

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS**Media Monitoring Report, 23 April 2007

(By Public Information Office)

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## **HIGHLIGHTS :**

### **UN/ Agencies/ Partners**

#### **Sudan affirms full commitment to agreement on humanitarian issues**

*(The Citizen)* The Sudan government has affirmed its full commitment to the agreement it signed with the United Nations last March to facilitate humanitarian work.

Humanitarian Aid Commissioner Hassabo Mohamed told United Nations agencies and NGOs at a meeting in el-Geneina yesterday that humanitarian work is very challenging but the government has launched the unified rules system to ease procedures.

Representatives of the General Customs Authority attending the meeting also said they will work together to facilitate procedures in the Darfur states.

United Nations agencies and NGOs on their part hailed the agreement on humanitarian access as a good agreement but said it requires more effort.

The Humanitarian Aid Commissioner also held a separate meeting with the West Darfur security committee where a representative of the National Security pointed out that awareness was required because some NGOs have vested interests disguised under the humanitarian garb.

#### **Russia donates \$2m wheat to school children in Sudan – WFP**

*(SudanTribune.com)* The UN World Food Programme welcomed today the arrival at this Red Sea port of a US\$2 million shipment of wheat from Russia to support the agency's recovery and development operations in Sudan, a WFP statement said.

The wheat, totalling 4,205 metric tons, will be used to feed 284,500 children enrolled in WFP's school feeding programmes in the chronically food insecure states of Kassala, Red Sea and North Kordofan as well as 6,000 participants in food-for- work projects.

### **The Transition Debate**

#### **United Nations rejects Egypt's offer to provide support to the AMIS**

*(AlWihda)* Informed sources say the United Nations has only accepted 10% of the troops Egypt has offered for the African Union Mission in Sudan peacekeeping operations in Darfur.

*AlWihda* points out that this development only shades doubts on the credibility of the United Nations and strengthens the government's argument against an international deployment in Darfur.

#### **Sudan says willing to talk on UN-AU Darfur operation**

(*SudanTribune.com*) Sudan is willing to talk with the United Nations and the African Union about a hybrid U.N.-AU operation in Darfur but will not accept such a force under Western "blackmail", a presidential adviser said on Sunday.

Mustafa Osman Ismail strongly criticized the United States and Britain for threatening to impose sanctions on Khartoum for not accepting a large U.N. force to secure the troubled region in western Sudan.

He also said Sudan was committed to the first two U.N. support packages to help the underfunded and overstretched 5,000-strong African Union force in Darfur.

"There is readiness to talk with the United Nations and the African Union about the third stage, which is the hybrid operation," he told reporters after talks with Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki.

Ismail, however, said Khartoum would not bend to pressure.

"There is an illusion among some Western leaders, like the prime minister of Britain, that Khartoum only responds to pressure. This is an illusion," he said.

"The challenge and the test now facing Washington and London is that they give up this blackmail ... and allow the United Nations to fund the AU troops."

### **Disgruntled MP requests President to appear before parliament on HSP**

(*AllIntibaha*) A disgruntled MP asked parliament yesterday to summon the President of the Republic to explain who is it that was responsible for deciding that Sudan accept the HSP.

The MP pointed out that the HSP, particularly the clause on use of combat aircraft, is a flagrant violation of national sovereignty.

### **US official in South Africa to press for Sudan sanctions**

(*SudanTribune.com*) The US administration is dispatching a senior US diplomat to South Africa to secure its support on a proposed Security Council resolution slapping sanctions on Khartoum.

Kristen Silverberg, the Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization, is expected to hold talks with South African officials during her visit on the additional measures needed to force Sudan to accept deployment of UN peacekeeping force in Darfur.

### **British firm breaks Sudan arms boycott**

(*SudanTribune.com*) A British company has been transporting ammunition inside Sudan in defiance of European sanctions. A Sunday Times investigation has also uncovered evidence that Land Rover Defenders have been supplied to the Sudanese police, who have fitted machineguns to turn them into highly mobile killing machines.

The two episodes are unconnected but illustrate the inadequacy of the sanctions regime imposed on Sudan by western nations disgusted with widespread human rights violations.

Last week, Rolls-Royce announced it was pulling out of Sudan, citing concerns about the crisis in Darfur, western Sudan. The company makes equipment used to pump oil in the region.

“We have decided to discontinue our business there. We will progressively withdraw from support activities,” said a spokesman. “The reason is the increasing political and humanitarian concerns . . . we are not in Darfur, but we are in the country.”

Despite a United Nations arms embargo, the government has continued to obtain arms, often from China. Significant quantities of guns and ammunition have been shipped to Darfur rebels after being imported into southern Sudan through private air charter companies.

One such shipment took place on November 23. An Antonov-28 cargo plane owned by Dallex Trade, registered in London, with a São Tomé registration S9-PSV, delivered boxes of ammunition from Yei to Juba in southern Sudan.

The delivery, on behalf of the Sudan People’s Liberation Army (SPLA), was in breach of EU sanctions which prohibit the sale, supply, transfer or export of arms and related material including ammunition to Sudan.

Dallex Trade is a mysterious entity with worldwide links. Its ownership is hidden behind several US-based nominees. One shareholder is a front company in Belize whose signatory is a man living on the island of Niue, in the South Pacific.

The Sunday Times has seen western intelligence reports that link Dallex’s São Tomé operating partner Golias Air with the notorious arms dealer Victor Anatoliyevich Bout. If the report is accurate, it casts an even more sinister light on the shipments.

Allegations about Land Rover first surfaced in a report to the United Nations security council last year. Members of an expert team saw large numbers of white-painted Defenders awaiting delivery at the docks in Port Sudan.

While some were destined for humanitarian use, an African Union official in Khartoum said the “vast majority” were for the interior ministry and government.

## **CPA**

### **Sudanese peace partners to resume talks on 23 April**

(SUNA via BBC Monitoring) The Joint High Political Committee of the National Congress (NC) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) is to resume its meetings Monday [23 April] at SPLM's Headquarters in Khartoum, co- chaired by NC Deputy Chairman for Political and Organizational Affairs Dr Nafi Ali Nafi and SPLM Secretary-General Pagan Amum.

SUNA learned that the meeting will focus on continuation of dialogue on the joint political and executive issues. The meeting comes as part of early preparations for the annual meeting between the NC Leadership Office and the SPLM Political Office which is set to be held on 27 May.

*AlHayat* daily reports that the SPLM Secretary-General expects this meeting to address the outstanding issues ahead of the forthcoming meeting of the leaderships of the two sides.

Asked on recent statements by Deng Alor on how they see the proposals on Abyei, Amoum pointed out that the NCP suggestion that an interim authority be established for Darfur is still being studied by the SPLM.

## **GoNU**

### **Cabinet allocates \$5 million to Darfur reparations fund**

(*Khartoum Monitor*) In its session yesterday, parliament approved an allocation of \$5 million for a reparations fund for Darfur.

Parliament also agreed to the provision of funds for a Darfur Reconstruction Fund and to reintegrate 4,000 SLA fighters into the SAF and 1,000 into the police forces.

A timetable was also drafted for the implementation of the outstanding issues of the DPA

### **Security bill to soon be tabled before parliament**

(*AlSahafa*) The head of National Security and Intelligence has revealed that the National Security Bill will be tabled before parliament within the next few days.

The security chief briefed, separately, the Speaker of the National Assembly and the Parliamentary Security and Defense Committee on the internal, regional and international security situation.

In his briefing to the parliamentary committee on defense and security, the security chief underlined the need to resolve the issue of IDP camps that he said have brought about a new reality in Darfur.

### **Disgruntled ex-SAF occupy Kosti bridge over delayed pay in after-service benefits**

(*Khartoum Monitor – lead story in the local press*) Soldiers demobilized from the SAF yesterday occupied Kosti Bridge on the White Nile to press government to pay their end of service benefits and to protest irregular pay.

The protestors say they would hold the bridge until they meet VP Taha who had traveled to White Nile State.

The bridge links Khartoum to South and North Kordofan and points further south like Upper Nile and Unity State and this latest development has blocked traffic on both directions.

The disgruntled soldiers claim they came from Kosti, Malut and Renk.

### **Eritrean, Sudanese presidents hold talks in Khartoum**

(*Shabait, via BBC Monitoring*) Presidents Isayas Afewerki and Bashir held talks on strengthening bilateral relations and the situation in the region as well as in the world.

At the meeting that was held last night, both leaders pointed out the significance of coordinating their countries' respective views in the region and the world. They agreed that the strengthening of existing relations is in the interest of the peoples of the two countries. [Passage omitted]

It is to be noted that on arrival at Khartoum International Airport, he was accorded a warm welcome by President Umar Hasan al-Bashir, a number of Sudanese government ministers and ambassadors, as well as staff of the Eritrean embassy and the Eritrean community.

### **Egypt's Mubarak to send message to Sudanese Bashir on Darfur**

(*SudanTribune.com*) Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak will deliver a message to his Sudanese counterpart Omar al-Bashir to defuse tensions in Sudan's Darfur region, said a statement from the Egyptian Foreign Ministry Sunday.

According to the statement, an Egyptian mission headed by Foreign Minister Ahmed Abul Gheit and Intelligence chief Omar Suleiman will leave for Khartoum Monday with Mubarak's message of concern on the recent developments of the Darfur crisis.

In the statement, Abul Gheit said the talks between the Egyptian mission and the Sudanese side will focus on means to convince all rebel factions to join the political process as well as the three stages of support for the African peacekeepers.

### **Southern Sudan**

#### **45 die of cholera in Jonglei State**

(*Khartoum Monitor*) Forty-five people have died of cholera in Jonglei State since March, says a member of the state legislative body.

The member said that he had consulted the Deputy Commissioner of the area worse hit, the governor and the regional health minister who saw him as a "troublemaker". They sought no medical intervention from the state ministry of health or the state legislative body.

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

#### **Darfur interim authority sets to work today**

(*Rai AlShaab*) The Darfur interim authority will officially be launched today at a ceremony in street 27, el-Amarat.

Senior Presidential Aide Mini Minnawi will address the occasion as well as key members of the body.

### **Al-Mezni reveals efforts to resolve Darfur problem**

(*Alwan*) African Union Mission in Sudan has revealed of ongoing contacts with the non-signatory factions of the DPA and of an intensification of diplomatic efforts for peace in Darfur.

In an interview with the paper, Spokesperson Nouredine Mezni said that envoys Eliasson and Salim have received invitations from Libya to attend a proposed meeting in Libya next Saturday between the Sudan government and these armed factions.

He said that the two envoys will present a “road-map” to a peaceful solution to the Darfur crisis.

He also said that the focus is on a solution that bars out no one.

### **DPA non-signatory groups to form an interim council**

(*AlAyaam*) Informal consultations of the conference of field commanders of the non-signatory factions kicked off last Sunday, reveals the spokesperson for the opposition SLA.

He said that these talks have agreed on the formation of an interim council and a structure for their military. He also said that the escalation of military activities by the government is an obstacle to continued consultations between field commanders of these factions.

He also said that they now seek to reach full agreement on some issues between them before the conference of field commanders is launched.

### **Chadian army pursues 3 high-rank NRF officers on charges of spying**

(*AlHayat*) The Chadian army says it is following the trail of 3 high rank NRF officers accused of spying and leaking military and intelligence reports.

A source in the army said that information they have proves that these officers sold intelligence to the Chadian rebels and are on their way to the CAR. He says the Chadian army is interrogating 15 other NRF officers on suspected links to the incident.

### **Sudan air strike kills 26 civilians in North Darfur - rebels**

(*SudanTribune.com*) Sudanese army aircrafts bombarded during two days positions of a rebel faction in North Darfur killing 26 civilians among them 4 pregnant women, a rebel statement said on Sunday.

According to a faction of Sudan Liberation Movement led by Ahmed Abdelshafi, Sudanese army carried on Saturday and Sunday two air strikes against its positions in Amray in North Darfur.

The two antonov and the two helicopters killed 11 civilians on Saturday and 15 civilians among them four pregnant women, the bombardment destroyed the village and big number of cattle, the statement said.

### **Committee to unify national ranks to hold talks with DPA non-signatories**

(*AlKhabar*) The committee to unify national ranks led by Field-Marshal (rtd.) Suwar-el-Dahab will be holding talks next Sunday with registered and banned political parties that it had not consulted with earlier.

The committee recently briefed VP Kiir on progress in their endeavors and have reached agreement that they invite the non-signatory groups of the DPA for talks in Juba.