

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS**Media Monitoring Report, 07 August 2007

(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:

- **UN/ Agencies**
 - Special Envoy Jan Eliasson starts talks today with Sudanese government
 - Military advisor warns of possible SAF-hybrid clash
 - 365,000 people hit by Sudan floods: UN

- **GoNU (CPA; Darfur Peace Agreement; ESPA)**
 - Southern leader says partnership with ruling party to stay
 - US embassy turns down visa request for parliamentary delegation
 - Justice minister starts tour of detention centers
 - Governor denies new railway line to transport troops from north
 - Rebel disorganization delays east Sudan peace deal
 - Sudanese opposition leader hails deployment of hybrid operation
 - IOM completes air operations of 1530 southern IDPs
 - Army general exposes failed plot to kill CPA
 - Abyei: Other parties demand NCP-SPLM ear
 - Free-Will faction commander arrested
 - School suspended in Blue Nile State
 - Legislation on sexual harassment

- **GoSS**
 - Southern Sudan seeks social insurance policy
 - Northern troops in Southern Sudan are "occupation forces" - SPLA

- **Darfur**
 - Zambia backs Sudan in urging Africans to make up Darfur peacekeeping force
 - Egypt hails Darfur rebels consultations meeting
 - Specter of humanitarian crisis over Adeela as it runs out of food
 - SLM leader formulates three-step approach for Darfur peace
 - Ten dead and injured in rebel attack
 - Rebel faction denies attacking Darfur district

- **Miscellaneous**
 - Libya seeks share of Nile resources

Highlights

UN/ Agencies

Special Envoy Jan Eliasson starts talks today with Sudanese government

(*AlAyaam*) United Nations Special Envoy for Darfur, Jan Eliasson, will be briefing later today the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr. Muttrif Sidiq on the outcome of the just-concluded Arusha consultations of non-signatory factions of the DPA.

The Special Envoy will then be heading for Darfur where he will consult with leaders and the civil society in the region.

Eliasson said he is exerting efforts for the freedom of Suleiman Jamous in Kadugli.

Foreign ministry Spokesperson, Ambassador Ali el_Sadiq, said that the government will make public its views on the outcome of the Arusha consultations after the Eliasson-Sidiq meeting to be held today.

The Special Envoy had said earlier in Arusha that talks between the Sudan government and the Darfur armed movements could take place in any state in the region that has mediation efforts to resolve the crisis or in any other state that the mediators may deem appropriate. He said that the United Nations and the African Union will discuss the issue of venue with the Government of Sudan.

The Special Envoy further added that the armed movements in Arusha reiterated their preparedness to fully cease hostilities on condition that all other parties to the conflict do the same.

Meanwhile, *AlRai Alaam* reports that African Union Spokesperson Nouredine Mezni says Arusha was a cornerstone for forthcoming talks. He pointed out that the armed movements had requested a period of three months but the mediators wanted to shorten it to two months. He said that the choice of venue has been left to the African Union and United Nations mediators.

Mezni added that Eliasson will start today consultations with the government in Khartoum with the view of fixing a date and venue for the talks. Eliasson, he adds, will later be joined by Special Envoy Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim.

Military advisor warns of possible SAF-hybrid clash

(*Sudan Tribune*) In an exclusive, Brg. (rtd.) AbdelAziz Khalid warns of a potential overlapping of hybrid force and SAF duties in Darfur. He recommends the formation of a field reconnaissance committee to avert such a possible clash.

The sole guarantor for effective pursuit of the hybrid forces' mission of civilian protection and safe passage for aid convoys is through a ceasefire, he said. He added that goodwill on the part of policy makers is sufficient to ensure resolution of the overlapping issues.

Burma Nassir, another retired senior army officer, described the presence of the hybrid forces as contravening SAF civilian and sovereign duties of protection. He urges the two parties to cooperate to end the mission in a timely manner and hand control back to the SAF.

365,000 people hit by Sudan floods: UN

(AFP) Some 365,000 people have been hit by a month of flooding in Sudan, and the situation will only worsen as the rains continue, the United Nations humanitarian relief agency said on Monday.

"Well over 30,000 houses were fully destroyed. At least 365,000 people have already been directly affected, including a reported 64 dead and 335 injured," the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said in a statement.

The UN's death toll is lower than one issued last month by the Sudanese government, which said that around 100 people had been killed in the floods as of July 18.

Up to half a million people have received assistance from the UN and its partners in support of the Sudanese government, but more could be hit if the flooding continues, OCHA said.

"Although the floods came earlier than expected, the response has been swift and successful. We had contingency measures in place, and were able to prevent further distress to the population," said David Gressly, the acting UN resident and humanitarian coordinator in Sudan.

However, "if current flooding patterns continue unabated, the situation will deteriorate considerably," he warned.

OCHA said it expects the rains to continue until at least mid-September. [[Read more ...](#)].

- *Khartoum Monitor prints today the story appearing in the MMr yesterday sourced from Alwan daily on the protests raised by workers laid off by UNMIS and demanding after-service pay.*

GoNU (CPA; Darfur Peace Agreement; ESPA)

Southern leader says partnership with ruling party to stay

(AlAyaam via BBC Monitoring) The first vice-president of the republic who is also the president of the government of southern Sudan [GoSS], Lt-Gen Salva Kiir Mayardit, has asserted that the partnership between Sudan People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] and the ruling National Congress party [NC] is strategic one, affirming the necessity of the continuation of this partnership.

Kiir urged the officials from the two parties to stop exchanging accusations through media, saying that enemies of peace could exploit these accusations to widen the difference between the two parties. He renewed the possibility that the two partners solving their differences through joint mechanisms.

While addressing the joint meeting between GoSS members and delegation of NC leaders who visited Juba yesterday morning, and who were led by the presidential advisor, who is also the political and organizational affairs secretary of NC, Dr Nafi Ali Nafi, Kiir said that SPLM was looking forward to work with the NC and consider everyone opposed to the NC as also opposed to SPLM.

He also renewed his assurance that SPLM will play a positive role in handling the issue of Darfur.

For his part, Dr Nafi affirmed NC's concern to overcome all obstacles on the way of the implementation of the peace agreement through objective dialogue and flexibility by both parties.

He assured that solidarity between the two parties is the matter which could attain the Sudanese people's ambitions in building up strong country which would provide its resources for its citizens as a whole.

US embassy turns down visa request for parliamentary delegation

(SMC) The US Embassy in Khartoum has turned down visa applications by a parliamentary delegation wishing to visit Sudanese detainees in Guantanamo Bay.

The Deputy Head of the Parliamentary Human Rights Committee, Hamattu Mukhtar, said that the embassy's rejection of the request was based on grounds that the timing was inappropriate. He pointed out that the basis for the rejection was not reasonable because US embassies worldwide have been allowing delegation from other countries to visit their nationals held in Camp X-ray.

AlJazeera photo-journalist, Sami el-Haj, and a couple of other fellow Sudanese are being held at Guantanamo for now five years without trial.

Justice minister starts tour of detention centers

(AlRai AlAam) The Minister of Justice and a number of senior officials of the ministry will be conducting a tour of the Omdurman Prison to assess the condition of inmates with pending cases.

The minister says they will be assessing each case to serve justice and will be conducting similar tours in the other federal penitentiaries.

Governor denies new railway line to transport troops from north

(SRS - NAIROBI) The governor of Northern Bahr El Ghazal State says rumors that a railway being constructed in Aweil will transport Sudan Armed Forces soldiers from the north to southern Sudan are not true.

Governor Madut Biar told Sudan Radio Service last week that such rumors will prevent development if communities continue to reject the railway passage in Northern Bahr El Ghazal.

Biar said the railway will be used to transport essential goods and construction materials to the region. He assured the communities of Aweil that security in the area will improve, saying that the SPLA [Sudan People's Liberation Army] is strong and will protect them.

Rebel disorganization delays east Sudan peace deal

(Reuters) Squabbling among east Sudanese rebels and disorganization in their ranks are hampering implementation of a deal that ended a decade long insurgency, a former rebel leader said on Monday.

"The most important point is that when we started creating the Eastern Front, we didn't finish the hierarchy, the institutions and the political programme," said Amna Dirar, a senior Eastern Front official.

"Self interest has also delayed the implementation of the agreement," Amna told Reuters by telephone. She said the Front planned to leave the Eritrean capital in mid-August. [[Read more ...](#)].

Sudanese opposition leader hails deployment of hybrid operation

(Reuters) Sudanese opposition Umma National party has hailed the recent UN Security Council 1769 for the deployment of 26, 000 soldiers of the hybrid force in Darfur. The party said that the increasing foreign intervention in Sudan was caused by absence of a clear strategy from the government.

In a press conference at Umma party Headquarter in Omdurman on Sunday, chairman of the party, Sadiq al-Mahdi called upon all Sudanese to cooperate with the hybrid forces to observe and protect the relief and maintain peace and stability in Darfur.

Al-Mahdi said that the Arusha negotiations or any other initiatives should not be under Abuja agreement, attributing that to the non participation of the political forces. "Abuja agreement was born dead, and insisting on it means joking on the citizens," He added.

The opposition leader criticized the United Nations for ignoring the key role of the political, civil and tribal society in Darfur, asserting that the agreement which would be signed is ineffective and incomplete. [[Read more ...](#)].

IOM completes air operations of 1530 southern IDPs

(*Khartoum Monitor*) The International Organization for Migration has completed air operations for returns of IDPs from Khartoum to Central and Western Equatoria states in Southern Sudan.

IOM Public Information Officer Simon Opitz told the *Khartoum Monitor* that 1,530 IDPs have been returned to Western and Central Equatoria states in a joint returns program implemented by the IOM and coordinated with the government and the United Nations partners.

All IDPs were medically screened and vaccinated prior to departure by the IOM's Migration Health Unit in Khartoum and were kept overnight at the UNHCR-GTZ operated way station before returning to other towns in Southern Sudan.

She said that the returnees are given 3 months' rations by the WFP and that the United Nations Mission in Sudan has been assisting the air operation by providing cargo flights to transport the luggage the IDPs are permitted to take with them to Juba. The IOM's Juba office organized onwards transportation of the luggage on trucks from Juba to the drop-off points at their final destinations.

The joint returns program which IOM implements in close cooperation with the Government of National Unity, the GoSS and United Nations partners, particularly United Nations Mission in Sudan Return, Reintegration and Recovery Unit, has assisted some 44,758 IDPs from Khartoum and South Darfur to Southern Sudan by road, barge and air.

Army general exposes failed plot to kill CPA

(*The Citizen*) A high-ranking military official said Monday that elements within the NCP wanted to Southern Sudan Defense Forces to destabilize Southern Sudan from within when the former rebel outfit marched into the SPLA.

The story has been doing the rounds in Southern Sudan for a while but yesterday's statement by a military general marked the first time since the SSDF joined the SPLA under the Juba declaration that a high-level official publicly talked about the plot thus lending credence to the reports. Under the alleged plot, the CPA was supposed to have been dead by now.

General Nikenora Magar Achiek, formerly of the SSDF, told the Citizen that the NCP had wanted to destroy the CPA by using militias against the SPLA on the pretext that southern Sudanese were fighting amongst themselves but, he adds, President Salva Kiir was clever enough to design the Juba Declaration and bring the SSDF in.

Abyei: Other parties demand NCP-SPLM ear

(*The Citizen*) Southern Sudanese political parties yesterday weighed in on the unfinished debate concerning the interim administration and the implementation of the Abyei Protocol, urging the NCP and the SPLM to seek out their views if they are to get a meaningful solution to the looming crisis.

“We participated in the negotiations in Naivasha and are also supposed to see that the implementation of the agreement is going correctly with all the concerns of the parties,” Jacob Douang of the United Democratic Front says.

He went on to say that the issue of Abyei was a concern to all the parties because the agreement was a fruit fought for by all the active political forces. He said it would be against the spirit of the CPA if the two partners – the NCP and the SPLM – took decisions without seeking out the smaller parties.

Leading SPLM figures have meanwhile held a meeting yesterday with Secretary-General Pagan Amoum. The meeting comes ahead of a meeting of the joint executive committees of the Parties to the CPA.

Participants to the meeting with Secretary-General Amoum agreed that a political solution was the optimum for the implementation of the Abyei Protocol. They pointed out that failure on the part of the Parties to resolve the Abyei question would only add doubts on their political will.

A prominent participant to the meeting disclosed that the SPLM meeting discussed issues pertaining to the SPLM perspective on possible solutions to the issues hindering the implementation of the Abyei Protocol.

Free-Will faction commander arrested

(*Khartoum Monitor*) Security authorities have arrested the Commander-general of the Free-Will faction of the SLM, Mjr. Gen. el-Fadel Adam Norein.

Norein was detained for blasting the CPA and DPA and criticizing the appointment of Ali Mahmoud as Governor of South Darfur State, says Yusif AbdelRahman, the faction’s spokesperson. Four others detained with Norein were later released, says the spokesperson.

AbdelRahman says he has pleaded for the intervention of the SPLM and its chairman for the release of the detained leader.

School suspended in Blue Nile State

(*AlAyaam*) The Minister of Education and Learning in Blue Nile State has ordered schools in the state closed as of today for “safety of students and pupils due to the rains and to enable rehabilitation of the schools”.

The minister says classes may resume in early September.

Legislation on sexual harassment

(*AlWatan*) The paper printed yesterday a report that a female lawyer had pointed out that there is no legislation in the country’s Criminal Code that penalizes perpetrators of sexual harassment.

The paper today issues the justice minister's rejoinder to this. The minister defends the law and points out that there is such legislation in the Criminal Code as well as the Judicial Journals.

GoSS

Southern Sudan seeks social insurance policy

(The Citizen) The Southern Sudan Council of Ministers has asked the Minister of Social Welfare to form a committee that would look into an insurance policy for southerners, an official has said.

The new policy would replace the national insurance policy, the Director for Social Welfare in the Ministry of Gender, Social Welfare and Religious Affairs at the GoSS said yesterday.

Northern troops in Southern Sudan are "occupation forces" - SPLA

(Reuters) A Southern Sudan army official said on Monday that North Sudanese troops still in the south's vital oil areas were now "occupation forces" since they had not left the region as agreed under a 2005 peace deal.

He said his own southern forces had almost finished withdrawing from areas they had to leave under the accord.

Kuol Diem Kuol, spokesman for the southern Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), said, "We are not happy. The SPLA is waiting for the orders from the southern Sudan security council on how to handle this issue of occupation forces."

Kuol said some 16,600 northern troops remained in the south's two largest oil-producing states and the still contested oil-rich Abyei area, which under the deal can choose whether to join the south or stay in the north by 2011.

"(They) are staying illegally in a territory that they're not supposed to be in," said Kuol.

The SPLA also missed the deadline to withdraw from two transitional areas, Southern Blue Nile and South Kordofan. The SPLA had said that was because the joint units, supposed to take over after their withdrawal, were not yet functioning.

But Kuol on Monday said that the SPLA were moving out of the two areas as per the peace deal.

"All the SPLA soldiers have withdrawn out of Blue Nile, except for a company of 120 soldiers," said Kuol.

He explained these soldiers were guarding tanks, anti-aircraft weapons and heavy artillery that cannot be transported into Southern Sudan because of heavy rains. "Once it is dry we will move them into the south," said Kuol.

Similarly all of the SPLA's troops are currently moving out of South Kordofan State said Kuol, with less than 300 remaining to guard heavy artillery.

The two areas were now under the control of the joint north-south units, known as Joint Integrated Units (JIUs) but Kuol said there were some concerns that they were not yet able to deal with an uneasy security situation in South Kordofan.

"The militias are still active ... are not yet disarmed,. The whole population is not yet disarmed," said Kuol. "(It is) very dangerous".

"They are not trained together, they are not the JIU envisaged by the peace agreement," said Kuol about the units.

Darfur

Zambia backs Sudan in urging Africans to make up Darfur peacekeeping force

(AP – Aug. 7, LANGKAWI, Malaysia) Zambia urged African countries on Tuesday to contribute to a joint African Union-United Nations peacekeeping force in Darfur, supporting Sudan's stance that soldiers from outside the region are unnecessary.

"Sudan is a sovereign state, so there is nothing wrong with Sudan wanting an African peacekeeping force," Zambian Information Minister Mike Mulongoti told The Associated Press on the sidelines of an economic conference involving African and Asian leaders in Malaysia.

"What are the benefits to be derived from having forces come in from outside Africa?" Mulongoti said. "In Africa, there are sufficient forces ... that can be trained in an African environment."

Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Nigeria, Egypt and Ethiopia have pledged to contribute troops to a joint force. Mulongoti said Zambia would also participate, but he could not immediately say how many more troops it will send.

France, Denmark and Indonesia have also offered to contribute to the joint mission. Australia said it would send a small number of doctors and nurses, but no troops or security personnel. [[Read related article ...](#)].

More reads on Darfur:

- [Stop crying for Darfur](#) (Editorial: The Jakarta Post)
- [Sudan is genuine in its efforts for peace in Darfur](#) (Blog on the Guardian Unlimited)

Follow up to Arusha: [TEXT: Conclusions of Darfur rebels' consultations in Arusha](#)

Egypt hails Darfur rebels consultations meeting

(*Xinhua; the local press*) Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Abul Gheit on Monday welcomed the outcome of an African Union-United Nations meeting on Sudan's Darfur concluded earlier in the day in Arusha, Tanzania, during which a consensus was reached on holding final negotiations for Darfur peace.

Abul Gheit hoped that the peace talks would start soon with all parties concerned being flexible enough to reach a positive outcome, adding his country is siding with peace efforts exerted by UN special envoy for Darfur Jan Eliasson and AU envoy on Darfur Salim Ahmed Salim.

At the Arusha meeting, the armed movement leaders presented a common platform on power sharing, wealth sharing, security arrangements, land and humanitarian issues for the final negotiations.

They expressed their commitment and readiness to fully participate in the forthcoming negotiations under the leadership of the AU-UN with regional actors, reaffirming their commitment to the road-map of the special envoys.

Like the Sudanese government, the armed movement leaders also welcomed during the Arusha consultations the adoption of the UN Security Council Resolution 1769 which authorized the deployment of a hybrid UN-AU troops in Darfur.

Speaking following the conclusion of the consultations, SLA spokesperson Jar-el-Nebbi AbdelKareem said he wanted to send a message to "Brother AbdulWahid" informing him that they are in need of his participation. He said the movements that participated in the Arusha meeting agreed that they are willing to meet with him anywhere.

The SPLM has meanwhile taken steps to follow up on its efforts for Darfur. A meeting took place in Cairo last Sunday between Edward Lino, a member of the SPLM executive, and representatives of some Darfur armed movements to that end. The SPLM is also organizing a meeting in Rumbek of the Darfur movements that participated in the Arusha consultations. The participants will be expected to brief the SPLM leadership on the outcome of the consultations while the SPLM will update them on the latest developments in its efforts to unify the movements.

Humanitarian:

Specter of humanitarian crisis over Adeela as it runs out of food

(*AlWatan*) Maaliya tribesmen have warned Adeela may face a new humanitarian crisis following last Wednesday's rebel attacks on the area.

The people urge for relief for the thousands who fled out of the town for dear life during the attacks and have since then been braving the rains and flashfloods. IDP food stores are also at a critically low level, sources warn.

Adeela boasts of the third largest town in South Darfur in terms of population.

Political:

SLM leader formulates three-step approach for Darfur peace

(*SudanTribune.com*) The leader of the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) said he has a three-step approach to achieve peace in Darfur. He further welcomed the UN decision on the deployment of the 26000 troops in Darfur, adding that its effective presence on the ground should take place before the political process.

In an interview with Sudan Tribune, Abdelwahid al-Nur, clarified why he rejects to engage peace talks with Khartoum before the effective deployment of the hybrid peacekeeping force in Darfur. Adding that the adoption of the UN Security Council resolution 1769 related to the Hybrid Operation is important but Khartoum has to implement it first.

Al-Nur further disclosed to Sudan Tribune his vision to end the Darfur crisis saying it can be achieved through three steps: 1- Conflict Suspension which means to stop the violence in Darfur; 2- Conflict Resolution, which leads to negotiations; 3- Conflict Transformations through peace implementation and sustainable development in the region. [[Read excerpts of the interview ...](#)].

Security:

Ten dead and injured in rebel attack

(*SMC*) Four people were killed and six others injured when the truck they were in came under heavy rebel fire while traveling from Kalimindo to el-Fasher in North Darfur.

The attackers looted the passengers and fled leaving the injured to be picked by some locals and taken to el-Fasher hospital for treatment.

Rebel faction denies attacking Darfur district

(*AlAyyam via BBC Monitoring*) Sudan Liberation Movement, unity faction, [SLM] has denied participation in the attack on Adilah area last week.

Military spokesman of SLM unity faction Jar al-Nabi Abd al-Karim said that they did not participate in the attack over Adilah since they were arranging for upcoming negotiations with the government.

In a statement to Al-Ayyam before leaving Sudan while heading a delegation of three field commanders who were, Sulayman Marjan, Salih and another commander from Jabal Mun mountains, Abd al-Karim called upon the international community to put pressure on the government to be serious with the political process.

He mentioned that the field commanders will make efforts to hold talks with Abd al-Wahid [SLM, faction leader] after Arusha conference.

Miscellaneous

Libya seeks share of Nile resources

(The Monitor - KAMPALA) Libya is seeking to share on the River Nile water and its resources. Libya is not among the Nile Basin countries. The basin comprises Burundi, DR Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

"The cooperation is beneficial to all of us and has attracted other countries outside the basin such as Libya, even though the Council of Ministers of the Nile Basin countries felt that the time is not appropriate yet for Libya to join," Gordon Mumbo told journalists at a sub-regional media workshop in Jinja this week.

Mumbo is the Regional Project Manager for Confidence Building and Stakeholder Involvement under the Nile Basin Initiative. Mr Mumbo said River Nile has been affected by climate changes and environmental degradation.