that if GoSS did not reconsider its decision the country would end up in a 'difficult tunnel.

Mr. Taha has criticized a group within SPLM, which pushed for postponement of census and accused them of hindering the implementation of the CPA and disregarding the Presidency decisions.

#### [Opposition rejects postponement of census](#)

(Al-Sahafa) The opposition has strongly criticized GoSS for deferring census in the region.

The Secretary General of the Sudanese Communist Party, Mohamed Ibrahim Nugud, said Salva Kiir's decision reflected how he had been floundering and called on the parties not to escalate the situation.

The National Umma Party also rejected the step by SPLM. The Party's Secretary General, Mr. Abdul Nabi Ahmed Ahmed, said census had something to do with many issues such as elections, power-sharing and wealth-sharing and called on the SPLM to deal with the question in a wise manner.

#### [Khartoum holds reservations on British offer to host Darfur peace talks](#)

(Al-Sahafa) The British Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, has offered to host Darfur peace negotiations adding that he would urge the Security Council next week to work for achievement of breakthrough in the issue of Darfur.

However, Sudan Government official speaking to the newspaper voiced reservations on Brown's offer saying efforts to resolve Darfur issue should be confined to AU-UN joint mediation.

#### [Britain offers to host Darfur peace talks; GoNU welcomes the offer](#)

(Al-Ayyam) Britain yesterday offered to host Darfur peace talks between Sudan Government and Darfur movements.

On the other hand, the Presidency spokesperson, Mr. Mahgoub Fadul, affirmed the Sudan government readiness to resume peace talks with Darfur movements anywhere and anytime. He said the Government accepts in principle any proposal aiming to end conflict.

#### [Taha: GoSS decision unjustifiable](#)

(Sudan Vision) The decision taken by GoSS to delay the census in South Sudan until the coming November is unjustifiable and the level that took the decision is unauthorized constitutionally and legally, Vice President of the Republic Ali Osman Mohammed Taha stated yesterday.

At the press conference he held in the Friendship Hall yesterday on GoSS decision to

postpone the census until the coming November, Taha indicated that GoSS decision was made in the "latest hour" after all the arrangements for the census have been made, raising questions on the reasons behind the particular timing of the decision. He explained that the census will be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Interim Constitution and the peace agreement which provides for the census to start on the second year following its signature.

He considered the pretexts cited by GoSS for putting off the census, such as return of the displaced to their areas, as old facts that did not need to be discovered only two days before the census. He added that precautions have been made in the census for these cases by counting out all the displaced persons and taking down information on the States they wish to return to.

He noted that the Census Commission has been formed in accordance with the Second Constitutional Decree issued after the signing of the peace agreement. Referring to the other reasons mentioned by GoSS's official spokesman for delaying the census, Taha stated that border demarcation is not a requirement for carrying out the census while inclusion of ethnicity and religion in the census form have no influence on the political and economic functions of the census. "In respect of material aspects, we have provided all the funds required for the census operation," he said.

Taha pointed out the presence of some groups in GoSS levels that lack respect for resolutions issued by the Presidency of the Republic and do their utmost to impede these resolutions, underlining that the Presidency is capable of reaching a solution for this problem if joint will prevails. "SPLM persistence on its stand will push the country into a narrow tunnel and will further hamper procedures that have already been finalized," he stated.

GoSS Minister of Information, Gabriel Changson Chang, had announced Saturday that GoSS has decided to postpone the population census scheduled to start all over the regions of Sudan on 15 April 2008, mentioning border demarcation, security concerns and ethnicity and religious issues as reasons for delaying the census in the

#### [SLM-Minnawi demands inclusion of religion and ethnicity in census questionnaire](#)

(Ray Al-Shaab) Minni-led Sudan Liberation Movement demanded the inclusion of religion and ethnicity in the census questionnaire.

SLM Assistant Secretary General, Al-Fadil Al-Tijani, said the movement was interested in the questionnaire, as it wanted to know the percentage of religions and cultural diversity, as they are priorities for democratic transformation and wealth sharing.

#### **GoSS**

#### [Museveni, Salva Kiir to discuss Ugandan peace process Monday](#)

(ST) April 13, 2007 (JUBA) — The Ugandan President Youri Museveni will pay a one day visit to the capital of southern Sudan for talks with the President of southern Sudan government on the peace talks with the rebel LRA.

Museveni's visit comes following the rejection of the final text of peace agreement by the leader of Lord's Resistance Army, Joseph Kony who asked mediators to clarify the document and to probe the causes of process failure.

Kony also fired his top negotiator David Mastanga, who was accused of collaboration with the Ugandan government.

As, the north Ugandan rebel movement announced its commitment to the peace process, Slava Kiir is expected to ask Museveni to accept the continuation of southern Sudan government mediation to reach a peaceful solution for the two decades conflict.

Ugandan International Affairs Minister Okello Oryem said President Yoweri Museveni is still willing to move the peace process forward including finding a new mediator or a new venue.

The chief mediator and Vice President of southern Sudan, Riek Machar, remained on the remote Congo border on Saturday to try to salvage a final deal with fugitive rebel leader Joseph Kony.

Machar said wanting to meet Joseph Kony personally and discuss with him the next stage in the peace process.

Machar explained that the rebel movement signed all the different documents discussed since 2006 and he wishes to discuss Kony's reserves on the final text.

The signed agreements include the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement, the agreement on Comprehensive Solutions and its Protocols, the agreement on Accountability and Reconciliation, the agreement on a Permanent Ceasefire; the agreement on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration.

The agreement on Implementation and Monitoring Mechanisms; and the Implementation Schedule had to be signed with and attached to the Final Peace Agreement.

#### [Former LRA negotiator arrested in southern Sudan](#)

(ST) April 13, 2008 (JUBA) — Southern Sudan authorities have arrested the former head of the LRA negotiating team who was fired by Joseph Konky last Thursday after his refusal to sign the final text of the peace agreement.

The UK-based, David Matsanga was arrested by south Sudanese soldiers on his return to Juba airport, where he was said to be carrying \$20,000 (10,148 pounds) and a still-sealed letter to the LRA leader from Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, Reuters reported today.

The contents of the letter — or what charges might face the sacked negotiator— were not known. Before leaving Ri-Kwangba, the negotiator denied he had been fired and said he quit in frustration after Kony failed to meet him.

Last Friday Kony renewed his commitment to the peace process and the signed agreement but wanted guarantees of his safety and financial security first.

MP Simon Oyet of Noya County of Gulu on Saturday accused David Mastanga of betraying LRA by being untruthful to Joseph Kony on the final progress of the peace talks including the planned meeting of leading traditional and religious leaders with General Kony last year.

Oyet further alleged that Mastanga was plotting to sign the agreement on behalf of Joseph Kony.

The chief mediator, Riek Machar wondered why Matsanga has failed to brief Kony on traditional justice and the special division of the high court of Uganda after their request for one day workshop with religious and traditional leaders to explain the details of Mato Oput and the special court of Uganda.

The ICC accuse Kony and two of his top deputies of offences including rape, murder and the abduction of thousands of children who were forced to serve as fighters, porters and sex slaves.

## **Darfur**

### [Darfur rebel leader urges British PM to make efforts to stop violence before talks](#)

(ST) April 13, 2008 (PARIS) — A Darfur rebel leader urged the British Prime Minister to exert efforts in order to arrest against the civilians in the war-torn region of western Sudan before proposing to host the peace process.

Gordon Brown yesterday willing to offer the hosting of Darfur peace talks "as soon as practicable". According to the office of the Prime Minister, British officials were in contact with the Sudanese officials and rebel groups to discuss the offer.

Abdel-Wahid al-Nur, the leader of the Sudan Liberation Movement, told Sudan Tribune, that the problem, at this stage, is not on the negotiations but on how to create conducive environment to hold it

"We hope that Brown joins us to pressurize Khartoum to stop the janjaweed attacks and the bombing of civilians and to resettle these population affected by the conflict in their villages in order to create the conducive conditions to convene peace talks" said.

"Human security is vital before the negotiations" Al-Nur added.

The SLM founder said the negotiations with Khartoum should be dedicated to discuss the root causes of the conflict for a total settlement of the crisis.

"The peace talks should discuss how to create new political order where the equal citizens' rights of Darfurians and all the Sudanese preserved." he underlined.

The office of Prime Minister Gordon Brown timed the announcement to coincide with Sunday's Global Day for Darfur. It's a day of events aimed at raising awareness of suffering in the Western Sudanese region.

Darfur's rebel movement SLM-AW and Justice and Equality have been unwilling to participate in the UN-AU brokered negotiations organised last October in Libya.

#### [Darfur JEM accuses Sudan of killing local chief over anti-census protests](#)

(ST) April 13, 2008 (LONDON) — The Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) condemned the killing of a local chief "Ummda" in Darfur last week accusing the Sudanese government of trying to eliminate traditional leaders in Darfur displaced camps

Ahmed Hussein Adam, the spokesperson the Darfur JEM accused the Sudanese security service of killing Hassan Abdalla Tajo and wounding gravely Ahmed Hajr Karam Eddin, both are Ummdas in Kalama camp in South Darfur.

The two local leaders were attacked because they were actively involved in the organisation of anti-census protests inside the Internally Displaced People camps, Ahmed said.

He pointed out that the IDPs have the right to say their opposition to the census and the general elections before the settlement of the current crisis in Darfur and their return to their villages.

He further said that no census can be conducted in an atmosphere of fears and panic without home and shelter. "Homelessness deprives people of their dignity and humanity and this what they want first" he said.

He disclosed that JEM has information about a government plan to liquidate the traditional, and civil society leaders inside the camps in order to suppress the voice of the IDPs and to prevent any joint action among them.

The rebel spokesperson urged Darfur peacekeeping mission to shoulder its responsibilities and to provide the necessary protection for the displaced. Particularly that "the UNAMID mandate enables the mission to protect the civilians" he said.

He further warned that Khartoum government does what it can to create disillusion and disappointment among the IDPs making them believe that the UNAMID is not able to protect them to prevent attacks against them.

#### **Miscellaneous**