



**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN**  
**UNMIS**  
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**(By Public Information Office)**

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## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

### **United Nations and the Transition Debate**

#### **UNMIS says it has not received the government plan to improve the situation in Darfur**

(*Rai AlShaab* – 3<sup>rd</sup> Aug. **Khrt.**) Presidential Advisor Magzoub el-Khalifa yesterday criticised Secretary-General Kofi Annan for proposing a 24,000-strong United Nations force for Darfur.

Speaking to the press the presidential advisor said that the Secretary-General of the United Nations is talking about a stage that has already been passed. He said that the government position against the deployment of any United Nations soldier in Darfur is clear and represents the will of the people of Sudan

The presidential advisor pointed out that the government has presented to the United Nations a realistic alternative to the deployment of United Nations troops to Darfur.

On the other hand, UNMIS Spokesperson Radhia Achouri says that the UNMIS has not yet received the document. She pointed out however that the Sudan's Permanent mission to the United Nations in New York may have handed it to the United Nations headquarters but UNMIS has not formally received the document.

She said that the date for the Security Council meeting on the second week of this month on this issue is yet to be decided on.

On recent threats by some rebel movements that they will fire at any government aircraft they suspect has been painted white, the UNMIS spokesperson said that UNMIS will take precautionary measures for the safety of their personnel and property.

She said there were such threats earlier but the mission managed to establish contacts with the threatening party and to make the necessary precautions.

She also said that UNMIS has never instructed its aircraft to fly over the Jebel Moon area due to the fighting that took place in the area last week and will be waiting until the threats are no more.

Radhia says there are a number of obstacles that the humanitarian workers face in Darfur and cited bad roads.

Over the recent statement issued jointly by the UNMIS and AMIS expressing concern over the alleged use by government of bombs south of Kulkal, Achouri said that the United Nations mission has no mandate to investigate those allegations. The African Union and the joint ceasefire monitoring committee, she adds, has that mandate.

#### **UN condemns killing of Oxfam relief worker**

(*AlIntibaha* – 3<sup>rd</sup> Aug. **Khrt.**) Oxfam reports that one of its relief worker was killed in West Darfur last week .UNMIS spokesperson Radhia Achouri condemned the incident said relief workers have to be assisted, not killed.

The Oxfam report from Nairobi says that relief worker Noureldeen Abdalla Nueldeen was killed while on his way back to Geneina from Sirf Umra.

### **National Aviation Chamber calls for withdrawal of foreign aircraft from Sudan**

(*AlKhartoum* – 3<sup>rd</sup> Aug. **Khrt.**) The National Aviation Chamber has expressed appreciation for the work being carried out by the UNMIS and assures it will support in the facilitation of the mission's task without prejudice to the other sectors of Sudanese society.

In a statement issued yesterday, the Aviation Chamber recommended that all foreign aircraft be withdrawn from the Sudan and that the national carrier be used instead in order to open up job opportunities to the local flight industry.

In response to an earlier statement\* by the UNMIS, the National Aviation Chamber said in its statement that its criticism of the United Nations for leasing foreign aircraft stems from the need to open up opportunities for Sudanese in order not to affect the local aircraft industry. In this way, the chamber argues, the local industry would have benefited and the United Nations would have had its job done.

Commenting on the UNMIS' statement in which it said that it had to charge a fee of \$100 per passenger in order to cover running costs due to the shortfall in funds, the National Aviation Chamber said that this was not a valid excuse because the United Nations has its donors that cover such shortfalls.

The National Aviation Chamber, in its statement, also requested the relevant authorities to exempt its aircraft from landing and takeoff charges the same way United Nations aircraft is exempt. The statement pointed out that the exemptions were granted by virtue of an agreement by the Sudan government and that this can also apply to Sudanese aircraft.

The chamber has also requested compensation for the losses incurred as a result of the fact that United Nations aircraft carry passengers at prices a lot less than those charged by the national carrier and local aircraft companies.

*\*Kindly note that the UNMIS statement referred to has been misquoted and the full text can be accessed through the website [www.unmis.org](http://www.unmis.org)*

### **Workers' Union hands memorandum to the SRSG condemning Israeli atrocities in Lebanon and Palestine**

(*AlAdhwa* – 3<sup>rd</sup> Aug. **Khrt.**) The National Federation of Workers' Unions in Sudan staged a demonstration yesterday and handed over to the SRSG of the Secretary-General of the United Nations a memorandum of protest against the Israeli atrocities in Lebanon and the people of Palestine.

The federation described the Israeli aggression as a threat to regional and international peace and stability.

In its statement to the United Nations Secretary-General, the federation pointed out that Israel has ignored all international resolutions by using the policies of occupation and ethnic discrimination. It called upon the Security Council to issue a resolution for an immediate halt of this aggression and peaceful solutions for the problems of this region.

### **Taha inquires about the situation in Lebanon**

(*AlRai AlAam* – 3<sup>rd</sup> Aug. **Khrt.**) In a telephone conversation yesterday with Lebanese Prime Minister Fuad Al Saniora, Vice-President Taha inquired about the situation and reiterated his Sudan's constant support for Lebanon against the Israeli offensive.

Taha affirmed that Israel's aggression against Lebanon is a gross violation of international law as it mainly targets children, the elderly and civilians in addition and causes displacement of the population.

He called on the international community to assume its responsibility in this matter.

## **CPA**

### **Report of the Panel of Experts of the Abyei Boundary Commission shelved**

(*Alwan* – 3<sup>rd</sup> Aug. **Khrt.**) Informed sources say that the NCP and the SPLM may reach a compromise deal over the Abyei issue by considering the four other alternatives to the report by the Panel of Experts of the Abyei Boundary Commission thus superseding the PoE report.

The sources say the alternatives include that the members of the Panel of Experts be recalled to explain how they managed to reach the conclusions they made, that the party that feels aggrieved by the PoE report resort to the Constitutional Court or that a conference of the conflicting parties be convened.

### **Joint committee on the Other Armed Groups to meet today**

(*AlAyaam* – 3<sup>rd</sup> Aug. **Khrt.**) The SPLA has called for an end to the issue of the other Armed Groups that have not aligned themselves to either the SAF or the SPLA.

SPLA Operations chief Major-General Biang Deng said that the situation should not be left to continue like this because it may create distrust between the SAF and the SPLA.

On the other hand, Biar Ajang a member of the other armed groups collaborative committee, said the OAGCC will meet today to discuss how best to address the issue .

## **GoNU**

### **Police to launch crackdown on SPLA impersonators**

(*AlIntibaha* – 3<sup>rd</sup> Aug. **Khrt.**) Police say it has found out that many people have taken SPLA identity cards which they use to impersonate SPLA officers.

The press office at police headquarters said that the police will launch an extensive crackdown on such criminals. The police have also asked citizens to report such incidents immediately.

## **Southern Sudan/GoSS/SPLM**

### **SSDF reports abductions in Wadakona**

(*AllIntibaha* – 3<sup>rd</sup> Aug. **Khrt.**) The spokesman for the SSDF reports that militia groups aligned to the SPLA have recently abducted a SAF officer, 2 Popular Defence Forces soldiers and some SSDF soldiers in Fashoda

Spokesman Mohamed Shol warned the SPLA that they will not remain silent on the issue .He pointed out that one SSDF soldiers is being detained by initials loyal to the Commissioner of Wadakona.

He further pointed out that the SPLA has some renegade militias under its command such as those forces led by the Adok Amok and some tribal chiefs of the Shilluk.

He also said that the Commissioner for Wadakona has “dangerous plans to liberate Wadakona from the government and warned that this may affect the Security Arrangements.

He said the SSDF leadership has contacted the UN monitors ,the SPLA to secure the release of the abducted .

Meanwhile the PDF says it is not aware of the abduction by SPLA of lives of its officers as reported by the SSDF.

## **Darfur/Darfur Peace Agreement**

### **AMIS chartered aircraft comes under fire in South Darfur**

(*AlSahafa* – 3<sup>rd</sup> Aug. **el-Fasher**) One passenger was injured when an AMIS-chartered aircraft was shot at on its way from Nyala to Sheiriya in South Darfur, AMIS reports.

AMIS says this is a serious development and a grave violation of the ceasefire.

Spokesperson Nouredine el-Mazni who broke the news said that the issue will be raised in the meeting in Addis Ababa today of the joint ceasefire committee but did not say who was responsible for the shooting.

### **Government and SLM-Minnawi to disarm holdout rebels**

(*AllIntibaha* – 3<sup>rd</sup> Aug. **Nyala**) The Government of South Darfur, the SAF military command in the area and SLM-Minnawi have agreed to flash out and disarm holdout rebel groups in the area.

A spokesperson for the Minnawi faction of the SLM said that the agreement was reached during a meeting last Tuesday in Nyala. The meeting, he said, also resulted in agreement between them to open safe routes between government and Minnawi areas and to wipe out pockets of Chadian rebels in the region.

### **Minnawi to be sworn in as Assistant to the President of the Republic next Sunday**

(*AlKhartoum* – 3<sup>rd</sup> Aug. **Khrt.**) The government and the advance SLM-Minnawi delegation have finished preparations to receive SLM leader Mini Minnawi who is expected here next Saturday.

On arrival at the Khartoum airport, Minnawi will first hold a brief meeting with representatives of the GoNU before holding a press conference.

Minnawi will later address a rally at the Green Square.

The SLM leader will meet President Bashir on Sunday and will be sworn in as Assistant to the President of the Republic on the same day.

### **Minnawi turns down EU offer of 800 million euros in exchange for handing over to the ICC Darfur war criminals**

(*AlKhabar* – 3<sup>rd</sup> Aug.) Informed sources in the Dutch foreign ministry report that the said foreign ministry is trying to reach a deal with SLM leader Mini Minnawi to offer him 800 million euros from the EU in exchange for handing over to the ICC suspects wanted for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Darfur.

Dutch radio also reported that the Dutch government had exerted pressures on the SLM leader to ask him to exert pressures to convince the Sudanese government to hand over the suspects but Minnawi is said to have turned down these offers.

### **Ceasefire monitoring committee to convene in Addis today**

(*AlKhartoum* – 3<sup>rd</sup> Aug. **Khrt.**) The Parties to the Darfur Peace Agreement convene today in Addis Ababa a meeting of the ceasefire joint monitoring committee.

The meeting which will be attended also by high rank representatives of the African Union and the United Nations will discuss the violations of the ceasefire and the government plan to disarm the Janjaweed.

A source within the African Union said that the previous meeting of the ceasefire committee was suspended last month because the government and the other signatories of the Darfur Peace Agreement rejected the participation of representatives of the holdout rebel groups despite the fact the African Union wanted them to participate.

### **SLM-Minnawi rally breaks out in chaos**

(*AlAyaam* – 3<sup>rd</sup> Aug. **Khrt.**) A rally organized by SLM-Minnawi broke out in chaos yesterday in Haj Yusuf as supporters of holdout rebel groups stormed in. Eye-witnesses say that the speakers were attacked and police had to intervene.

Minnawi supporters at the rally said that the attack comes at the end of the rally and report no casualties but other eye-witnesses say there were some casualties.

## **Other Developments**

### **Popular Congress Party proposes conditional talks with the NCP**

(*AlAyaam* – 3<sup>rd</sup> Aug. **Khrt.**) The national Congress Party says it does not accept conditional talks with the Popular Congress Party but many consider unconditional talks.

Observers say that talks between the two sides should it take place may lead to a reunification of the two parties.