



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN

UNMIS

UNMIS Media Monitoring Report, 14th 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**

- Assistant police chief of Khartoum State holds talks with DSRSG da Silva
- Sudan promises Human rights Rapporteur reforms in the National Security laws

➤ GoNU

- Minnawi makes first appearance in cabinet; Parliament to subject Press & Publications Law to scrutiny

➤ Southern Sudan/GoSS/SPLM

- Uganda asks for help with cease-fire

➤ Darfur/Darfur Peace Agreement

- SPLM contacts NRF, Abulelwahid, Eriteria to finalize Darfur Peace
- Human rights activists warn of impending humanitarian crises in Taweela.
- Consultative council of the tribes of Darfur and the DDR commission agree to full disarmament in the region without exception to any group
- Leader of breakaway Darfur rebel JEM arrives in Khartoum
- Misseriya Tribes form high council

➤ Miscellany

- Sudan starts works in Juba-Nairobi, Juba-Kosti roads
- Conflicting reports on cholera in el-Gedharef

➤ COMMENTARIES

- Where did the Prado disappear?
- The American SPLA

HIGHLIGHTS:

United Nations and the Transition Debate

Assistant police chief of Khartoum State holds talks with DSRSG da Silva

(*SUNA* – 13th Aug. **Khrt.**) Police Mjr. Gen. Mohamed Najeeb el-Tayeb, Assistant Director-General for Khartoum State Police, met this morning [*Sunday 13th August*] with DSRSG Mr. Manuel Aranda da Silva at the police headquarters in Khartoum.

The talks covered cooperation between the Khartoum State Police and the United Nations mission especially in the areas of training in human rights, social security and the need to open channels for interaction between the two sides.

Sudan promises Human rights Rapporteur reforms in the National Security laws

(*Rai AlShaab* – 14th Aug. **Khrt.**) Sima Samar, the Special Rapporteur for Human Rights in Sudan, said that the GoS has promised to make legislative reforms including on the National Security laws, electoral laws and the laws governing registrations of parties.

She assured that the Human Rights Council is working hard to improve the humanitarian situation in Sudan and revealed that the UNHCR has issued a report on the human rights situation in Darfur that will be submitted to the United Nations Human Rights Commission next September before it is tabled before the United Nations General Assembly.

GoNU

Minnawi makes first appearance in cabinet; Parliament to subject Press & Publications Law to scrutiny

(*AlAyaam, A;Sahafa* – 14th Aug. **Khrt.**) Senior Aide to the President of the Republic and the head of the Darfur Interim Authority, Mini Minnawi, made a first appearance before parliament yesterday.

A spokesman for the cabinet said that Minnawi has expressed his commitments to contribute positively for the country's welfare, security and stability. He assured his movement's commitment to the Darfur Peace Agreement.

Yesterday's session of the cabinet also saw cabinet ministers pledge a donation of 100,000 Sudanese Dinars each for Lebanon.

Meanwhile, the Parliamentary Committee on Information and Communications will next Monday subject the Press & Publications Laws to scrutiny in cooperation with the Press & Publications Council.

Invitations to attend have also been sent to all those who represent different views on the said press and publication law.

The SPLM caucus in parliament also reports that it will push for the review of some legislature including the press and publications laws and has formed a committee to identify such legislature that require review in order to conform to the National Interim Constitution.

Southern Sudan/GoSS/SPLM

Uganda asks for help with cease-fire

(*AP/ST* – 13th Aug. **Khrt.**) Uganda asked Sunday for international monitors to observe any cease-fire it reaches with the Lord's Resistance Army, which has led a brutal 19-year insurgency. Negotiations between the government and the rebel group are under way, but Uganda says it is waiting for a comprehensive peace deal before it agrees to a cease-fire.

Uganda's Interior Affairs Minister Ruhakana Rugunda said he wants the United States, the Netherlands, Norway and South Africa to be on a monitoring team, as well as the United Nations and the African Union.

The request is meant to "show the whole world that we are engaged genuinely in peace talks for an agreement to end the conflict in northern Uganda," Rugunda said.

Darfur/Darfur Peace Agreement

SPLM contacts NRF, Abulelwahid, Eritrea to finalize Darfur Peace

(*Sudan Vision* – 14th Aug. **Khrt.**) The Deputy Secretary-General of the SPLM, Yassir Arman said that the SPLM is currently conducting contacts with the NRF, Abdul Wahid Nour and the Eritrean government to finalize the Darfur peace and to reach a common vision by GoNU on the Darfur issue.

Arman in a press statement yesterday described his meeting with the Senior Assistant to the President of the Republic and the President of the Transitional Darfur Regional Authority as positive.

He also called for the release of the detained member of the West Darfur Legislative Council.

Human rights activists warn of impending humanitarian crises in Taweela.

(*AlAyaam* – 14th Aug. **Darfur**) Human rights activists warn of an impending crisis in Taweela, south of el-Fashir following the withdrawal of humanitarian organizations.

Three vehicles that belong to the American (Brief[?] International Organization) have been kidnapped last Thursday.

It is worth noting that only 2 INGOs (Brief(?) International and Save the Children (Sweden) serve the area but have recently relocated their staff to el-Fasher citing security concerns.

Consultative council of the tribes of Darfur and the DDR commission agree to full disarmament in the region without exception to any group

(*AlIntibaha* – 14th Aug. **Khrt.**) The consultative council of the tribes of Darfur and the head of the DDR commission Dr Salaf-el-deen Salih have agree that all armed groups in the region be disarmed.

The two sides issued a joint statement yesterday on the issue.

Leader of breakaway Darfur rebel JEM arrives in Khartoum

(ST – 13th Aug. **Khrt.**) The leader of a breakaway faction of the Justice and Equality Movement, Abdelrahim Abu-Risha, arrived in Khartoum Sunday afternoon from Nyala.

In a press conference he held upon arrival at Khartoum Airport, Abu-Risha stressed the importance of the Darfur-Darfur dialogue for supporting the peace process in Darfur region.

He said that the Darfurian dialogue provides a people mechanism for implementation of Darfur peace agreement and enabling the people of Darfur to overcome the bitterness of the past.

Abu-Risha also called on all the citizens of Darfur to support the implementation of the peace agreement. He called on the national unity government to put into action Darfur peace agreement.

He said that his faction is coordinating efforts with the other signatory movements and factions for implementation of the Darfur peace agreement on the ground.

Misseriya Tribes form high council

(*Khartoum Monitor* – 14th Aug. **Khrt.**) The Union of the Misseriya Tribe in Sudan has agreed to form a representative body that will focus on resolving the conflicts between the Dinka Ngok and the Misseriya tribes especially in the Abyei region.

A high council was selected yesterday during a meeting at the Federal Government Chamber in Khartoum.

Miscellany

Sudan starts works in Juba-Nairobi, Juba-Kosti roads

(*Sudan tribune* – 13th Aug. **Khrt.**) The Federal Minister of Transport, Roads and Bridges, Engineer Kol Maniang Jok, has announced the beginning of work for the construction of the road linking Juba with neighbouring Kenya, the Kosti-Juba highway and the Hamishkoreib-Kassala road.

In a statement to state-run SUNA, the minister said that a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with China for the rehabilitation of the transport sector in Sudan while the Republic of South Africa will carry out the other programs such as refurbishment of the rail and river transport sectors.

Conflicting reports on cholera in el-Gadaref

(*Allintibaha* – 14th Aug. **Khrt.**) Conflicting reports are coming in about a cholera outbreak in el-Gedharef State, medical sources say.

The sources report that 16 persons have so far died of cholera and attribute the spread of the disease to the inefficient control measures of the local authorities.

COMMENTARIES

Where did the Prado disappear?

Mohamed Hamid el-Humri of *Alwatan* daily writes in his column of 13th Aug. 2006 an article titled “Where did the Prado disappear”.

He refers to the recent story by *AlSahafa* daily that reported that United Nations Mission in Sudan has lost a 14-seater minibus and 2 Toyota Prados and points out that the story is not in the loss itself but in the fact that the United Nations has not taken steps to report, leave alone investigate, the loss.

He poses the questions: is the loss that unimportant or does the issue have political, security or corruption undertones? Did the vehicle go on an errand to serve the cause of the “freedom fighters” somewhere or did it go on an innocent” trip of no return? Is it on a “humanitarian errand” somewhere in Khartoum or are their whereabouts known but kept secret?

Why this silence and who will answer these questions? Only God knows, concludes the writer.

The American SPLA

Omar Ahmed el-Haj, a columnist with *AlIntibaha* writes a piece on the recent reports that the SPLA seeks to employ the services of a private US firm to turn it into a professional army.

He points out that this shows that the SPLA is looking ahead and gearing up to defend the forthcoming “State of Southern Sudan” (which he also described as an upcoming African Vatican). He claims that the combat tactics that the SPLA will be taught will mainly target the Arab and Muslim north of the country.

The writer says that every passing day shows the true intentions of the SPLM-led government in the south and points out that if it had noble intentions it should have turned to the SAF for such an assistance.

The writer further urges the north to wake up to the true colours of the south that is preparing itself to face the north while the north is doing nothing to counter these moves. He points out that half of the 50% oil revenue for southern Sudan has been used in defence expenditure.

He said that the south is gradually preparing itself for the north and is only milking the north inasmuch as will be of benefit to its ultimate goals that is to turn everything in the south into a US trend – southern markets will be flooded with US goods while the SPLA will be turned into a professional army following the US model.