



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN
UNMIS
UNMIS Media Monitoring Report, 1st August 2006
(By Public Information Office)

NOTE: Reproduction here does not mean that the UNMIS PIO can vouch for the accuracy or veracity of the contents, nor does this report reflect the views of the United Nations Mission in Sudan. Furthermore, international copyright exists on some materials and this summary should not be disseminated beyond the intended list of recipients.

IN THE NEWS TODAY:

➤ **United Nations and the Transition Debate**

- Annan sees up to 24,000 UN peacekeepers for Darfur
- UN mission reports continuing clashes in Darfur
- Great Lakes region backs Sudan government against transition
- Ministry of Interior renews government rejection to a transition

➤ **CPA**

- Misseiriya accuse Deng Alor and James Ajiang of arming the Dinka Ngok
- SPLA accuses the Ministry of Energy of funding oil militias

➤ **Southern Sudan/GoSS/SPLM**

- Northern Sudanese teachers face uncertain fate in southern Sudan
- Paulino Matib in conflict with the GoSS and SPLM leadership
- SPLM denies attacking the house of presidential advisor in South Sudan
- LRA Kony holds first formal peace talks with Ugandan officials
- Member of the SPLA accuses the SPLM of marginalising the Nuba people

➤ **Darfur/Darfur Peace Agreement**

- Darfur commanders dismiss al-Nur from the SLM leadership*
- Consultative Council of Arab Tribes call on supporters not to welcome Minnawi
- Darfur peace parties to announce deal implementation
- SLM-Freewill faction nominates leader to the position of Assistant to the President of the Republic
- Darfur Students' Front rejects disarmament of Arab tribes
- Darfur holdout rebel groups form alliance with Kordofan Development Council
- Disarmament of the Janjaweed and individual compensations should come before any peace deal, says AbdulWahid
- Darfur lawyers seek Constitutional Court ruling against the Darfur Peace Agreement

➤ **Other Developments**

- Rebecca Garang calls for new probe on helicopter crash

HIGHLIGHTS:

United Nations and the Transition Debate

Annan sees up to 24,000 UN peacekeepers for Darfur

(Reuters/ST – 1st Aug. UN) A large and highly mobile peacekeeping force for Sudan's Darfur region, numbering up to 24,000 troops and international police officers.

The requirements for the force, which would surpass the 17,500-strong U.N. force in the Democratic Republic of Congo as the largest U.N. peacekeeping mission, were outlined in a report to the U.N. Security Council, a copy of which was obtained by Reuters.

Sudan's government has yet to approve deployment of a U.N. force to succeed a smaller and under-equipped African Union force of about 7,700 soldiers and civilian police.

The 15-member Security Council can approve the force without Sudan's approval but it is doubtful any country would contribute troops without Khartoum's consent.

"Securing the consent of the government of Sudan will require continued intensive discussions with Khartoum by council members, by key member states and regional organizations, as well as by the United Nations," Annan said, calling for a shift to a U.N. force "as soon as possible."

After more than three years of fighting among Sudanese factions in Darfur, "marked by abhorrent violence against innocent civilians that has shocked the world," the cost of rejecting an eventual transition to a U.N. peacekeeping mission "could be serious and lasting," Annan warned.

Annan said the U.N. mission would require an initial deployment of up to 3,300 police officers plus 16 trained units of riot police, typically of 125 officers each, for a total of as many as 5,300 officers.

With the officers to be deployed at over 100 sites, covering about 80 percent of Darfur's population, "this would be a minimum option," he said.

As for U.N. troops, the force would seek to protect refugee camps, humanitarian supply routes and nomadic migration routes via a "framework of mobile infantry battalions," Annan said, outlining three options ranging from 15,300 to 18,600 soldiers, depending on the number of aircraft to accompany them.

The best option, he said, would be to deploy 17,300 peacekeeping soldiers along with three fixed-wing reconnaissance aircraft and 26 helicopters.

"This force represents an optimal balance of key operational capabilities and likely offers the fastest route to a secure environment and eventual return to normality."

Should just 13 helicopters be made available, the force would require about 18,600 troops and would be less capable of responding to multiple security incidents by air, "possibly delaying the return to normality and peace."

Should the force be equipped with 35 helicopters, it could get along with about 15,300 troops by relying more heavily on rapid-reaction forces while "sacrificing some security presence," Annan said.

The smaller force would be more vulnerable to bad weather and would carry "a higher degree of risk on protection of civilians," he said.

UN mission reports continuing clashes in Darfur

(*United Nations/ST* – 31st Jul. **New York**) Violent clashes between Sudanese Government forces, allied militias and rebel groups continue to plague the strife-torn Darfur region, the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) reported today, while a UN humanitarian convoy has also been ambushed.

UNMIS reported that the security situation in Darfur's north and west is particularly volatile, with ongoing clashes over the past three days, a UN spokesperson told journalists at UN Headquarters in New York.

In the area around Kukul in North Darfur, Sudanese Government forces fought members of the rebel group known as the National Redemption Front, prompting internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the area to flee towards the provincial capital, El Fasher.

In West Darfur, a convoy of 29 trucks belonging to the UN World Food Programme (WFP) was ambushed by six armed men on Saturday as it was returning to its base in the provincial capital, Geneina, after distributing food in the district around Habila. The spokesperson said no injuries were reported.

Great Lakes region backs Sudan government against transition

(*AlAyaam* – 1st Aug.) The meeting of parliamentarians of the Great Lakes region has expressed backing for the Sudan government position against a transition of the AMIS to a United Nations operation and has called for more political and material support for the African Union mission to enable it carry out its mandate.

The Kenyan represent noted that the African Union summit meeting in Banjul did support a transition and pointed out that it is important that this position be reviewed as it is not in line with the position the parliamentarians hold.

Ministry of Interior renews government rejection to a transition

(*AlKhabar* – 1st Aug. **Khartoum**) Interior minister el-Zubeir Bashir Taha has reiterated rejections to the deployment of international forces to Darfur.

Speaking at a meeting in Khartoum with MPs of the Darfur region, the minister pointed out that the only way to avert the conspiracies being concocted against the Sudan was through concerted efforts to implement the Darfur Peace Agreement and consolidate the rule of law.

The minister further pointed out that pressure groups in the west are the key beneficiaries to the continuation of the fighting in Darfur and are the ones controlling their governments.

He called for a national “alliance against foreign intervention”.

CPA

Misseiriya accuse Deng Alor and James Ajiang of arming the Dinka Ngok

(*Alwan* – 1st Aug. **Khartoum**) Following events that saw the Dinka Ngok trying to expel the Arab stock from the Abyei region and barring the teaching of Arabic language and Islamic religion from the schools in the region, the Misseiriya held a meeting in Khartoum yesterday until the early hours of this morning.

The meeting of Misseriya activists and elders discussed the political situation in Abyei and has called upon the Presidency of the Republic to intervene in order to find a clear solution to the harassments by the Dinka Ngok. They said that the conduct of the Dinka Ngok is but a natural reaction to the recent statement by cabinet affairs minister Deng Alor and of James Ajiang.

They have called upon the Presidency to resolve the issue before it becomes too late.

The meeting wound up in the early hours of this morning with an agreement to form a unifying body for the Misseriya. A 15-member Consultative Council was formed with AlAmir Hireika Izzaldeen as chairman.

Reports going the rounds have it that 600 G3 rifles have been distributed to the clans of the Dinka Ngok. There are also reports of SPLA training camps in Misseriya land and of efforts to enlist the Misseriya.

SPLA accuses the Ministry of Energy of funding oil militias

(*AlAyaam* – 1st Aug. **Khartoum, Juba**) SPLA operations chief Mjr. Gen. Biang Deng says some of the militias of the oil companies operating in the country are being funded by the Ministry of Energy and Mining.

“We can not differentiate between the police and these militias because both operate in the same area and wear the same gear”, he said but added that authorities in the government have denied knowledge of the existence of such forces.

The SPLA chief of operations said that the OAGCC should address the issue when it convenes on 3 August and declare these militias outlaw factions in so that they are dealt with as such.

He further pointed out that the issue of these militias has been discussed in the Joint Defence Board and the Ceasefire Political Committee but no specific decision has been reached.

On the other hand, the operations chief pointed out that the difficulties in addressing the issue of the OAGs are mainly in identifying their locations and numbers.

Clement Wani, he adds, announced last Sunday that he is joining the SPLA and bringing along his force of 350.

Among the most important militias he mentioned as operating in southern Sudan are those of Gordon Kouand, elToum Daldoum, Agang of the EDF, Gabriel Kanga, Peter Dorout, Cyriano and Riek Gai.

GoNU

Southern Sudan/GoSS/SPLM

Northern Sudanese teachers face uncertain fate in southern Sudan

(*AlAyaam* – 1st Aug. **Khartoum**) Contradicting reports have it that the authorities have stopped paying salaries to 300 teachers from northern Sudan working in the south.

Some claim that the GoSS no longer requires the services of northern Sudanese teachers in the schools in southern Sudan but the Ministry of Education denies knowledge of this.

The 300 northern Sudanese teachers affected are currently stuck in Khartoum since they have not been paid for the last 9 months.

Paulino Matib in conflict with the GoSS and SPLM leadership

(*Rai AlShaab* – 1st Aug. **Khartoum**) Mjr. Gen. Paulino Matib (the SPLA number two commander) is in conflict with the GoSS and the SPLM leaderships over what he regards as failure of the SPLM to live up to its promise to appoint him the defence minister for the GoSS, sources report.

The sources say the GoSS and SPLM leaderships had failed to convince Matib that his demand could not be met because the position itself is unconstitutional. They then offered Mr. Matib any key ministerial position of his choice as an alternative but Matib is said to have turned down these offers.

Matib who is said to have complained of “marginalisation” within the SPLA has withdrawn to where his forces are assembled in West Nuer, Unity State, the sources further reveal.

His forces are reported to be reassembling in West Nuer and sources say there is a high possibility Matib and his forces may return to the ranks of the SAF.

SPLM denies attacking the house of presidential advisor in South Sudan

(*Sudan Tribune* – 30th Jul. **Khartoum**) The Sudan People’s Liberation Army (SPLA) has denied attacking the house of the Presidential Advisor and deputy chairman of the ruling National Congress Party (NCP) for southern Sudan affairs Riek Gai in Upper Nile State.

The NCP said that an armed group from the SPLA attacked the home of Riek Gai in the town of Renk in Upper Nile State injuring Mr. Gai’s personal driver who is currently being treated in hospital. Gai himself is in Cairo on vacation.

The SPLA said there is a small force in Renk charged with stripping those who enter the town from their arms and handing it back once they leave but SPLA headquarters has promised an investigation.

The group which was armed with guns and hand grenades claims that they were targeting Gai whom they described as a terrorist. They are said to still be in the vicinity having retreated earlier with the regular forces on their heels.

LRA Kony holds first formal peace talks with Ugandan officials

(AP/ST – 1st Aug. Congo-Sudan border) The elusive leader of a brutal 19-year Ugandan rebellion held his first formal peace talks with government officials, giving a boost to efforts to end a conflict that has swept up children and killed and maimed civilians.

Joseph Kony, leader of the Lord's Resistance Army, shook hands with a delegation of 160 officials and lawmakers from northern Uganda and representatives of non-governmental organizations before three hours of talks Monday.

Dressed in a crisp military uniform, Kony allowed photographers to take pictures of him but did not speak to journalists. He appeared friendly with the government delegation, slapping some of them on the back and laughing with them.

The delegation, led by opposition lawmaker Nibert Mao, then went into the closed-door meeting with Kony.

The meeting took place in a makeshift rebel camp set up for the peace talks about 3 kilometres (2 miles) inside the Congolese border. The camp was decorated in palm leaves as a sign of peace. Journalists were taken there, but were not told exactly where they were, and were not allowed to use any satellite phones until they were returned to Sudan.

"For meaningful talks to continue there must be a cessation of hostilities," the rebels said in a statement after the talks.

Kony had been expected to turn up for the talks Sunday, but sent his teenage son instead, as a gesture of goodwill. His 14-year-old son, Salim Saleh Kony, did not speak to the media.

Kony has yet to meet with the main Ugandan government delegation, led by Interior Affairs Minister Ruhakana Rugunda.

Before Monday's talks, Kony met informally with some Ugandan government officials at a secret location Sunday night, said Walter Ochora, the top administrator of the northern Uganda district of Gulu, which has borne the brunt of Kony's rebellion.

"It was very positive ... The man wants peace," Ochora told The Associated Press. He said Kony had been in poor health, coughing blood, but was feeling better.

The Lord's Resistance Army is made up of the remnants of a rebellion that began after Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni took power in 1986.

Its political agenda is unclear. But it has set up rear bases in Sudan and Congo, and has been accused of attacking civilians and threatening stability in those countries. It is known for abducting thousands of children, forcing them to become fighters, servants or concubines. Thousands of civilians have died in the conflict and more than 1 million have been forced to flee their homes.

Kony is under indictment by the International Criminal Court, but Museveni has offered to protect him if the LRA agrees to give up its weapons. The rebels, however, have demanded that they be incorporated into Uganda's national army.

New York-based Human Rights Watch denounced all calls for amnesty, saying international law rejects impunity for "genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and torture."

Member of the SPLA accuses the SPLM of marginalising the Nuba people

(*AllIntibaha* -1st Aug. **Khartoum**) Major Telefun Kuku, a key member of the SPLA from the Nuba Mountains area, has called upon the people of the Nuba Mountains in the SPLM/A to stand up for their rights as people who have played a crucial role in the SPLM's struggle.

In a statement issued yesterday, Mjr. Kuku accused the GoSS and the SPLM/A of marginalising the people of the Nuba Mountains who were crucial in the SPLA victory in Western Equatoria and other areas.

He warned that the spark for the next war will come from South Kordofan if the Government of National Unity does not "change its ideologies".

Kuku rebuffed recent reports of having joined the NCP and maintains he is still a member of the SPLM.

Darfur/Darfur Peace Agreement

Darfur commanders dismiss al-Nur from the SLM leadership*

(*Sudan Tribune* – 31st Jul. **Pasris**) Military commanders of the AbdulWahid faction of the Sudan Liberation Movement have relieved leader AbdulWahid Mohamed Nur from his position at the helms of the movement, a press release they issued says.

32 leaders of the SLM Military Council and the Field Command in a meeting held on 25 July in an undisclosed location in Darfur and made the decision.

The press statement didn't give further details on the reasons for this ouster but it has been learnt AbdulWahid is criticised for not consulting with the other groups in his faction and not "acting correctly with the African Union and the international community to explain the faction's position". They claim that the faction has lost a lot in terms of political capital as a result of AbdulWahid's actions.

Ahmed Abdelshafi Yagoub Baasi has been designated as the new chairman for the movement and has been charged with reorganising the faction's structures within 74 hours.

Baasi is the chief commander of the movement.

** Please see full text of the state attached separately.*

Consultative Council of Arab Tribes call on supporters not to welcome Minnawi

(*AllIntibaha* – 1st Aug. **Khartoum**) The Supreme Committee of Consultative Councils of Arab Tribes has called on all its supporters across all sectors of society not to come out in welcome

of SLM leader Mini Minnawi when he comes to Khartoum next Saturday or when he sets foot on any of the states of Darfur.

The Supreme Committee argued in a recent statement that the war in Darfur is not yet over and that the SLM leader has been advocating for the deployment of United Nations troops to Darfur – something that the committee strongly rejects.

“Minnawi would be better off discussing with the people of Darfur the means to implement the Darfur Peace Agreement instead of discussing the issue with the US Administration”, added the statement.

Darfur peace parties to announce deal implementation

(*Sudan Tribune* – 30th Jul. **Khartoum**) Presidential Advisor Majzoub al-Khalifa said that the parties to the Darfur Peace Agreement will issue a joint statement within the coming days to make public what has been achieved towards implementing the Darfur Peace Agreement so far.

Al-Khalifa said following his meeting with the representative of the chairman of African Union commission that a timetable for meetings of joint commissions would be announced according to the agreement.

A joint meeting will also be held in Addis Ababa on the third of next August on cease-fire. The government and signatories to the peace agreement will participate in this meeting, along with those groups which have joined the agreement recently, Al-Khalifa indicated.

The principal signatory of the peace deal with Khartoum, Minni Minawi is expected to arrive in the Sudanese capital on 5 August.

SLM-Freewill faction nominates leader to the position of Assistant to the President of the Republic

(*AIRai AlAam* – 1st Aug. **Khartoum**) The SLM-Freewill faction says it intends to present a list of its nominees to the positions offered by the Darfur Peace Agreement including that of the Assistant to the President of the Republic.

The SLM-Freewill faction has fielded its leader AbdelRahman Musa who arrived in Khartoum yesterday as its sole nominee for the position of Assistant to the President of the Republic.

This has caused an uproar from the Minnawi faction of the SLM but the government says it will take into consideration all nominations presented by the signatories to the Darfur Peace Agreement.

On the other hand, the Minnawi faction of the SLM has called on the African Union to come up with a clear position on Chadian involvement and support to the holdout rebel factions in Darfur.

It warns it will not remain silent before these activities by a foreign force.

Darfur Students' Front rejects disarmament of Arab tribes

(*Rai AlShaab* – 1st Aug. **Khartoum**) The Darfur Students' Front has accused the Consultative Council of the Arab Tribes of Darfur of being tools in the hands of the National Congress party and claim that the council only represented the views of its members when it welcomed disarmament of the Arab tribes in Darfur.

Ali Wafi Bashar, the deputy head of the Darfur Students' Front, told *Rai AlShaab* that the “so-called Consultative Council of the Arab Tribes of Darfur” has not been mandated by anyone and has no arms to hand over or else they should hand it over to the DDR commission.

The Front says it will only accept to disarm when total and real security is restored, citizens and their property are protected and all armed groups in Darfur are disarmed simultaneously.

“We the Arab tribes of Darfur have for more than twenty years been protecting ourselves and our property from SPLA attacks without a single government soldier coming to our rescue. This is why anyone who wants to disarm us will only do so over our dead bodies unless the conditions mentioned [*above*] are met,” warned the deputy head of the Darfur Students' Front.

Darfur holdout rebel groups form alliance with Kordofan Development Council

(*AlAyaam* – 1st Aug. **Khartoum**) Leaders of the holdout rebel groups of Darfur have formed a political and military alliance with the Kordofan Development Council with the aim of ousting the Bashir government.

Isam Ahmed el-Haj, spokesman for the SLM, said that the alliance will escalate political and military activities to overthrow the Khartoum government and will use Darfur and Kordofan as their launching pad.

He said that all the holdout groups are united in their struggle against the Darfur Peace Agreement.

Disarmament of the Janjaweed and individual compensations should come before any peace deal, says AbdulWahid

(*AlAdhwa* – 1st Aug. **Khartoum**) AbdulWahid Nur, the leader of the holdout SLM faction, has disclosed of contacts between his faction and the Khartoum government to sign the Darfur Peace Agreement but says individual compensations for all those affected and finding an effective mechanism with a set timetable for the disarmament of the Janjaweed should precede any signature.

In an exclusive interview, AbdulWahid accused the National Congress Party of trying to split his movement by tempting some of his field commanders with money.

Darfur lawyers seek Constitutional Court ruling against the Darfur Peace Agreement

(*Rai AlShaab* – 1st Aug. **Khartoum**) Sources say that a group of lawyers from Darfur has tabled the Darfur Peace Agreement for study before prominent Sudanese lawyers ahead of seeking a Constitutional Court ruling against the agreement which they say disregards the fundamental rights of the people of Darfur.

On the other hand, the Secretary-General of the Darfur Students' Front says the Darfur Peace Agreement has to be scrapped for the sake of social justice because it does not represent the views of all the people of the Sudan.

Other Developments

Rebecca Garang calls for new probe on helicopter crash

(*Sudan Tribune* – 30th Jul. **Juba**) The widow of Dr John Garang, the late leader of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement, SPLM, who died in a helicopter crash in southern Sudan on 30 July 2005, has called for new investigations on the circumstances of his helicopter crash.

Rebecca Garang, during the commemoration of the first anniversary of the death of the former Sudanese First Vice President yesterday in Juba, said that deeper inquiries should be conducted to establish the truth about the controversial helicopter crash on July 30, 2005.

"The report has come out but as the family of Gen. Garang and the extended family what we want is that even if it is out we need extended investigations," said Rebecca.

Madam Garang said she asked the governments of Uganda and Southern Sudan (GOSS) to support further probe into the controversial death of her late husband.

Following the helicopter crash near New Site in southern Sudan, an international investigation panel was formed to establish the probable cause of the accident after his death sparked a wave of violence in Sudan, where many suspected conspiracy.

The international panel was chaired by former Sudanese vice president Abel Alier and the black boxes were analysed in Russia.

Pilot error was to blame for the helicopter crash that killed Sudanese First Vice President John Garang last year as he flew home from Uganda, the final report into the accident by Uganda and Sudan said on Tuesday 18 April 2006.

The Ugandan government notified Sudan of its reservations regarding some aspects of the final report by panel investigating the plane crash. Actually the difference between the panel members and the Ugandan government was obviously clear during the investigations when Uganda was accused of information retention and lack of cooperation by the investigators.