

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS**Media Monitoring Report, 13 August 2007

(By Public Information Office)

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Highlights

UN/ Agencies

Climate conducive for peace in Darfur

(*AlSudani* – 10 Aug.) UN Special Envoy Jan Eliasson has managed to enter Kalma Camp as the a senior UN official to enter the camp about one year after an interpreter accompanying then UN humanitarian chief, Jan Egeland, was killed in the camp. Mr. Eliasson spent half a day in the camp during which he held talks with the local administration, IDPs and representatives of UN agencies.

The UN Special Envoy said that the atmosphere was right for the realisation of peace in Darfur. he attributed this to the presence of certain indicators that included UNSCR 1769, cooperation with the neighbouring states and commitment to peace from all parties. In press statements at the camp, the Special Envoy said that he got such indications from the government and also from representatives of the armed movements.

Commenting on the forthcoming peace negotiations, Eliasson said that the agenda for talks will contain the three fundamental issues of compensations, disarmament and IDP returns. He said that in order for the talks to succeed, it is important to have a platform for those affected by the war. He also highlighted the importance of popular support for the peace process.

Eliasson also expressed satisfaction for the role played by First Vice-President Salva Kiir on the Darfur issue. He expressed hopes that these combined efforts will lead to peace and an end to the conflict.

In answer to a question on how he assessed his visit to Kalma, the Special Envoy pointed out that he spent half a day in Kalma Camp but has never heard any complaints on access to humanitarian supplies. Children, he said, also continue with their studies. He noted however that security remains the main problem as violence continues on the IDPs and especially the women. He said that the IDPs want to return home and that the money spent on humanitarian assistance be shifted to funding development projects.

Eliasson also expressed hopes that this visit to the camp will facilitate the forthcoming visit of African Union Special Envoy Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim. He said however that the Darfur problem is a Sudanese problem and has to be resolved by the people of Sudan.

Earlier in el-Fasher, Special Envoy Eliasson held closed-door talks with the head of the Senior Aide and head of the TDRA, Mini Minnawi. The two discussed the developments in Darfur. Eliasson also held talks with the deputy governor of North Darfur and is slated to hold talks later with representatives of IDPs, civil society, Arab tribes and UN agencies.

African Union Peace & Security Council to convene today

(*AIRai AlAam*) Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim presents his report on the political process for Darfur before the African Union Peace & Security Council sitting today.

Sources say the report will focus on the outcome of the consultations in Arusha and preparations for the negotiations phase. The sources also reveal that diplomats at the Sudan embassy in Addis have also been invited to the African Union Peace & Security Council session.

Darfur force 'to be all-African'

(*BBC News*) Africa will provide all of the 26,000 peacekeepers to be sent to Sudan's Darfur region, the head of the African Union (AU) has said.

AU chairman Alpha Oumar Konare said enough African troops had been promised for no outside help to be needed but he did not give details.

The UN had expected to call on Asian troops. Critics say Africa lacks enough trained troops for an effective force.

Speaking after talks in Khartoum with the Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir, Mr Konare said: "I can confirm today that we have received sufficient commitments from African countries that we will not have to resort to non-African forces."

He added that the "ball is now in the court of the UN" to provide funding for the force.

PROMISED PEACEKEEPERS

7,000 - existing AU force

1,000 - pledged by Senegal

800 - pledged by Malawi

Other pledges:

Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia and Egypt

Indonesia, Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh

26,000 - total planned

Mr Bashir, who has long argued that a UN-backed force would be a violation of Sudan's sovereignty and could worsen the situation there, backed Mr Konare's plan.

"[We] support the AU force, which consolidates the efforts of the Sudanese government to ensure security, peace and stability in Darfur," he said after their meeting.

Mr Konare did not give a breakdown of the countries offering to supply more personnel, leading correspondents to question the viability of an all-African force.

BBC Africa analyst David Bamford said it was unclear where so many African troops would come from.

Hafiz Mohamed from lobby group Justice Africa said Sudan would be able to manipulate AU troops - as he said they had been doing with the 7,000 AU troops already in Darfur. "This will affect the whole credibility of the new resolution," he told the BBC's Network Africa program.

GoNU (CPA; Darfur Peace Agreement; ESPA)

Kenyan Envoy Satisfied With Sudan's Peace Implementation

(*Sudan Vision*) Visiting former Kenyan President and Kenyan Special Envoy for Peace in Sudan, Daniel Moi, met with Sudanese President Omer al-Bashir and the two discussed the implementation of the agreement, which was signed by the Sudanese government and the former rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement in 2005 to end the 21-year civil war.

After the meeting, Moi told reporters that al-Bashir briefed him on the progress of implementation of the CPA and he was satisfied with the progress. Moi said he was sure that the Sudanese government could resolve all problems. Sudanese Foreign Minister Lam Akol told reporters that during the meeting al-Bashir expressed appreciation on the great efforts made by Moi for realizing peace in Sudan.

After meeting with al-Bashir, Moi left Khartoum, winding up his two-day visit in Sudan. It was the first time for Moi to visit Sudan since his appointment by the Kenyan government as Kenya's Special Envoy for Peace in Sudan early this year.

Interim rule proposal for disputed Sudan oil region of Abyei

(*Reuters*) Former south Sudan rebels have proposed a temporary administration and new borders for the disputed oil-rich Abyei region to break a deadlock which threatens to derail a landmark north-south peace deal.

Pagan Amum, secretary general of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), also left the door open for international arbitration should his party fail to agree on a final settlement with their partners in peace, the dominant northern National Congress Party (NCP).

"The SPLM is presenting a new proposal to establish an interim administration for Abyei for a period of six months with a definite border based on fresh documents demarcating the area of Abyei," Amum told Reuters on Friday.

Besides control of oil fields, demarcation of the Abyei border is crucial for a census expected next year, elections due in 2009 and a referendum planned for 2011 to determine if the south wants to secede or remain united with the north. ([Read more...](#)).

Cash needed to save south Sudan peace deal

(*Reuters*) "Donor governments, which promised billions of dollars to help with the reconstruction of the south need to make those resources available to ensure that hundreds of thousands of returning Sudanese ... gain greater access to water, medical assistance, education," advocacy group Refugees International said in a report.

It singled out a World Bank-led mechanism called the Multi Donor Trust Fund (MTDF) as being too slow in giving money to the semi-autonomous south Sudan government to develop the war-torn south, one of the poorest areas in the world.

"Half a billion dollars...was committed to the World Bank administered MDTF, a mechanism that has thus far proved to be woefully inefficient, with only about \$80 million disbursed to date," it added.

This week south Sudan said it would begin to demobilise some 25,000 soldiers but that support packages including seeds and tools were not guaranteed for them because of United Nations funding delays.

"The money is available," said David Gressly, the top humanitarian official in Sudan. "However, our policy is not to release funds, until the national framework has been agreed."

He acknowledged a new way to deliver cash rapidly to support urgent development was needed to add to the MDTF. ([Read more...](#)).

Police inspect explosion in south of Khartoum

(*AlRai AlAam; AlSahafa*) A heavy explosion rocked the Salama residential area south of Khartoum yesterday. Authorities say that the explosion accidental pinpointed the location of a cell of religious extremists who locally manufactured explosives.

Police rushed to the scene of the explosion and arrested three people who were in the house. Two other people who were also in the house were rushed to hospital for treatment.

Authorities ban memorial procession for the victims of the Kajbar incident

(*AlSahafa*) Authorities in Khartoum have yesterday barred a memorial procession in honour of the victims of the Kajbar dam incident organised by the el-Mahas Club.

According to a member of the organising committee, authorities yesterday summoned the head of the committee representing citizens protesting the construction of the dam and asked him to call off the procession on the grounds that they do not have a license to do so. He then told them that past experiences have proved they could not get a license.

He was then asked to sign a letter of commitment that the procession will not take place.

Detained Sudan politician needs doctor - Amnesty

(*Reuters*) Human rights activists have called on Sudanese authorities to allow a detained opposition politician to see his doctor.

Mubarak al-Fadil, head of the opposition Umma Party for Renewal and Reform, is one of 25 detained and accused of plotting to overthrow the government. He has been held for almost a month without medical care, Amnesty said.

"Amnesty International is calling for Mubarak al-Fadil al-Mahdi to have access to medical care while in detention, including access to his own doctor as provided for in international standards," it said in a statement seen by Reuters on Sunday.

"If not promptly charged with a recognisable criminal offence, he should be released to seek the medical investigation and treatment he requires."

Al-Fadil needs medication for high cholesterol and had been due to seek medical attention in London in July for "a number of related gastro-oesophageal problems", Amnesty said.

Justice Minister Mohamed Ali al-Mardi confirmed on Sunday to Reuters reports by a Sudanese paper that 25 people were being held on charges including "calling for resistance (to) the power structure through use of violence or criminal force, inciting war against the state and destruction of the constitutional system".

Sudanese officials said 44 people were originally detained for alleged participation in the plot.

Mardi declined to say whether prisoners had been deprived of medical care or would be given it.

"I wouldn't say even if I knew," he told Reuters.

Mardi also declined to say whether al-Fadil, or other opposition politicians detained including Ali Mahmoud Hassanein from the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), were among the 25.

Party officials from al-Fadil's party and the DUP said the two men were still being held and the DUP said it was gathering support for Hassanein's defence.

"We are going to approach our colleagues from the other parties to make a group to defend them," said DUP spokesman Taj el-Sir Mohamed Salih, adding that the party would request an audience with the justice minister on Monday.

GoSS

Unity State protests environmental degradation as a result of oil operations

(*AlAyaam*) Authorities in Unity State have complained of environmental degradation as a result of the oil operations in the area with daily reports of death from water pollution.

The state's finance minister also said that there is a decrease in Unity State's share in the oil revenues and underlined the need for experts from the region to be allowed to evaluate its exact shares from the revenue.

South Sudan state disarms as Ugandan rebels leave

(*Reuters*) Disarmament has finally started in south Sudan's state of Eastern Equatoria under a 2005 peace deal now it has been made possible by the departure of Ugandan rebels, a security official said.

Authorities had previously been reluctant to take guns from heavily armed south Sudanese, who complained of looting and abductions by Ugandan fighters of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) taking refuge in the region.

But the rebels have now moved to assembly points on the borders with Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo following Ugandan peace talks in Juba, capital of south Sudan's semi-autonomous government.

"We didn't want to make people vulnerable to the LRA without their guns," said Eastern Equatoria's security advisor Marcello Dominic. "But now we're doing selective disarmament."

Dominic told Reuters on Saturday the last Ugandan LRA fighters left eastern Equatoria in June, allowing some disarmament to begin there. Four villages there have now been disarmed, he said.

"This has been a real, long political fight," he said. "Even since the peace talks began, the LRA continued to kill and abduct our people. We still consider them our enemy."

Tribal chiefs say their powers were destroyed by the proliferation of guns in the area, where there was heavy fighting between the north and south during Sudan's civil war.

But Dominic said armed cattle herders from neighbouring Ugandan and Kenyan who roam across the porous borders were also an obstacle to a full disarmament campaign.

"The government fears our people will be made more vulnerable if disarmed," he said.

Darfur rebels end consultations meeting in southern Sudan

(SudanTribune.com) The Sudan Peoples Liberation Movement (SPLM) and Darfur non signatory rebel groups have ended a consultations meeting in southern Sudan. Another meeting will be held soon, the SPLM said.

Edward Lino, head of SPLM committee for Darfur rebel groups, said that all the participants in the talks organized with Darfur rebel groups left Juba. The rebels, who attended a consultation in northern Tanzania, were invited by the SPLM to discuss in depth the points adopted during Arusha meeting.

The Juba meeting was attended by the United Front for Liberation and Development (UFLD), and the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) faction of Ahmed Abdelshafi. The Justice and Equality Movement, the SLM faction of Abdella Yahya and the SLM commanders declined the invitation.

Eastern Equatoria official pledges to end insecurity problems

(SudanTribune.com) The newly appointed Deputy Governor of Eastern Equatoria state has promised that the question of insecurity in the state is among his top priorities. He further pledged to set up an administrative system to resolve chronic problems such Lopa/Lafon one.

Adding that among his top priorities will be finding solutions to insecurity problems by involving the entire communities in identifying the real problems and to come out with their implemental suggestions including way forwards because they communities are part of the problems of insecurity in the state, Echom underlined.

Meanwhile Peter Longole said the members of the new cabinet were selected on basis of demand for establishment of stability, efficiency and justice that needed to be accorded to all people in the state.

Darfur

Sudan held secret talks with UN Chief on Darfur force

(*SudanTribune.com*) Sudanese officials have been holding secret talks with United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in different parts of the world regarding the Darfur peacekeeping force.

Sirag Al-Deen Hamed, head of the Peace department in Sudan's foreign ministry said during a forum in Khartoum that said that there were direct channels of communication with Ban Ki-moon unlike his predecessor Kofi Annan.

Hamed said that confrontation between the hybrid force and the army is a possibility that his government is prepared for. However he described resolution 1769 as a "victory for Sudanese diplomacy".

The Darfur conflict began in 2003 when an ethnic minority rose up against the Arab-dominated government in Khartoum, which then was accused of enlisting the Janjaweed militia group to help crush the rebellion.

Darfur rebel group requests consultation on peacekeeping troops' nationality

(*SudanTribune.com*) The spokesperson of the rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), Ahmed Hussein Adam said that International community must consult rebel groups on the selection of countries taking part in the Hybrid Operation.

Ahmed told Sudan Tribune that the international community considers only Khartoum's point of view, without consideration of the opinion of the other party; adding "Sudan's sovereignty has failed from the day that Khartoum committing genocide in Darfur."

The rebel spokesperson reiterated that JEM welcomes Darfur peacekeeping troops because "We are concerned by the protection of the civilians" he said.

However, Ahmed warned that his group demands that troops should only be provided by neutral countries.

"We do not want troops from countries supportive of the Sudanese regime or states do not respect human rights in their own countries" Ahmed underscored. He also emphasized that the most important that states participants in the peacekeeping force should have the determination to help for the arrest of massacres in Darfur."

On the venue of the peace talks, JEM spokesperson asserted that no deal has been yet reached with the mediators on the venue of the forthcoming peace negotiations with the Sudanese government.

He also said that Khartoum tries to impose Abuja agreement as a basis for the envisaged peace talks. But he rejected Khartoum claims stating that Sudan's government should not impose any prior conditions before the negotiations.

Ahmed said Khartoum still sending contradictory signals on the peace process. He urged Sudanese government to take measures indicating its good willingness for political solution of Darfur crisis like stopping the resettlement of Arab alien tribes in the displaced and refugees villages, to stop the bombardment of the civilians.

Rizeigat and Turjum agree on cessation of hostilities

(*Sudan Vision*) An agreement on cessation of hostilities was signed Saturday in the Secretariat General of the Government of South Darfur State between the warring Turjum and Rizeigat tribes

The Charter affirms that the two parties are fully committed to ending hostilities and maintaining the safety of lives and property as well as routes besides maintaining security and stability.

Darfur IDPs protest in support of SLM leader position

(*SudanTribune.com*) Thousands of Darfurians demonstrated yesterday in Darfur to protest against the outcome of Arusha meeting. The protesters affirmed their support of the demand of a rebel leader requesting deployment of international peacekeepers before talks.

Tens of thousands of Darfur Internally Displaced Persons in North and South (IDPs) staged a protest on Friday upon the arrival of UN envoy for Darfur Jan Eliasson. The demonstrators condemned Arusha meeting, affirming that Darfur peace would not be realized through Abuja or Arusha negotiations but through of participation of all of the Darfurians.

In a memorandum submitted to Eliasson, the displaced asked for the necessity of implementing the UN Security Council resolution (1769) related to the Hybrid Operation. They demanded the deployment of the peacekeeping force on the ground as soon as possible in order to ease the delivery of relief, return of the displaced to their villages. Also they urged to present responsible of Darfur war crimes to the International Criminal Court (ICC).

The IDPs told the UN envoy that no peace in Darfur without the leader of the rebel Sudan Liberation Movement, Abdelwahid al-Nur, Al-Ayam news paper reported. ([Read more ...](#)).

NY Times says statistics on death toll in Darfur are exaggerated

(*AlRai AlAam*) The New York Times reports that the death toll from the Darfur conflict may be exaggerated.

The paper points out that the figure of 400,000 victims that the Save Darfur Coalition is citing is not accurate and has been exaggerated. Other estimates cite about 158,000 which is normal and could occur anywhere in the world, adds the paper. The paper goes on to say that based on the findings of the Epidemiology Research Centre, 70% of deaths in Darfur may have occurred from disease and epidemics.

Chad deploys 1,000 along its borders with Sudan

(*AlSahafa*) Chad's army commander ahs revealed that his country will be deploying 1,000 soldiers and police along its border regions with Sudan in the next two weeks pursuant to the N'Djamena agreement.

Speaking to AlJazeera, the army chief said that the troops will assemble in Abeche prior to deployment to the border areas.

