



## UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN

## UNMIS

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(By Public Information Office)

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## **HIGHLIGHTS :**

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

#### **Sudan may deny visas to UN sanctions panel**

(*SudanTribune.com*) The Sudanese government may deny visas to members of the UN sanctions committee who wish to visit the country, the government sponsored Sudanese Media Center (SMC) has reported.

The report quoted an unidentified government official as saying that the government is considering a wide range of options to deal with the committee following its latest report in which it accused Khartoum of breaching the arms embargo and restriction of aerial activity in Darfur. The official says that the government is contemplating a formal protest to the UN and demanding an apology for “endorsing unconfirmed allegations by the UN panel”. The official went further to suggest that Sudan may file a complaint against the UN panel before the International Court of Justice for “smearing Sudan’s reputation”.

#### **Aid groups halt work in western Darfur border area**

(*SudanTribune.com*) Several international aid agencies said on Monday they were temporarily suspending their work in the town of Um Dukhun in Sudan’s troubled Darfur because of increased violence.

The agencies, which include the British group Oxfam, Save the Children Spain and the U.S.-based Mercy Corps, said the decision would disrupt services to some 100,000 people in the area near the border with Chad and Central African Republic.

The statement said a small number of aid workers would remain to monitor the situation and maintain essential services.

Aid agencies working in the town and in surrounding rural areas help displaced Darfuris as well as refugees fleeing the violence in Chad and Central African Republic. [*Follow the link to the full text of the story* [Aid groups halt work in western Darfur border area](#)]

#### **Sudan deliberately intimidates aid workers - US Negroponte**

(*SudanTribune.com*) The US State Department’s No. 2 official accused the Sudanese government Monday of engaging in a "deliberate campaign of intimidation" against humanitarian aid workers assigned to bring relief to the people of Darfur.

Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte, who recently returned from a trip to Sudan, said President Omar al-Bashir’s government has been denying visas to aid workers and putting additional obstacles in their path.

Negroponte said his meeting last week with al-Bashir "was not particularly encouraging." Any agreement reached with the Sudanese, he said, tends to be grudging and "always leaves questions as to whether they will follow through."

"Time is running out," Negroponte said, declining comment on how much time the Sudanese have to comply. He said that in addition to accepting peacekeepers, the Sudanese must disarm the Arab militias they have been supporting for more than four years.

The diplomat also took aim at rebel groups in Darfur who have refused to sign a May 2006 peace agreement and who, he said, have continued to attack innocent civilians. [Follow the link for the full text [Sudan deliberately intimidates aid workers - US Negroponte](#)]

## **The Transition Debate**

### **Sudan accepts United Nations, African Union joint representative for Darfur**

(*AlHayat et al*) Sudan has declared its acceptance of the nomination of Congolese Foreign Minister Rudolf Adada as joint United Nations/African Union Special Envoy on Darfur.

Sudan's representative to New York says Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon was pleased when informed of the Sudan's decision and looked at it as a consolidation of the tripartite coordination between the United Nations, the African Union and the Sudan government.

The Sudanese diplomat pointed out that the special envoy will be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the understandings reached in Addis and the resolutions of the African Union Peace & Security Council on Darfur.

It is worth noting that the peaceful process will be followed up by envoys Eliasson and Salim.

### **Sudan, rebels want negotiated end to Darfur crisis - UN envoy**

(*SudanTribune.com; AlHayat*) The U.N.'s special envoy for Darfur said Monday that both the Sudanese government and rebel forces wanted to find a negotiated settlement to end the conflict in Darfur.

Jan Eliasson held talks with European Union foreign ministers and said the international community "was happy" with a decision by Khartoum to accept more peacekeepers to assist the 7,000-strong African Union force in Darfur.

He said talks with the Sudanese government and rebels were making progress, and that both sides had agreed to find a peaceful end to the conflict there.

He appealed to the 27 E.U. nations to offer more aid and other practical support to the AU peacekeeping force in Darfur.

E.U. foreign ministers are to look at further financing the peacekeeping force in Darfur on top of the EUR400 million it has provided so far.

They also planned to debate whether to support calls for new economic and military sanctions on Sudan.

*AlHayat* daily reports on the other hand that Dr. Majzoub el-Khalifa says envoys Eliasson and Salim have failed in their joint mission in Sudan.

In his statements yesterday before the National Assembly, the Presidential Advisor said that despite government support and cooperation for their efforts, the envoys have not received tangible results from the non-signatory groups and the non-signatory groups are yet to show a positive move towards peace.

He said however that he expects some groups to come for talks. *[Follow the link for the full text of the stories from news agencies* [US pushes for new UN resolution on Darfur force](#); [Threat of sanctions on Sudan can help - UN](#); [Sudan, rebels want negotiated end to Darfur crisis - UN envoy](#)]

### **US pushes for new UN resolution on Darfur force**

*(SudanTribune.com)* The United States introduced a U.N. Security Council resolution on Monday that calls for a large U.N. force in western Sudan's Darfur region to protect civilians threatened by violence.

But the draft resolution ran into opposition because it did not focus solely on renewing the mandate for the 10,000-strong U.N. peacekeeping force in southern Sudan, where troops are helping to keep a truce after two decades of civil war.

The U.S. draft also raised opposition because it calls for a three-month extension for the southern Sudan force instead of the usual six months recommended by U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

The US draft also expresses the council's "intention" to establish a hybrid force in Darfur and asks the secretary-general to ensure the hybrid force protects "civilians under threat of physical violence," prevent attacks against civilians and provides U.N. command and control structures.

It also says the United Nations should put into place urgently the support packages for the African Union.

But South Africa's U.N. ambassador, Dumisani Kumalo, immediately objected, saying: "We can't mix everything in the same resolution." Russian Ambassador Vitaly Churkin agreed, saying: "At first glance there were some issues raised which do not have to be in the draft resolution."

Security Council members were also concerned that the United Nations had not appointed a representative for its Khartoum-based mission for southern Sudan since Dutchman Jan Pronk

was expelled last November, diplomats said. [Follow the link to the full text of the story [US pushes for new UN resolution on Darfur force](#)]

## **Egypt supports Sudan' efforts to end Darfur crisis - FM**

(*SudanTribune.com; the local press*) Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Aboul Gheit stressed on Monday his country's support for the efforts exerted by the Sudanese government to end the crisis in the western Sudanese region of Darfur.

Aboul Gheit told reporters that Egypt had noticed in the recent period "an active response" of the Sudanese government to international demands following its agreement on the light and heavy support packages.

"We encourage this development and will help Sudan overcome this crisis," he said.

Accompanied by Egyptian Intelligence chief Omar Suleiman, the Egypt's top diplomat arrived in Khartoum to deliver a message to Sudanese President Omer al-Bashir from his Egyptian counterpart Hosni Mubarak.

Aboul Gheit said that his visit to Sudan was aimed at coordinating positions with Sudan in order to boost the peace process in Darfur and to reunite the positions of the armed groups in Darfur preparing for a meeting to be held by the parties concerned including Egypt, Libya, Sudan, Chad, Eritrea and others at the end of this month.

The foreign minister reiterated his government's refusal of what he called "maneuvers" of escalating the situation and punishing Sudan, stressing that the AU force which is currently carrying out the peacekeeping mission in Darfur should be the basis of any peacekeeping force in the troubled region.

During the several-hour visit, Aboul Gheit will have talks with the Sudanese president and other senior Sudanese officials.

Aboul Gheit's visit comes at a time when Khartoum is under mounting pressures from the United States and few other western countries for a deployment of UN peacekeepers in Darfur.

## **CPA**

### **VP Taha says parties to the CPA to present an audit to their leaders on the CPA**

(*AlKhartoum*) VP Taha says ongoing meetings between representatives of the NCP and the SPLM are aimed at reviewing the CPA with the aim of presenting their leaderships with a comprehensive audit next month on implementation of the agreement.

Taha who was speaking at a symposium in Kosti, White Nile State, pointed out that the country is entering a phase of revival following the signing of the peace agreements and that peace is an

irreversible option that the Government of National Unity will seek to bring into a reality on the ground.

The Vice-President also reiterated government's commitments to a negotiated settlement to the Darfur crisis and called upon all Sudanese to engage the people of Darfur in dialogue.

The Vice-President also called on political forces to lead a national reconciliation drive.

### **SAF refuses to leave Unity State, says SPLA**

*(The Citizen)* The Deputy Director of Political and Moral Orientation, Brig. Deng, said the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) is maintaining a separate command in the capital of Unity State, Bentiu. He said such arrangement is a direct violation of the CPA.

Deng was commenting on SAF delays in redeploying its forces north as prescribed by the CPA. He complained that the current arrangement will create a fragile security situation.

According to him, the SPLA and SAF have two different commands in the town of Bentiu.

"We were supposed to have one joint command under the control of the Joint Integrated Units," he said. The two forces are divided and they cause a situation of unpredicted insecurity.

He blamed the SAF for not observing the CPA arrangements, especially the Security Protocol. He said the formation of the JIUs in unity may be delayed because SAF is not interested in pulling out the state.

### **Crisis looms in Blue Nile Government**

*(AlAyaam)* The SPLA in Blue Nile State rejected yesterday the State government's decision to establish a new locality in the western part of the state.

Deputy Governor and the SPLM leader in the Blue Nile State described the decision as partisan and concern only the National Congress Party warning that it would negatively affect the harmony between the two partners.

## **Southern Sudan**

### **Salva Kiir discusses establishment of South Sudan audit body**

*(SudanTribune.com)* In their regular monthly meeting on April 21, Southern Sudan government President Salva Kiir and Southern Sudan Auditor general, Barnabas Majok Barnabas, tackled progress on establishment of the Southern Sudan Audit Chamber.

Discussions also covered the process of reviewing all contracts which the GoSS has been a party to, staffing for the chamber and appointing a Deputy Auditor-General for the chamber.

The Auditor reported that the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, Jimmy Longwe and himself would, at the invitation of the World Bank, attend a one-week workshop on Accountability to be held in Tanzania at the end of April 2007. This will assist them in improving public accountability in Southern Sudan.

The provision of land for the construction of the Chamber's offices has now been agreed, reported the Auditor. The foundation stone will be laid the President of the GoSS in May, he said.

### **E. Equatoria governor briefs Salva Kiir on removal of state speaker**

(*SudanTribune.com*) Governor of Eastern Equatoria, in a meeting held last Saturday informed the President of Southern Sudan Government about the circumstances of removal of the former speaker of the state parliament.

The Governor reported that thirty (30) members of the assembly had signed a vote of no confidence in the Speaker. Elections were then conducted "in a fair atmosphere", which resulted in the election of a female Speaker of Parliament and a male Deputy.

The Governor described this election of a female Speaker as a historic landmark in the history of Southern Sudan.

Equatoria assembly speaker Adelino Michael Opi and Marko Lokitoi Lokuta, Deputy Speaker were replaced by Ms Sabina Dario and Martin Odwar as deputy speaker on April 11. The ousted speaker accused the governor of plotting against him.

## **Darfur/ Darfur Peace Agreement**

### **Darfur Transitional authority is launched**

(*Sudan Vision*) The head of the Darfur Transitional Regional Authority says the inauguration of the DTRA yesterday marks a shift to practicing political, economic, security and human authority in Darfur.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony, Mini Minnawi said that the regional authority will move to Darfur on Wednesday.

The governors of the three states of Darfur, state representatives, representatives of the diplomatic missions accredited to Khartoum and representatives of the African Union Mission in Sudan were among the attendance.

### **Sudan offers two-month truce in Darfur**

(*SudanTribune.com*) A top Sudanese government official on Monday offered a two-month halt in military operations in strife-torn Darfur to allow for rebel groups to join the peace process.

"The government forces will not conduct military operations in Darfur for the next two months," presidential adviser Majzub al-Khalifa Ahmed said.

He said the period should be used by rebel groups which did not endorse a May 2006 peace agreement to join negotiations aimed at ending the four-year-old civil conflict and "catch up with the peace march".

Khalifa was speaking at a ceremony to mark the launch of the Darfur Transitional Regional Authority (DTRA), a body created as part of the implementation of the moribund peace deal.

The agreement reached in May 2006 in Abuja was signed by the government and only one of three negotiating rebel factions, failing to make any impact. Rebel splinter groups have since flourished and violence spiralled.

Observers have questioned the viability of such a peace agreement and called for further international action, but Khalifa insisted the signatories should press ahead with its implementation.

The Abuja signatories "are capable of implementing the agreement and achieving peace in Darfur," the official said. "The inauguration of the regional authority constitutes a new stage in the history of the Sudan."

Khartoum "trusts that the authority will work hard towards implementing the Abuja agreement by building villages, helping IDPs (internally displaced people) return home and carrying out development projects, building roads and providing electricity", Ahmed said.

The ceremony was also attended by Minni Minnawi, who heads the faction of the Sudan Liberation Movement which signed the Abuja agreement and was consequently appointed as special presidential adviser.

"The authority will as of today begin exercising all its security, economic, political and humanitarian duties in addition to extending the basic services to the people of Darfur," said Minnawi, who is also DTRA chairman.

### **MPs say DPA did not bring solutions to the crisis in Darfur**

(*Allintibaha*) MPs yesterday strongly criticized Presidential Advisor Majzoub el-Khalifa over his report on the Darfur crisis and the implementation of the DPA.

They criticized his handling of the issue and pointed out that the DPA only brought political position to the armed factions but no solution to the Darfur crisis as the security and humanitarian situations remain very bad.

Parliamentarians also had differing views on the Darfur-Darfur Dialogue.



In his briefing, Majzoub el-Khalifa had also said that camps will open in the next ten days to integrate the military members of the signatory factions.

He said the non-signatory groups were not serious in talking peace with the government.

### **North Darfur State tries 38 military personnel for Darfur crimes**

(*Sudan Vision*) The governor of N. Darfur State has revealed that the trial in recent months of some 38 military and police personnel of war crimes negate the allegations that government forces are immune to trials.

He said that crime rates are on the decline in his state and that the government has put in place arrangements that would deter individual cases of insecurity. An example he gave was that his government has banned the carrying of small arms in public places in the state.

He also said that the prisons in the state have no political detainees.

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Correction:

An article appears in this section yesterday (Re: MMR – 23 April '07) under the heading: “Al-Mezni reveals efforts to resolve Darfur problem”. While every effort possible is made to produce as accurate as possible translations of the stories from media, PIO-UNMIS regrets to note that the said article quotes, in part, the AMIS Spokesperson Nouredine Al-Mezni as having outlined ongoing diplomatic efforts for a peaceful settlement in Darfur, cited an envisaged meeting in Tripoli as an example, and that envoys Salim and Eliasson “will present a road-map for solutions to the Darfur crisis”. Taken in context, it could be construed as that the AMIS spokesperson meant the envoys would present the road-map at the Tripoli meeting to which they have been invited – which is not the case.

The envoys have been tasked by the Secretary-General of the UN to draft the road-map.

PIO-UNMIS deeply regrets the confusion and the inconvenience this may have caused.

### **Other Developments**

#### **Courts acquit Tunisian terror suspect**

(*Rai AlShaab*) The courts in Khartoum have acquitted a Tunisian suspected of being part of a terrorist cell plotting to bomb western interests in Khartoum.

The Tunisian had claimed no links to such a plot and the acquittal came about for lack of evidence.