

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS**Media Monitoring Report, 19 August 2007

(By Public Information Office)

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UN/ Agencies

UN mulls allegations against Rwandan general of Darfur force

(*Reuters* – 18 August, UNITED NATIONS) The United Nations is seriously considering allegations of human rights violations against a Rwandan general, nominated as deputy commander for the new U.N.-African Union force in Darfur, a U.N. official said on Saturday.

The African Union has approved Rwandan Maj. Gen. Karenzi Karake for the post but the United Nations has not yet confirmed it, despite pressure from Rwanda, which fields some 2,000 of the 7,000 AU troops now in Darfur.

"We are aware of these allegations and we take them seriously," the U.N. official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. "We are consulting with the African Union and the government of Rwanda on the matter."

Rwanda's U.N. ambassador, Joseph Nsengimana, was quoted on the allAfrica.com Web site as saying that those raising the allegations had simply run out of ideas to complain about.

"The whole world and the diplomats at the U.N., the Sudanese government and people of Darfur have appreciated the role that our troops in Darfur have played," Nsengimana said.

"Why can't these people develop in their thinking because they seem to be out of touch with the way Rwanda is changing?" he was quoted as telling the BBC's Great Lakes service.

No immediate comment from Kigali was available.

The U.N. official stressed that rules and regulations require that all U.N. personnel, especially those in leadership roles, "must embody the highest levels of professionalism, integrity, respect for diversity and accountability." ([Read more ...](#)).

UN chief seeks Security Council approval for Chad force

(*AP* – 16 Aug. UNITED NATIONS) Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urged the U.N. Security Council to give a green light to a new international mission that would deploy European troops and U.N. police to improve security for thousands of civilians trying to escape violence in Chad and the Central African Republic.

In a report to the council circulated Thursday, Ban said the proposed mission would provide "a unique opportunity" to help refugees and internally displaced civilians caught in local fighting and the spillover of the Darfur conflict in neighboring Sudan and create an environment "where humanitarian organizations can carry out their critical work."

The newly revised proposal would also address the misgivings of Chadian President Idriss Deby, who opposed Ban's original proposal for deployment of a U.N. military force but agreed to a European Union force after meeting French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner in June, the secretary-general said.

Since the Security Council visited Darfur and Chad in June 2006, the United Nations has been talking about deploying international police and troops to the two impoverished countries on the volatile border with Darfur. With Deby's approval and the EU's agreement last month to start planning for a possible 3, 000-strong peacekeeping mission, the pieces finally appear to be finally falling into place. ([Read more ...](#)).

GoNU (CPA; Darfur Peace Agreement; ESPA)

UK warns against Khartoum travel over attack fears

(*Reuters* – 18 Aug. LONDON) Britain warned on Saturday against traveling to Sudan's capital Khartoum because of heightened fears Western interests may be attacked.

Britain's Foreign Office said on its Web site that public services at the British embassy in Khartoum would be suspended on Sunday and Monday as a precaution.

"There is a heightened threat of terrorist attacks in Khartoum. Western interests, including British official interests, may be targeted. We advise against all but essential travel to Khartoum," the Foreign Office said.

The updated travel advice comes after Sudanese police found three weapons caches in the capital during the past week. Police arrested eight Sudanese in connection with the stores, which mostly contained grenades and ammunition, sources at the interior ministry said. ([Read more ...](#)).

Egypt warns France and U.K of the planned visit to the Sudan

(*AlSahafa*) Egypt conducted intensive consultations with the French and British governments regarding reports that of an impending visit to Darfur by the French President Nicholas Sarkozy and British Prime Minister Gordon Brown.

The consultations reported focused on the necessity of coordinating the program of the visits program with the government of Sudan.

The Egyptian government warned of the danger of neglecting to notify the Sudanese government on the visit schedule. It noted that failure to notify the Sudanese government on the visit itinerary would affect Sudan's sovereignty.

Authorities ban, Saturday, a consultative meeting on the Darfur-Darfur Dialogue

(*Akhbar Alyaum*) Authorities banned yesterday consultative meeting on the Darfur-Darfur dialogue scheduled to take place at Sharga Hall, University of Khartoum, under the auspices of the Sudanese Environmental Conservation Society.

Akbar Al-youm Arabic daily reports that a number of Darfuris leadership, University lecturers and scholars were seen in front of the Hall.

National Umma Party's Secretary-General Dr. Abdul Nabi Ali Ahmed criticized the procedures taken by the government towards the meeting saying that the government used to forbid holding peaceful activities which, he added, aim at handling the country's issues. He noted that the

rejection of the government for convening the consultative session, which aims at making Darfur-Darfur Dialogue a success, was a concrete evidence that the government was a fundamental part of the crisis.

Dr. Ahmed held the government responsible of the current tragedy in Darfur indicating that on going fighting in South Darfur was due to mal-practices of the Ruling National Congress party (NCP). He called on the people of Darfur to unify their ranks, overcome disputes, hold bloodshed and incarnate peaceful co-existence.

Sudanese repatriation from Uganda gathers pace

(*UNHCR* – 17 Aug. NIMULE) The UN refugee agency has stepped up the pace of Sudanese refugee returns from Uganda by opening a major new corridor to Eastern Equatoria state in South Sudan. Close to 50 per cent of the 160,000 Sudanese refugees living in a string of 11 camps in Uganda are from Eastern Equatoria.

A first convoy carrying 133 Sudanese refugees from Kyangwali and Kyriandongo camps in Uganda's Hoima district arrived last Wednesday in Nimule, a border town on the southern tip of Sudan's border with Uganda.

The introduction of a third corridor from Uganda to South Sudan was agreed on at a meeting in Kampala last May between UNHCR and the governments of Uganda and Sudan amid improving security on both sides of the border. With the additional return route now open, UNHCR expects growing numbers of Sudanese to opt for return this year.

Until recently, UNHCR was not able to operate in Magwi due to LRA activities in the area. Since the mid-1990s, the LRA has also been active in Eastern Equatoria. From there they terrorized villagers in Uganda and Sudan, abducted residents and regularly ambushed vehicles travelling from northern Uganda to Juba in South Sudan.

But security has improved following an LRA withdrawal from the area several months ago, boosting the confidence of refugees thinking of returning to Sudan. ([Read more ...](#)).

GoSS

Sudan's SPLM dismisses federal minister for statements on Garang death

(*SudanTribune.com* – 18 Aug. JUBA) The Interim National Council (INC) of Sudan people's liberation movement (SPLM) party has, today, dismissed one of its minister, Aleu Ayeng Aleu, state minister of Interior in the government of national unity from his ministerial position, announced SPLM Secretary General Pagan Amum.

Briefing the press after a three days closed door meeting, secretary General Pagan Amum said "Comrade Aleu Ayeng Aleu was dismissed for making unwarranted and provocative statement on circumstances surrounding the death of SPLM Chairman, late Dr John Garang de Mabior to the media."

He said both the SPLM and government of southern Sudan stand by the report of the committee constituted to investigate the helicopter crash that killed Dr. John Garang in July 2005.

Meanwhile GoSS minister of Information and broadcasting, Samson Kwaje said that remarks of Aleu does not whatsoever reflect neither the views of government of southern Sudan nor that of the SPLM, "therefore, they as government and SPLM party have dissociated themselves from such a careless statement of a personal opinion of comrade Aleu."

Kwaje reiterated that the constituted investigation committee composed of SPLM and NCP members had attributed the death of Dr. John Garang to mechanical failure involving weather condition and human eras, meaning the pilot might have been committed mistakes.

Kwaje on behalf of Government of southern Sudan and of the SPLM party apologized to those mentioned in Aleu's allegation.

Regarding statement by the wife of the late, Mama Rebecca who had earlier made similar statement in the Kenyan media that she knew the people who killed her husband but never mention any person nor a country, unlike Aleu Ayeng who pointed accusing fingers at Ugandan government and three foreign embassies who had meeting with the late together with Ugandan president prior to the crash. Dr. Kwaje appeals to all Sudanese not to take the Iwa into their hands by hurting nationals of people implicated by Aleu Ayen Aleu unfortunate remarks.

Aleu had alleged in the Arabic language daily Akhabar Alyoum of August 14th 2007 that Uganda government and three foreign embassies have participated in the killing of the First Vice President of the republic and president of the government of southern Sudan who was also the chairman and commander in chief of SPLA in a plane crashed on 30th July 2005. ([Read more ...](#)).

South Sudan Vice President says Jonglei must be disarmed

(*SudanTribune.com* – 18 Aug. BOR, JONGLEI) During a visit to Bor today, the Vice President of the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) Riek Machar Teny announced that all the communities in Jonglei State must be disarmed.

Marchar visited Jonglei state on Saturday to hold a security meeting with local authorities after tribal clashes between cattle herders.

Cattle raids between south Sudanese tribes have killed 56 people and wounded 16 others in July in Jonglei state, the deadliest such clashes there in years. The number of people who died was 27 Murle and 29 Lou Nuer. High level government officials including the minister of SPLA Affairs, Dominic Dim Minister of interior Paul Mayom Akech, Minister of Constitutional Development and Legal Affairs Michael Makuey Lueth, Peace commissioner and Southern Sudan DDR commissioner with other officials accompanied the GoSS Vice-President. ([Read more ...](#)).

Land disputes fuel tensions in war-torn south Sudan

(*Reuters* – 18 Aug. JUBA) Land disputes in southern Sudan following Africa's longest civil war are fuelling tensions and a proposed land register could take years to complete, an official said on Friday.

Communication problems and resentment of soldiers who grabbed land in the wake of a north-south peace deal in 2005 have made people unwilling to hand land to the government, said Robert Lado, head of the south Sudan land commission.

He said Juba residents had also come forward with leases to land occupied by the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS). "Somebody has all the papers. But UNMIS is saying it was given the land by the state," he said in the interview on Friday. It could be confusion or corruption, Lado said, but reforms were underway. ([Read more ...](#)).

Seven killed in clan clashes in South Sudan's Rumbek

(*SudanTribune.com* – 17 Aug. RUMBOK) Seven (7) people were killed and 12 wounded in clan clashes in Lakes State last week.

Eye witnesses said that the fighting started on Saturday 11 August. ([Read more ...](#)).

Darfur

African Darfur troops must meet UN standards - joint envoy

(*Reuters* – 16 August, EL-FASHER) Troops pledged by African states for the new joint U.N.-African Union force in Darfur must meet U.N. standards, said Rodolphe Adada, the mission's head.

Adada said new troop commitments by African countries had been encouraging, but what mattered was quality.

Adada was on his first visit to North Darfur since his appointment as head of the AU mission and joint U.N.-AU operation. The joint mission will incorporate the existing AU force of 7,000 troops, many of whom are poorly equipped and have not been paid in months because of cash-flow problems.

"Efforts are being made to solve this problem once and for all. In a few days this (pay) problem will be behind us," Adada told the AU troops in Darfur. He said his first task would be to raise the morale of the troops. ([Read more ...](#)).

Darfur displaced say joint UN-AU force needed now

(*Reuters* – 18 Aug. OTASH IDP CAMP) Darfuris who fled their homes during a 4-1/2 year revolt are urging a joint U.N.-African Union force to deploy rapidly to protect them from attacks and allow their safe return to their villages.

"There will be no peace here without the international forces," Ahmed Hirs, a resident of Otash camp just north of Nyala town in South Darfur where some 62,000 people fled their homes to seek refuge from rape, looting and killing.

"We have suffered enough. We want peace of mind and this will be possible only if the international forces come," said Adam Mohamed Ahmed, another camp resident. ([Read more ...](#)).

Pressure changed Chinese Darfur stance - report

(*Reuters* – 18 Aug. KHARTOUM) China is still giving Sudan financial and military aid that enables it to wage war in Darfur, but global pressure on Beijing has made a difference, a Small Arms Survey research paper said. The paper said advocacy to persuade China to exert its influence over Sudan

was a "promising avenue" to bring peace and security to Darfur, torn apart by 4-1/2 years of revolt.

It said Chinese help to develop Sudan's crucial oil revenues - more than 50 percent of its budget — and in selling Khartoum arms and weapons technology, were helping Sudan in its military campaign in the remote west.

The Small Arms Survey said China's financial support to Sudan indirectly helped finance its wars, lifting Khartoum's income to at least \$1.3 billion a year from oil revenues.

Chinese companies have controlling interests in Sudan's largest oil blocks and 50 percent of its largest refinery. But Chinese investment was larger than just oil, the report said.

"China is now northern Sudan's most important trade partner," the report said, adding investment was in construction, dams and railways as well as the energy sector.

On arms, the report said Chinese-Sudanese military relations strengthened from 2002 with high-level exchange visits. ([Read more ...](#)).

Sweden, Norway to send joint engineering unit to Darfur force

(AP – 17 Aug. STOCKHOLM) Norway and Sweden will send a joint engineering unit with about 350 members to support an international peacekeeping force in Darfur, Sweden's foreign minister said Friday.

The Scandinavian unit will be deployed for a year starting in early 2008. It will help build roads and a communication infrastructure for the 26,000-strong peacekeeping force, a joint operation by the African Union and the U.N.

Swedish Foreign Minister Carl Bildt said the exact size of the Scandinavian unit would be decided in consultations with the U.N.

Former Darfur rebels say Khartoum arming militia

(Reuters – 16 Aug. KHARTOUM) Former Darfur rebels accused Khartoum on Thursday of arming and training forces of a tribal militia who have killed 170 civilians in South Darfur in recent days, but the Sudanese army rejected the charge.

The Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) of Minni Arcua Minawi, the only rebel faction to sign a peace deal last year, said its forces had intervened to stop attacks by the Arab Maaliya tribe and discovered the militia had support from Khartoum.

"We engaged them in battle but it was clear that they had capabilities beyond those of militia," said the faction's military spokesman Mohamed Hamid Dirbeen, who had just returned from the area, adding that the SLA had lost eight men.

Dirbeen said the Maaliya fighters wore new military uniforms and had heavy artillery and weapons provided by Khartoum.

"There is air support, planes and helicopters from the Sudanese army landing in the militia areas," he said. "They have armed and supported them," he added. He said the militia had killed 170 civilians and also stolen cattle.

A Sudanese army spokesman said the accusations were untrue. ([Read more ...](#)).

Lawyers' fraternity to propose solutions to the Darfur problem

(*Akhbar AlYaum*) The Darfur Lawyers' Union intends to submit a new proposal to the non-signatory factions and the government in a bid to overcome the current crisis.

The lawyers' fraternity commended UNSC Resolution 1769 and criticized the positions of China, Russia and South Africa towards the resolution.

It described the deployment of the hybrid force as the "biggest peacekeeping operation in the world" saying that the implementation of the resolution needs strategies to guarantee its efficiency.

Alsadig Ali Hassan and Abdurrahman Al-Gasim, both activists from the union, said that the proposal of the authority which would be presented to the non-signatories movements would focus on fundamental issues of fair power-sharing and democratic transformation and rule out at the moment issues of the Hawaker (traditional land rights) and Darfur-Darfur Dialogue which, should be discussed following agreement on the basics.

They added that the issue of Hawaker should not be discussed on the negotiations as it was a local issue adding that the issue of the trial of those accused of committing crimes against humanity is looked at being handled by the ICC.

They also called for the allocation of a just representation for Darfur at the executive, judiciary and legislative levels in Khartoum state.