



## UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN

## UNMIS

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**IN THE NEWS TODAY:**

- Sudan reiterates opposition to UN troop in Darfur
- Price hike sparks uproar
- SPLM carries out dubious military activities in White Nile State
- Museveni says Uganda could hit LRA if talks fail
- Two AMIS soldiers killed in ambush by unidentified armed men
- Government and SLM-Minnawi differ in views on international forces
- Parliamentary workshop to discuss Press & Publications Law

## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

### **Sudan reiterates opposition to UN troop in Darfur**

(*Xinhua/ST, AlWihda, Khartoum Monitor* – 20<sup>th</sup> Aug. **Dakar, Khrt.**) The Sudanese government reiterated Friday that it opposes the deployment of a UN peacekeeping force in Darfur to replace the African Union troops currently stationed there, according to a statement issued by the Sudanese embassy in Dakar.

The statement came one day after Britain and the United States circulated a draft UN Security Council resolution, calling for a substitution of the 7,000-strong AU peacekeepers with a 17,000-member UN force.

The statement criticized some countries for pressuring Sudan to accept the blue-helmet force, accusing them of running against the new spirit of peace and urged the international community to provide more financial support the troops so that they can continue the mission.

But the U.S. on Friday dismissed a threat by Sudan's president to fire on any U.N. force sent to Darfur. An expanded U.N. force would benefit the Sudanese government as well as the people of Darfur, State Department deputy spokesman Tom Casey said. But the U.K's U.N. Ambassador Emye Jones Parry stressed that no U.N. force would be deployed in Darfur without the consent of the government.

On the other hand and under the headlines *SAF reiterates government rejection to the deployment of United Nations troops to Darfur*, *AlWihda* daily reports that the Minister of Defence said during a graduation parade for Navy recruits held in Omdurman yesterday that the SAF will stand firm by the President of the Republic in rejection to the deployment of United Nations forces in Darfur.

The Sudan government is meanwhile studying a UK draft resolution presented to the Security Council on the deployment of United Nations troops to Darfur, reports *AlRai AlAam* daily.

Foreign ministry spokesperson, Ambassador Jamal Mohamed Ibrahim, said that the foreign ministry and other relevant parties are currently studying the draft and will declare the Sudan government's final position on the issue as soon as they finish.

Sudan has also asked the United Nations for its response towards the government plan to improve the situation in Darfur.

### **Price hike sparks uproar**

The Finance Ministry's decision to increase the price of petrol and gasoline was widely rejected within the political organisations and trade unions, reports *AlSahafa* and most other major newspapers.

Commuter fares have gone up by between SD.10 and SD.20 but operators say this does not cover operating costs.

Citizens were left stranded as many buses shunned commuter routes.

## **SPLM carries out dubious military activities in White Nile State**

(*Allintibaha, Khartoum Monitor*.20<sup>th</sup> Aug. **Khrt**) Some military sources criticize the White Nile State government for not heeding to their warnings to close down schools run by the SPLM in the region.

they claim that the SPLM uses these schools to carry out dubious military operations not stipulated in any agreement and that these covert activities are carried out with the aim of implementing a strategic plan in Rebak, the state capital.

They explain that the SPLM is using the premises to train western Sudanese in the military.

*Khartoum Monitor*, on the other hand, reports that tensions is high in parts of Upper Nile State in Southern Sudan following a fight between the Sudan People's Liberation Army and militias loyal to Maj-Gen Gabriel Gatwech Chan, popularly known as Tanginya.

For the last two days it has been unsafe for people to move between Tonga town and Old Fangak, due to the clashes .in this security report for August, Operation Lifeline Sudan (OLS) in Malakal has warned agencies working in the area to be on the alert. However ,OLS stressed that the security situation in Malakal town is calm.

## **Museveni says Uganda could hit LRA if talks fail**

The Government of Uganda has set pre-conditions for an end to hostilities with the LRA, *AlRai ALAam* reports.

Talks between President Museveni and visiting Sudan's Vice-President, Kiir, focused on the GoSS-led mediation with the LRA.

President Museveni said he intends to call for a meeting of the IGAD to discuss the implementation of the CPA in Sudan.

On the other hand, reports the *Reuters* office from Kampala on 19<sup>th</sup> August — Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni said on Saturday Congo had authorised Uganda forces to attack the base of the rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in its northeast if ongoing peace talks between the two sides failed.

Kinshasa has rejected repeated requests in the past from Uganda to send its troops into the remote region, where LRA guerrillas killed eight United Nations peacekeepers in January.

But at a joint news conference with south Sudan's leader Salva Kiir, Museveni said Congo's President Joseph Kabila and Vice President Jean-Pierre Bemba had both approved a joint incursion should ongoing peace talks in south Sudan fail.

Any attack against the rebels in lawless Garamba forest would involve Uganda, south Sudanese and U.N. forces, he said.

"We floated our ideas, specifically the idea of ... operating against Kony and both Kabila and Vice President Bemba supported that idea," Museveni told reporters.

"That is what is on the menu for Kony if he doesn't want a soft landing," he said, referring to LRA leader Joseph Kony.

Kony's fighters have waged a 20-year insurgency, one of the world's most brutal, which has killed tens of thousands and displaced nearly 2 million. Its top leaders left hideouts in south Sudan late last year for Democratic Republic of Congo.

Museveni said he believed Kony and his deputy Vincent Otti wanted to end the war, but were being misled by individuals from their northern Acholi tribe now living overseas.

"I know from good authority Kony and Otti really want to save their skins, but there are opportunists who ... keep frightening them and misinforming them, because they don't want this problem to be over," Museveni said.

South Sudan says it wants to broker an end to one of Africa's longest conflicts. Talks resumed in its capital Juba on Friday after being postponed this week when Uganda killed a top rebel wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Kiir said his regional government was committed to finding a peaceful end to the war, which has destabilised south Sudan.

"The military option will come in when we are convinced it isn't deliverable," Kiir said. "We have a time limit for ourselves and we think that the (LRA) delegates know it."

Earlier this month, Otti said he was losing faith in the chief mediator — Kiir's deputy Riek Machar — accusing him of plotting to have him arrested if he came to Juba.

Otti called this week for South Africa to join the mediation effort, but Museveni has rejected that. On Saturday, South Africa said it had not received any formal request.

### **Two AMIS soldiers killed in ambush by unidentified armed men**

(*Khartoum Monitor*-20<sup>th</sup> Aug. Khrt.) An African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS) fuel convoy travelling from EL Nahud to El Fashir was yesterday ambushed in the Kuma area by an identified group of armed men. Two AMIS soldiers were killed in the attack and three wounded. This was disclosed in an AMIS press release issued yesterday.

The statement said that the unprovoked ambush against AMIS peacekeepers was also a clear breach of the ceasefire agreements, with which all parties were bound to comply, as well as the relevant AUPSC and UNSC resolutions.

The release said the AU extended its deepest sympathies to the families of the soldiers killed and injured and assured the people of Darfur that such attacks would not deter AMIS from maintaining its neutrality and assisting the Sudanese to achieve peace and security in the beleaguered region of Darfur.

### **Government and SLM-Minnawi differ in views on international forces**

(*Allintibaha* - 20<sup>th</sup> Aug. Khrt.) Reactions of the GoS and SLM-Minnawi to international forces in Darfur differed with regard to the U.N. warns of referring the issue to the International Court if Sudan insists on opposition of deploying international forces in Darfur.

The SLM spokesman confirmed that their position is unchanged towards the issue of deployment of international forces in Darfur and added that it is the same position held by the people in Darfur and the international community.

## **Parliamentary workshop to discuss Press & Publications Law**

The parliamentary Information and Communications committee, in coordination with the National Council for Press & Publication is to hold a workshop on Press & Communications Laws at the National Assembly, reports *AlKhabar* daily.

Yassir Arman, head of the parliamentary committee said they are looking forward to make use of their previous experiments in order to enact a law that updates the Interim Constitution and supports the development of the Press & Publication and the improves the freedom of the press in the country.