



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN

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Media Monitoring Report

30 April 2008

By Public Information Office

Main News-----

- 43 expelled census observers returned to Khartoum yesterday (Al-Ahdath)
- Expelled census observers harassed, detained, robbed in South Sudan (Sudan Vision)
- President Bashir: Claims of SAF bombing civilians in Darfur baseless, relations with Israel will not be normalized whatever the cost (Al-Rai Al-Aam/Al Intibaha )

UN/Agencies-----

GoNU-----

- British Prime Minister receives message from President Bashir, pledges to support peace and normalize relations with Khartoum (Al-Sahafa)
- Donor conference to convene in Oslo 5-7 May (El Sharee El Syasi)
- SAF spokesperson: Presence of SPLA in Kailik is violation of CPA (Al Khartoum)
- South Sudan army starts to redeploy troops from South Kordofan ST/Al-Sahafa)
- Arabs tell south Sudan troops to leave disputed area (AFP)
- Sudan, Chad endorse plan to monitor joint border (ST)

GoSS-----

- Armed men broke into prison in Wau, freed seven prisoners (Ray Al Shaab)
- Unity MPs walk out over Kharasana agreement (The Citizen)

Darfur-----

- Russia provides 4 helicopters to EU Darfur force (AFP)
- Sudanese woman killed during aerial bombing in N. Darfur – rebels ST)
- Rebels accuse Khartoum of bombing Darfur areas (Reuters)

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## **Highlights**

### **Main News**

#### **43 expelled census observers returned to Khartoum yesterday**

(Al-Ahdath) Forty-three census observers who have been expelled by GoSS returned to Khartoum yesterday from Equatoria, the rest are expected to return today from Wau.

Meanwhile, chairman of the Census Monitoring and Evaluation Committee Abdul Bagi Al-Gailani has refuted claims of shortage of census questionnaires in southern Sudan. “The General Committee delivered sufficient questionnairea to Southern Sudan plus a reserve quantity, there might have been a problem with distribution,” he explained.

Mr. Al Gailandi told the newspaper that 130 of census observers expelled from Southern Sudan would be utilized for observing census exercise in northern Sudan. He described the census exercise during the first week as satisfactory despite expulsion of observers from Southern Sudan and disruption in Darfur.

SUNA quoted a reliable source that SPLA robbed the expelled census observers of their money and belongings and detained them for four days. The source described the action as provocative and a violation of the CPA. Al Gailani added that census exercised faced some challenges in South Darfur State but it was proceeding in North and West Darfur States.

On the other hand, South Sudan Census Commissioner Azaya Chol said census in Central Equatoria accomplished by 60% adding that the problem of shortage of questionnaires could be addressed within 24 hours.

#### **Expelled census observers harassed, detained, robbed in South Sudan**

(Sudan Vision) Batches of Population census observers whom the Government of South Sudan (GoSS) has expelled out of the region started to arrive in Khartoum as from Monday afternoon. Groups of 38, 35 and 18 observers arrived from Wau, Juba and Rumbek.

Unfortunately, some of the observers interviewed by Sudan Vision disclosed the plight they have lived in South Sudan where they have been physically and

psychological maltreated by GoSS authorities, their personal effects, money and cell phones were confiscated and accused them of gathering intelligence for NCP.

Trade Unionist, Dr. Mohammed Al-Fateh Juma'a, criticized SPLM for that misconduct, describing it as contravening Sudanese people's morals and values, arguing that the conduct of SPLM Security authorities contradicts principles of fraternity and love. He further hailed Rumbek Governor for his warm reception of observers assigned to his State by Khartoum, noting that some observers were still stranded in Gogrial, Tonj and Raja waiting for rescue.

### **President Bashir: Claims of SAF bombing civilians in Darfur baseless, relations with Israel will not be normalized whatever the cost (Al-Rai Al-Aam/Al Intibaha)**

(Al-Rai Al-Aam/Al-Intibaha) Sudanese President Omer Bashir has rejected American claims that SAF was bombing civilians, committing genocide and ethnic cleansing in Darfur. He described the charges as baseless.

The President has criticized some western countries for urging Khartoum to normalize relations with Israel in return for support. He declared that Sudan would not normalize relations with Israel whatever the cost and Israel would remain enemy for Arabs and Muslims.

The President made the statement while addressing a huge rally in Port Sudan where he is on 2-day visit to the Red Sea State to open Atbara-Port Sudan highway.

### **UN/Agencies**

### **GoNU**

### **British Prime Minister receives message from President Bashir, pledges to support peace and normalize relations with Khartoum (Al-Sahafa)**

(Al-Sahafa) The British Prime Minister Gordon Brown received yesterday a message from Sudanese President Omer Bashir conveyed by Presidential Adviser Mustafa Osman Ismail and Foreign Minister Deng Alor.

Brown has promised to improve relations with Sudan adding that they were making efforts to achieve peace all over Sudan including Darfur.

British Foreign Minister at meeting with the delegation has expressed Britain concern with insecurity in Darfur and emphasized the need to halt hostilities and to facilitate the deployment of UN-AU troops. He also stressed the need for Sudan cooperation with ICC.

### **Donor conference to convene in Oslo 5-7 May**

(El Sharee El Syasi) Norway announced that donors who support Sudan would hold a conference in Oslo 5-7 May to raise funds for reconstruction and development in southern Sudan.

According to the Norwegian Foreign Ministry the conference would also review CPA implementation in Sudan.

### **SAF spokesperson: Presence of SPLA in Kailik is violation of CPA**

(Al-Khartoum) the agreement signed yesterday between NCP and SPLM to resolve tension in Kharsana collapsed hours after signature. The pact provides for replacement of SPLA in the area with JIUs.

JIUs insisted that SAF should also withdraw, arguing that they could not function under the presence of SAF.

For his part, JIUs spokesperson Maj. Gen. Pior Ajang said SPLA would be replaced by JIUs only if brigade 31 is withdrawn as JIUs would not be able to function under the presence of another army.

SAF spokesperson Brig. Al-Aqbash said security situations in Kailik and Kharsana were stable and SAF was securing the movement of civilians in the area. He added that the presence of SPLA in the area constitutes violation of the CPA.

### **South Sudan army redeploy troops from South Kordofan**

(ST/Al-Sahafa) April 29, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — Authorities in Unity State and South Kordofan today began the implementation of an agreement signed on Monday for withdrawal of the southern Sudan army from Kharasana locality in northern Sudan.

The deal was reached between the two parties following a siege imposed by Misseriya tribesmen on the Sudan People's Liberation Army position in the town to revenge the killing of 9 members of the tribe by some SPLA elements. The SPLA garrison in Kharasana is located in the northern part of the country according to 1956 border demarcation.

Sudan Armed Forces spokesperson in the area Alsoarmi Khalid Saad said that the northern Sudan army has provided four large troop transporters to complete the SPLA withdrawal from the region in two weeks.

The governor of Unity State Taban Gai Deng and the governor of South Kordofan Omer Suleiman Adam signed on April 28, 2008 an agreement stating the redeployment of the SPLA south to the 1956 border line within two weeks. Also it was agreed to provide the SPLA with water by the SAF troops and the evacuation of their families from the military garrison.

The parties committed themselves to pay compensations for blood and other physical damages.

The northern Sudan army had prevented the arrival of SPLA military reinforcements to the besieged soldiers.

### **Arabs tell south Sudan troops to leave disputed area**

(KHARTOUM, April 29, 2008 (AFP) - Arab fighters from the Messeria tribe have agreed to allow besieged troops from the former rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army to leave a disputed oil district where fighting has left dozens dead.

The SPLA soldiers and Ngok Dinka civilians had been besieged in the town of Kharasana, about 40 kilometers (25 miles) north of the disputed town of Abyei, since Friday, Messeria politician Mohamed Suleiman Gor told AFP on Tuesday.

Gor said the soldiers and Ngok Dinkas, who are in dispute with the Messeria over who controls the Abyei district, could head south after a deal was reached between State governors for their safe passage. They have a week to leave, he said.

Gor said that Messeria fighters burnt three Dinka villages to the ground during fighting last week that also killed 28 Messeria. There was no figure on SPLA casualties. The Ngok Dinka supported the southern rebels of the SPLA during their decades-long civil war with the Sudanese government, while the Messeria fought in a pro-Khartoum militia.

### **Sudan, Chad endorse plan to monitor border joint border**

(ST) April 29, 2008 (TRIPOLI) — Military expert from Sudan and Chad discussed during a two-day meeting in the Libyan capital the deployment of an African force. They endorsed a plan to monitor the border between the two countries.

The group of contact established by Dakar Agreement between the Sudan and Chad has agreed to deploy military monitors through the 1500 km long common border between the two countries. The group to agree on the need for the monitoring force convened Tripoli meeting.

The joint military committee on the control of Sudan-Chad border agreed on the financial and logistical means to enforce the non-aggression deals signed between the two countries. Further, they determined the position of eight checkpoints to be opened besides the existing two points.

The two neighbouring countries also agreed to provide the necessary troops for the monitoring operations. It was agreed to deploy seven observers at every monitoring point including one from Chad and another from Sudan.

The committee discussed ways to accelerate the deployment of observers on the joint border in order to stop the security deterioration in Darfur and eastern Chad. This measure is considered as a crucial to bring confidence between the two neighbours

The technical agreement of the joint committee will be submitted to the second ministerial meeting of the group of contact which is scheduled to be held on 12-13 May in Tripoli, Libya

Libya has pledged a total of 2 million U.S. dollars to finance the operations of the force, while Senegal and the Republic of Congo have pledged to provide troops to man the operation.

In the past Sudan accused Chad of foot dragging on the deployment of the African monitoring force, a matter the two countries had agreed since the Tripoli agreement in February 2006.

According to a non-aggression pact signed in the Senegalese capital, on the sidelines of the Islamic Conference summit on March 13, the two countries agreed to deploy a monitoring force to ensure stability on the joint border and to establish a contact group composed of Congo, Eritrea, Gabon, Libya and Senegal.

### [GoSS](#)

#### **[Armed men broke into prison in Wau, freed seven prisoners](#)**

(Ray Al-Shaab) unidentified men broke into a prison in Wau in Bahr el Ghazal two days ago and freed seven persons imprisoned in connection with the recent incidents in the Lakes State that claimed scores of lives.

Sources confirmed to the newspaper that those freed from the prison were accused of murder and it was likely that the intruders were relatives of the accused.

#### **[Unity MPs walk out over Kharasana agreement](#)**

(The Citizen) Key political players in Unity State walked out during a historic formation of the SPLM State congress a top official has said.

The boycott was to protest the Governor's decision ordering SPLA forces to surrender Karansana and Aliny (Higlig) areas to Arab Messeriya after a tortuous meeting with Southern Sudan authorities on Monday.

Mabek Lang, the Commissioner of Pariang County Tuesday said members of Parliament from both Khartoum and Juba abandoned the long anticipated SPLM congress indefinitely complaining that Governor Taban Deng Gai made a serious decision.

Aliny, which was later renamed "Higlig" by the northern regimes after the discovery of oil, has long been a traditional area for Dinka Panarur who are citizens of the Unity State.

Lang said the Governor alleged that the decision was made by the President of Southern Sudan Salva Kiir Mayardit.

### [Darfur](#)

#### **[Sudanese woman killed during aerial bombing in N. Darfur – rebels](#)**

(ST) April 29, 2008 (LONDON) — a woman was killed following the bombardment of a village in northern Darfur by a Sudanese army aircraft today, rebel groups said. "An Antonov of the Sudanese army has bombed the village of Helf, 60 km from Mellit, killing one woman — Asha Khatir — and wounding gravely a child of 12 years in his head" Justice and Equality Movement commander Osman Wash told Sudan Tribune on Tuesday morning. Sudan Liberation Movement commander in North Darfur, Suleiman Jamous, confirmed the bombing saying that it lasted for three hours.

Both commanders stressed no rebel group has any presence in the attacked village. Wash also said many animals (cattle and sheep) were killed indicating that there is important water well in the village. However, Sudanese army denied the bombing.

JEM spokesperson Ahmed Hussein Adam said this attack against civilian population constitutes a grave violation to the international humanitarian law which prohibits indiscriminate attacks against civilians and civilian objects. "Once again this attack demonstrates Khartoum real intentions to pursue its genocide in Darfur as they have no true desire to reach a negotiated solution for the conflict," he said.

#### **Russia provides 4 helicopters to EU Darfur force**

April 29, 2008 (LUXEMBOURG) — Russia will provide four helicopters to support the EU peacekeeping force in Chad and Central African Republic, a spokeswoman for EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana said Tuesday.

A diplomatic source said the four helicopters would involve the sending of around 120 Russian military personnel to fly and maintain them.

Russia's participation "will become an important step in strengthening cooperation with the European Union in crisis management," said Solana and Russia Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said in a joint statement following a meeting in Luxembourg.

Solana hailed the Russians for "taking up positively the request to render assistance" to the EUFOR force, which is having trouble getting the means it requires for the deployment.

There are 1,770 EUFOR troops currently on the ground, from a total planned force of 3,700 due to be operational by the end of June. Some 18 nationalities are represented. EUFOR began its mission on March 17, several months behind schedule after lengthy negotiations within the EU over contributions as well as a rebel offensive in Chad against the capital Ndjamena which attempted to overthrow the regime of President Idriss Deby.

The EUFOR mission was authorized under a UN Security Council resolution in 2007. It is aimed principally at protecting the Darfur refugees from Sudan in eastern Chad and northeast Central African Republic, as well as the internally displaced Chadians and Central Africans, who number 450,000. The European operation will also give assistance to the UN mission in Chad and Central Africa (MINURCAT), which has 300 instructors training local police officers to secure the refugee camps. (AFP)

## **Rebels accuse Khartoum of bombing Darfur areas**

(Reuters) Darfur rebels accused the government yesterday of bombing areas under their control and said attacks this week showed Khartoum was not serious about seeking peace.

But the army denied the accusations, which come during the visit of a Sudanese delegation to London to follow up on British Prime Minister Gordon Brown's offer to host Darfur peace talks.

A commander of the rebel Justice and Equality Movement said there had been bombing in North Darfur yesterday while a Sudan Liberation Army commander said government Antonov planes had bombed the West Darfur area of Jabel Moun on Monday.

Osman Wash, from the Justice and Equality Movement, said at least 12 bombs had fallen on areas under the group's control, wounding a 12-year-old child and a 62-year-old woman who were not expected to survive.

Osman Abbas, a Sudan Liberation Army commander, said civilians were wounded in bombing at Jabel Moun on Monday that had violated UN Security Council resolutions.

But an army spokesman said "All of our sources say this is not true – we have no movement in any of these areas." A senior Sudanese army source denied there was any bombing in Jabel Moun. Khartoum says only 10,000 have died.

A Sudanese delegation is in London this week following Brown's offer to host peace talks, but rebels say the government is not serious about negotiating a solution.

"They are continuing this bombing while they have a delegation in London saying they want to discuss peace," said JEM spokesman Ahmed Hussein Adam. "They are just continuing to impose a military solution," he added. – Reuters