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By Public Information Office

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## **Highlights**

### **Main News**

#### **Census crisis in Southern Kordofan defused, census resumed (Al-Sahafa)**

#### **SPLM's Southern Kordofan resumes participation in Sudan census (ST)**

(ST/Al-Sahafa) April 23, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — A joint ad hoc committee from the two peace partners succeeded to end the boycott of the fifth national census by the SPLM in Southern Kordofan.

Sudan People's Liberation Movement in Kadogli announced yesterday the boycott of the census because of the insecurity and the misrepresentation of the former rebel movement in the state census agency.

A joint six-member committee from the SPLM and the National Congress Party (NCP) prevailed upon the SPLM leadership in the State to put an end to the boycott by increasing the census budget of Southern Kordofan in order to increase the number of enumerators from the SPLM.

The committee included Malik Aggar, the SPLM Vice-Chairman and Ahmed Haroun the leading member of the NCP.

The joint committee also met with the State Security Committee chaired by the governor of Southern Kordofan, Omer Suleiman, to touch on the issues related to the security arrangements.

The meeting stressed the need to conduct census in all parts of Southern Kordofan and the formation of a ministerial committee to address issues which remain unresolved, particularly the issue of integrating SPLM members in the civil service and implementation of some items related to security arrangements.

Meeting agreed on the importance of the protection of census teams deployed throughout the state.

#### **Yassin: Census expected to cover bulk of population by Saturday**

(Sudan Vision) General Supervisor of the Population and Housing 5th Census, Dr. Yasin El-Haj Abideen, said he expected enumerators to cover wide regions of the country by the coming Saturday, the date set for rounding off the census.

"By the 6th of May only a few pockets will be left," Dr. Yasin said, adding that the enumerators have not faced any difficulties up to this stage in the operation. He noted

that citizens have cooperated fully with the enumerators' teams and stressed that the operation so far does not face any financial or logistic problems.

"Heavy rainfall in the Blue Nile State was the only major problem that faced enumerators though they overcame that obstacle by using four-wheel drive cars," he explained. He disclosed that a number of citizens have not been interviewed during the first day of the census because that day was announced a holiday as a reminder to the population rather than for enumerators to reach everybody.

Yasin further explained that enumerators' teams will duly cover all citizens. He revealed that the census operation has progressed smoothly in Darfur in a manner that surprised observers who expected it to falter in that region.

For his part, Chairman of South Sudan Census Commission, Isaiah Chol, underscored the great cooperation of southern citizens with enumerators, remarking that rainfalls in Eastern Equatoria, Jonglei and the Unity States have delayed census work and that 11,000 are covering the towns and villages of the South.

He appealed to all citizens in the South to cooperate with enumerators and provide them accurate information so that census results may aid the government in providing basic services for citizens. He expressed his appreciation for the great contribution of security authorities to the census in the South.

### [UN/Agencies](#)

#### **[Security Council to listen to SRSG report today on CPA implementation](#)**

(Al-Watan) The Security Council will hold today a session for discussion on progress of implementation of the CPA in Sudan.

Sudan Ambassador to UN Abdul Mahmoud Abdul Haleem told SUNA that SC would listen to a report by the SRSG Ashraf Qazi on CPA implementation.

The discussion of the report will also coincide with annual renewal of UNMIS mandate to continue monitoring implementation of the CPA.

The Council held a meeting last Tuesday on development of situations in Darfur where it listened to a report by JSR R. Adada on progress of deployment of hybrid troops and the peace process in Darfur. It also listened to another report presented by USG for humanitarian affairs J. Holmes on humanitarian situation in Darfur.

### [GoNU](#)

#### **[Sudan Government is determined to demand UN to substantiate declared death toll in Darfur](#)**

(Al-Ahdath) Sudan Government is determined to demand USG Holmes to prove that death toll in Darfur reached 300,000.

Presidential Advisor, Dr. Mustafa Osman Ismail, in statement to Al-Jazeera TV yesterday said a western official told him that neither UN nor any European quarter has documents to substantiate the claimed figure.

According to Mustafa Osman the European official himself wondered where were the graves and names of those killed in Darfur.

Mustafa has called on those who talk about figures of death toll in Darfur to come up with documents to prove their claims.

### **Britain officially informs Sudan to host Darfur peace negotiations, FM and Presidential Advisor to visit London next week**

(Al-Rai Al-Aam) Sudan Government announced yesterday that it had received an official notification from Britain that it is desirous of hosting negotiations between Sudan Government and non-DPA signatories.

Presidential Advisor, Dr. Mustafa Osman Ismail, following meeting with British Ambassador to Sudan, said Foreign Office Undersecretary informed him during a meeting in New York about his country's offer to host Darfur peace negotiations.

"We are still considering the offer, we have not reached a decision yet," Mustafa Osman said.

The meeting between the Presidential Advisor and British Ambassador also discussed the agenda of the visit to be paid to London on Monday by FM Deng Alor and Presidential Advisor Mustafa Osman in response to an official invitation from Government of Britain.

### **Opposition submits memorandum to the Presidency on elections bill**

(Akhbar Al Yom/Al-Khartoum) Seventeen opposition political parties submitted on Wednesday to the Presidency a memorandum reflecting their vision over the electoral bill.

Representative of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) Dr. Ali Alsayed said he presented three copies of the memorandum to the Presidency.

The memo proposed the formation of tripartite committee comprising the NCP, SPLM and the opposition parties to formulate an election bill acceptable to all parties.

The memo, which contained eight points, proposed the amendment of the election Act so that it is consistent with Interim National Constitution (INC).

The opposition parties demanded a nation-wide census with the participation of the political forces and the civil society organizations as results would be used for power and wealth sharing.

The memo called for the abolition of all freedom-restricting laws and also demanded 50% for geographical constituencies and 50% for proportional representation of which 25% should be allocated to women.

The opposition demanded that the election roll should be permanent and elections at all levels should be conducted on the basis of it and for reducing the amount of security required to be deposited by a candidate.

### **US welcomes census in Sudan, condemns rebels' threat to enumerators**

(Al-Rai Al-Aam) USA welcomed start of census in Sudan, condemned Darfur rebels' threat to attack the enumerators, and appealed to GoNU, GoSS, political movement leaders and civil society leaders to work for ensuring safety and secure census.

This came in a press release issued by US State Department's Deputy Spokesperson, which also commended the efforts being exerted, by GoNU and GoSS.

### **GoSS**

### **Uganda's LRA rebels loot machetes in South Sudan**

(ST) April 23, 2008 (KAMPLA) — The Ugandan rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) looted machetes and hoes from south of Yambio, the capital city of West Equatoria, the governor of the state, an Ugandan daily reported.

Joseph Ngere, the governor of Western Equatoria state told the Ugandan Daily Monitor on Tuesday that the rebels had also abducted three Sudanese nationals in what is believed to be a mass movement towards Central African Republic (CAR) where the LRA established a base in March.

"Yesterday, a big group of LRA passed 24km south of Yambio town and abducted three people but two managed to escape," Mr Ngere said yesterday.

The LRA had requested similar equipment from Caritas, a charitable organization which was charged with supplying them, but the request was rejected.

They asked for machetes, hoes and building material but the request was turned down because such equipment were deemed war tools, said Caritas' liaison officer in South Sudan, Davis Lubwama.

LRA has in the past used machetes to kill civilians. Peace talks between Uganda's government and Joseph Kony, the fugitive leader of the LRA, collapsed earlier this month after Kony failed to appear at a planned meeting.

Peace talks between Uganda's government and Joseph Kony, the fugitive leader of the Lord's Resistance Army, collapsed earlier this month after Kony failed to appear at a planned meeting.

Northern Uganda's civil war killed tens of thousands of people and uprooted 2 million more. It also destabilised parts of Sudan's oil-producing south and mineral-rich eastern Congo.

Hopes of an end to one of Africa's longest conflicts were dashed when Kony failed to emerge from hiding for a peace deal signing ceremony on April 10 on the remote Sudan-Congo border.

Amnesty International urged on Tuesday Congo, Sudan and Central African Republic to join forces to free more than 350 people kidnapped in recent weeks by Ugandan rebels.

"These people — including scores of women and children — are likely to be used as child combatants and sex slaves, and yet none of the governments in the region have done anything to try to secure their release," the rights group said.

"The governments of Sudan, the CAR and the DRC — with the assistance of the U.N. — must join forces to secure the safety and release of those kidnapped immediately and bring those responsible to justice." Amnesty added.

### [Darfur](#)

#### **[Forests Corporation complains to police that UNAMID removed tree belt in El Fasher \(Al-Sudani\)](#)**

(Al-Sudani) The National Forestry Corporation (NFC) lodged on Wednesday a complaint to the local police accusing the United Nation-African Union Mission in Sudan (UNAMID) of unlawfully removing trees in El Fasher, North Darfur.

Director of NFC started last Thursday legal procedures to sue UNAMID for unauthorized cutting of tree-belt in El Fasher.

#### **[Gunmen kill two displaced in Darfur largest camp](#)**

(ST) April 23, 2008 (NYALA) — unidentified gunmen killed two persons in Darfur largest Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) camp in south Darfur following an attack against the medical center of the camp.

Speaking to Sudan Tribune, Hussein Abusharati, the spokesperson of the Darfur displaced and refugees said the assailants started shooting sporadically killing a woman and a man after their failure to break the door of the clinic inside Kalma camp.

"They entered Kalama camps at 4 a.m. local time while the displaced sleeping then they shot the doors of the hospital inside the camps trying to force it. The population heard the detonation of the guns and came outside their shelters. Then trying to escape, the attackers started shooting sporadically." He said.

According to Abusharati it was impossible to identify the attacker due to the darkness.

He further said that they had informed the hybrid peacekeeping forces of the repeated attacks against the camps by these unidentified people who infiltrate inside the camp.

"Three weeks ago we notified these attacks to the hybrid forces but they did nothing. This is why we demand the presence of European troops." He added.

The displaced spokesperson further said the peacekeepers arrived to the camp at 3 p.m. local time.

"The Sudanese government has repeatedly tried to dismantle Kalma camp and relocate its residents by force to unsafe areas, without any security guarantees or humanitarian aid," said Peter Takirambudde, Africa director at Human Rights Watch, on 31 October 2007.

Sudanese government attempted several times to close Kalma camp, home to at least 90,000 people and one of the largest camps for displaced persons in Darfur.

Yesterday Kalma displaced among other camps in the troubled Darfur staged protests against the national fifth census and prevented enumerators to enter the camp.

"We fully reject this counting operation because there is no peace and we do not trust the outcome of this census." Abusharati said yesterday. "People want security and to return to their villages before." He added.

The U.N. said on Tuesday the latest figures showed more than 300,000 people might have died during five years of fighting in Sudan's remote west. Khartoum puts the death count at 9,000.