

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS**Media Monitoring Report, 02 August 2007

(By Public Information Office)

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Highlights

UN/ Agencies

Sudan rejects Sima Samar reports to Human Rights Council

(*Khartoum Monitor*) Sudan announce that it rejects the reports that the Human Rights Special Rapporteur Sima Samar raised to the Human Rights Council following every visit she made to the country.

Samara used to visit Sudan, meet with officials, listen to their views and give an impression of satisfaction with their views. She then raises negative reports about the human rights situation in the country, says justice minister Mohamed Ali el-Mardi following his meeting with Samar yesterday.

“The government is sceptical about the report Samar will submit to the Council in September,” he added.

The meeting with Samar handled several human rights issues and the measures adopted by the Sudan in addition to the laws that have to be reviewed or abolished. Minister el-Mardi said he told Samar that the Human Rights Council focuses on matters that are almost non-existent like human rights violations, ethnic cleansing and mass rape in Darfur whereas the situation is better than before and belies claims of a deteriorating situation.

AU encourages member states to send more troops to Darfur

(*AFP via SudanTribune.com*) The African Union (AU) was holding a meeting Thursday to encourage its member states to contribute further troops to the Darfur peacekeeping mission approved by the UN Security Council.

Ambassadors to the pan-African body were gathered at its Addis Ababa headquarters to discuss contributions to the force, which will face the daunting task of stabilising the war-torn western Sudanese region.

AU commissioner for peace and security Said Djinnit told AFP that Thursday’s meeting was convened to "sensitise member states on the need to make contributions to the hybrid operation." Yet so far most expressions of interest have come from Europe. [[Read more ...](#)].

Senegal wants security guarantees for Darfur force

(*Reuters*) Senegal will send additional soldiers to Sudan’s Darfur region as part of a new U.N.-African Union peacekeeping mission provided they have a clear right to defend themselves, the country’s president said on Wednesday.

"I think this is a good resolution," Wade told Reuters in an interview in his presidential palace in Dakar.

One of Wade's advisors said the former French colony, whose peacekeeping troops are widely respected in Africa, was ready to send an extra 260 soldiers and 140 military police to Darfur. [[Read more ...](#)].

France, Denmark, Indonesia ready to send Darfur peacekeepers

(AP via *SudanTribune.com*) France, Denmark and Indonesia have offered to contribute to a joint United Nations-African Union mission for Darfur, a 26,000-strong force expected to be made up mostly of peacekeepers from Africa with backup from Asian troops.

"We would consider requests to support the United Nations-Africans Mission in Darfur once we receive a formal request to do so," Britain's Defense Ministry said Wednesday in a statement, adding that it is assisting the existing AU mission in Darfur in areas including logistics and planning.

But a spokeswoman at the British foreign office, who spoke on condition of anonymity, in keeping with the ministry's regulations, said Britain would not send ground forces: "We're not going to be putting soldiers with guns and tanks in Darfur." [[Read more ...](#)].

German FM hails UN Darfur resolution

(AFP via *SudanTribune.com*) German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier on Wednesday welcomed the UN Security Council's approval of a joint African Union-UN peacekeeping force for Sudan's strife-torn Darfur region.

Steinmeier told reporters after landing in Abuja at the start of a three-day West African tour that the "hybrid" force was proof that African nations were increasingly assuming responsibility for stability on the continent.

"This mission is new in the sense that although it will operate under the auspices of the United Nations and be decisively backed by the international community, the Africans want to shoulder this difficult task themselves," he said. "That is a positive development." [[Read more ...](#)].

South Africa welcomes UN resolution on Darfur force

(SAPA via *SudanTribune.com*) The South African government welcomes the unanimous adoption by the UN Security Council on Tuesday 31 July of a resolution establishing the AU/UN Hybrid Operation for Darfur in Sudan.

South Africa Minister of Foreign Affairs Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma had noted that South Africa was honoured to have participated in this debate in its capacity as a non-permanent member of the UNSC and thus contributing to the unanimous adoption of resolution 1769 (2007) which

signals the beginning of a new era in the international community's efforts to help the Sudanese people realize peace and security in Darfur. [[Read more ...](#)]

Aid workers criticize UN Darfur force

(*Telegraph.co.uk*) Aid workers were sharp in their criticism of the new peacekeeping force for Darfur championed by Gordon Brown, warning yesterday that it is unlikely to alleviate suffering in the region.

They said that "grey areas" in the mandate of the joint United Nations and African Union mission agreed by the UN Security Council on Tuesday left it unclear as to how effective it would be in countering attacks on civilians.

Senior aid workers said the new force could prove equally as ineffective unless its terms of engagement were spelt out clearly.

"This mission is unlikely to end the pain and suffering of the vulnerable people of Darfur," said John O'Shea, the director of Goal UK, which has 160 staff supporting 200,000 desperate civilians in north Darfur. "Why will it take six months to assemble the force when, in the words of Gordon Brown, this is the worst tragedy in the world? Where is the urgency?"

"Will they have permission to disarm the Janjaweed [Arab militia] and take action against the Sudanese air force when they launch bombing raids?"

"It would appear that the international force will monitor the situation and only be allowed to use force when attacked. Unless this force has real clout they are better off staying at home."

Sudan would consider releasing Darfur rebel Jamous

(*Reuters*) Sudan said on Wednesday it would consider releasing elderly Darfur rebel Suleiman Jamous, who could be vital to a peace process after the United Nations approved a big peacekeeping force for the region.

Jamous, the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) humanitarian coordinator, has been virtually imprisoned for 13 months in the South Kordofan region bordering Darfur. Khartoum has branded him a terrorist.

Akol said the government was prepared to help the rebels unite, but had not heard a request to release Jamous from U.N. envoy Jan Eliasson or AU envoy Salim Ahmed Salim, although U.S. envoy Andrew Natsios mentioned Jamous a couple of months ago but never referred to him again.

"We never heard from the special envoys...that there was somebody somewhere that was central to the peace process," the minister said.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Ali al-Sadig said Sudan's government assumed the United States had lost interest. "We are ready to consider the situation," he said. "We are ready to talk on the issue of Jamous."

The U.S. embassy and African Union were not immediately available to comment. The U.N. mission declined comment. [[Read more ...](#)].

GoNU (CPA; Darfur Peace Agreement; ESPA)

Sudan endorses UN resolution on Darfur force

(*AFP/AP via SudanTribune.com; the local press*) Sudan ended months of stonewalling on Wednesday by endorsing a U.N. resolution to send peacekeepers to Darfur, raising hopes for a force that could for the first time provide real protection to civilians in one of the world's most embattled regions.

"We announce our acceptance of the resolution," Foreign Minister Lam Akol told journalists the day after the council unanimously approved the 26,000-strong force.

Akol also announced "our engagement in applying the part that concerns us" in Resolution 1769, after Khartoum finally agreed to the hybrid force on July 12 on condition that it be comprised essentially of African troops.

"This resolution is a result of long and tedious consultations involving lots of people and the Sudanese government," Akol said. "This is the first time a country involved in the resolution takes part in the consultations." [[Read more ...](#)].

Opposition political forces such as the Umma, the Popular Congress and the Communist parties, in the country have meanwhile welcomed the resolution and blame the government for bringing the country to this stage of things

President Bashir vows the Kajbar Dam will not be constructed in suppression to anyone

(*AlAyaam*) Addressing citizens in northern Sudan yesterday, President Bashir challenged the other political forces that have ruled the country before to show how much development they have brought to the people in that region.

The President urged the citizens to allow construction of the Kajbar dam go ahead in their area. He pointed out that the dam beings along development. The President assured them that non will be harmed by the construction of the dam.

VP Kiir says cabinet reshuffle in the pipeline for SPLM ministers in the federal government

(*AlSahafa*) Vice-President Salva Kiir has announced that a cabinet reshuffle targeting the SPLM's 28% federal cabinet members is in the pipeline.

Addressing the commemoration of the second anniversary of the death of Dr. Garang, the GoSS leader did not give further details on the forthcoming reshuffles.

On the other hand and speaking to Radio Miraya FM, SPLM Secretary-General Pagan Amoum rebuffed media reports of differences within the ranks of the SPLM that have led to the proposed reshuffle.

SAF rebuffs reports of the fall of Adeela, South Darfur, in the hands of armed groups

(AlRai AlAam) The Spokesperson of the SAF has rebuffed recent reports that the Adeela locality in South Darfur has fallen to armed groups.

The Spokesperson revealed that an armed group waylaid the train travelling from Babanousa to el-Deien but were repulsed by the SAF. He said that the SAF seized 2 heavy machine guns and a Land-Cruiser in the process and the pursuit is still on with sporadic clashes.

A high-rank member of the JEM had earlier announced that the Adeela locality fell in the hands of JEM and SLM-Unity forces who lost 5 men and sustained 8 injured.

Sudan national census may be delayed for second time

(Reuters) Sudan's national census, central to the success of democratic elections and a referendum on secession for oil-rich south Sudan, may be postponed a second time, a census official said on Wednesday.

The census, which South Sudan President Salva Kiir says is the region's first true population assessment, has already been put off from mid-2007 to January 2008 because of funding problems. But the joint north-south body in charge of the census process said it was recommending delaying the count until February next year because January was unsuitable.

Members of the body running the census said teachers, needed to help with the count, would still be working in January.

"January will also coincide with the pilgrimage, haj, an important religious occasion that cannot be overlooked," said Isaiah Chol Aruai, head of the Southern Sudan Commission for Census, Statistics and Evaluation.

The central government is supposed to pay the \$54 million cost of the census, but Aruai said it had committed itself only to contributing \$30 million, to be paid in equal monthly installments between June and September.

"But for June it has not yet been fully paid and for July we've not yet had anything," said Aruai, adding it was still unclear how and when the remaining \$24 million would be paid.

The census body received only \$5 million in January-June this year, and Aruai said this was 'roll-over' money which was not paid last year.

Funding delays meant a south Sudan pilot census, due in 2006, was not carried out until April this year, and results are not yet available. "We are supposed to plan based on these results," said Aruai.

In addition, the more-developed north of Sudan has almost finished updating its maps, while much of the south had to be mapped from scratch and less than half was complete, said Aruai.

Floods across south Sudan caused further mapping delays.

Japan grants Sudan \$8.2m for food aid

(SudanTribune.com) The government of Japan has extended a grant aid of 970,000,000 Japanese Yen (8.2 US dollar) to World Food Programme (WFP) for food aid programme to the vulnerable groups in the Sudan.

This grant is aimed at mitigating humanitarian situation of socially vulnerable groups in the Sudan, such as displaced persons, returning persons, children and women, said a press statement issued by the Embassy of Japan in Khartoum.

The Japanese government decided to extend this batch of grant aid through WFP in order to assist consolidation of peace in the Sudan and humanitarian situation.

Tokyo also extended grant assistance of 230 million Yen (2 mln USD) for underprivileged farmers through FAO on emergency response to control a desert locust outbreak in the Yemen and surrounding countries including the Sudan.

Senior Sudan opposition politician arrested again

(Reuters) Sudanese security arrested a senior political opposition figure for a second time in relation to an attempt to overthrow the government last month, a security source said on Thursday.

Ali Mahmoud Hassanein, deputy head of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), was arrested in July along with retired army, security and police officers, and the two leading members of the opposition Umma breakaway party.

They were accused of plotting to overthrow the government and planning to create chaos in the capital. No charges have been brought against them so far. He was later released but the source said he was rearrested on Wednesday "in the context of the sabotage attempt".

"His name came up that maybe he was possibly involved," the source said, adding Hassanein was being questioned.

GoSS

Southern Sudan minister put under criminal investigation

(The Citizen) A minister at the GoSS survived impeachment by a whisker yesterday but found himself subjected to criminal investigation by agitated lawmakers over the worst scandal to his the nascent GoSS.

GoSS interior minister Paul Mayom escaped impeachment when 45 MPs attending yesterday's heated session voted to terminate debate on the matter while an overwhelming 80% of the House voted to subject the minister to a criminal investigation.

At the heart of the matter is how Chief Police Investigator Francis Chol Lang was dismissed in the middle of an investigation and his supporting attorney in the case was transferred from his office to another state, an act which lawmakers said reeked of a grand cover-up.

Darfur

ICC insists on handover of Haroun and Khosheib

(AlAyaam) The Office of the Prosecutor of the ICC on Wednesday insisted that the resolution adopted by the Security Council establishing a joint peacekeeping mission for Darfur must not nullify the summonses connected to the crimes in Darfur.

Political:

Rebel JEM welcomes Darfur peacekeeping mission

(SudanTribune.com) The rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) has welcomed the unanimous adoption by the UN Security Council of the resolution 1796 providing the deployment of 26000 peacekeepers in the war-torn province of Darfur.

Ahmed Hussein Adam, the JEM spokesperson told Sudan Tribune that "this resolution is a victory for the Darfur people." Adding that UN Security Council decision mandates the hybrid peacekeeping force to protect Darfur civilians and secure the humanitarian aid.

Ahmed considered this resolution as breakthrough because the African troops have no mandate to protect Darfur civilians and prevent the daily killing on the ground.

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, the peacekeeping force is mandated to protect its personnel, facilities, installations and equipment, and to ensure the security and freedom of movement of its own personnel and humanitarian workers.

However, he urged the international community to pressurize Khartoum and to follow closely the full implementation of the resolution 1769. "We know very much that within this regime there are those who are opposed to the peacekeeping forces and they would obstruct its deployment" he said. [[Read more ...](#)]

Security:

65 killed in latest Darfur tribal fighting

(AFP via ReliefWeb) At least 65 people have been killed in renewed tribal clashes in Sudan's Darfur, a tribal leader said on Thursday, two days after the UN approved a massive peacekeeping force for the war-wracked region.

The fighting, in which another 25 people were wounded, took place in Southern Darfur on Tuesday and raised the toll from two days of clashes between the Rizeigat Aballa tribe and the Turgum to at least 140 dead.

"Armed Aballa men attacked our people when they were gathered on Tuesday to commemorate those who died on Monday," Torjam tribal chief Mohammad Hammad Jalabi told AFP by telephone from the state capital of Nyala.

The tribes, at odds over grazing rights and livestock raiding, have violated a February truce seven times.

Jalabi said Tuesday's attack took place in Thani Dileiba village, about 50 kilometres (31 miles) south of Nyala, and was aimed at getting his people to abandon their lands.

He said fellow chiefs had asked UN representatives to probe the attacks which he said the local authorities loyal to Khartoum were unable to prevent.

A medic at the local hospital in Nyala says they were called to duty in the early hours of yesterday morning and had to empty the stores to accommodate for the great number of injured brought in to the hospital as a result of the clashes.

On July 25, Sudanese newspapers reported that another 16 people died in clashes between the two tribes when Aballa men fell on a band of Turgum.