

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS**Media Monitoring Report, 21 August 2007

(By Public Information Office)

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Highlights**UN/ Agencies****Samar report contains fallacies, says Justice Minister**

(Khrtoum Monitor)Minister of Justice, Mohamed AlMardi said the report of the United Nations Human Rights Rapporteur, Sima Samar on human rights in Darfur

contained mistakes and fallacies but in general it was not that bad compared to previous reports.

“International human organizations operating in Darfur used to come up with false report on human rights in Darfur which has become the pass word in international intervention in the internal affairs of the country”

AlMardi added that the UN Security Council resolution 1769 is not an extension of its previous resolution 1706 which had been rejected by the government. Resolution 1769 was drafted to give Sudan the right to have its army side by side with the hybrid forces. The government accepted the hybrid operations and not the hybrid forces and it has accepted with conditions, said AlMardi.

UN allocates US\$ 8.7 mln for Sudan floods

(Sudan Tribune) , John Holmes, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC), has approved a grant of US\$ 8.7 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), to support the ongoing humanitarian response. “Thanks to these funds, we will be able to assist over one and a half million current and potential flood victims, until or beyond the end of the rainy season,” Holmes said. The Emergency Relief Coordinator visited the country in April and has repeatedly called for the international community to generously respond to the humanitarian needs in Sudan.

The grant will be used for relief operations in the most affected areas. These currently include the states of Gedaref, Kassala, Khartoum, Northern Kordofan, Unity, and Upper Nile., the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said in a press release today.

The funding has been allocated to 11 different projects to be managed by five United Nations agencies: the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the World Food Programme (WFP), and the World Health Organization (WHO).

Of the total amount, \$ 4.5 million will provide medical drugs, health care, and support to epidemic surveillance in order to avert or contain deadly waterborne epidemics. Thanks to an additional \$ 2 million, over one million people will receive clean water or water purification products. A further \$ 1.5 million will be used to supply non-food items and emergency shelter to families who lost their homes or essential household goods. Finally, \$ 700,000 will provide food aid to those most in need and will support livelihoods.

This grant brings the total allocated to the Sudan flood response to US\$ 13.5 million. The United Nations had already allocated an amount of US\$ 4.8 million for the emergency, from its locally managed pooled fund known as the “Common Humanitarian Fund” (CHF).

Torrential rains have devastated several parts of the Sudan since 4 July 2007. Well over 30,000 homes were destroyed or seriously damaged, leaving at least 150,000 people without shelter.

The United Nations and partners have so far supplied aid to at least 500,000 people. Humanitarian organizations will now be able, together with Government counterparts, to continue responding to the emergency until at least mid-September, when the heavy rains are expected to gradually subside.

Approved by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2005 as a successor to the Central Emergency Revolving Fund, the CERF aims to save lives by providing a more predictable and timely response to humanitarian emergencies.

UN probes background of Rwandan general for Darfur

August 20, 2007 (UNITED NATIONS) — The United Nations has asked international human rights groups to submit any information they have on a controversial Rwandan general who is in line to become deputy commander of the new peacekeeping force in Darfur, a U.N. spokeswoman said on Monday. The Brussels-based United Democratic Forces, an Rwandan exile opposition group, has accused Maj. Gen. Karenzi Karake of supervising extra-judicial killings of civilians before and after the Tutsi-led Rwanda Patriotic Front rebels took power in Rwanda following the genocide there. In 1994, militant Hutus killed about 800,000 Rwandans, mainly Tutsis.

The African Union has approved Karake for the deputy commander post for the joint U.N.-AU force for Sudan's violence-plagued Darfur region, leaving the world body in a quandary. Rwanda fields some 2,000 of the 7,000 AU troops now in Darfur.

"We are talking to other parties...international organizations dealing with human rights to find out if there is any basis for the allegations," U.N. spokeswoman Michele Montas told reporters. She did not name the groups.

"There are also discussions with the Rwandan government on what they have to say," Montas said.

The so-called "hybrid" U.N.-African Union operation aims to protect civilians in Darfur, where more than 2.5 million people have lost their homes and an estimated 200,000 have died in the past four years.

Should the allegations have a basis, Rwanda might be asked to submit other candidates for the post, which is usually decided by the African Union.

Rwandan Maj. Jill Rutaremara, the military spokesman, said the exiles were making "wild and unfounded allegations," according to the Africa.com Web site.

"The allegation that General Karake supervised the mass killings of civilian refugees in the neighboring Congo after the genocide or was involved in killing of Rwanda politicians earlier were "far fetched" and "mere fabrication," Rutaremara said in a lengthy statement.

The U.N. Security Council last month authorized up to 19,555 military personnel and 6,432 civilian police for the new force. About 10,000 U.N. peacekeepers are already in southern Sudan monitoring a peace agreement between Khartoum and former rebels.

The commander of the joint force is Gen. Martin Agwai of Nigeria.

Karake, 46, has been chairman of the Military Tribunal of Rwanda since January 2006. Before that, he held several senior positions in the Rwandan army.

(Reuters)

GNU

Khartoum establishes special courts for non-Muslims

(ALYaam) Chairperson of the Commission assigned to look after non-Muslims

in Khartoum state Gashwa Daw Diu announced that the commission's program's within the upcoming period will be devoted to set up special courts during the upcoming period for non-Muslim in Khartoum.

In an interview with ALYaam Arabic daily, he said that they would set up special court as the National Capital is applying Sharia Islamic laws. He added that the commission would launch awareness campaigns on the importance of peaceful co-existence among various segments of the Sudanese people.

He added that they would exert utmost efforts to release non-Muslim detainees who were condemned of dealing with liquors.

National Congress Party, SPLM strike new deal in Abyie

(Akhbar ALYaam) the National Congress Party (NCP) and SPLM have agreed to set up a joint committee aimed at conducting field survey to the Northern border of Abyie.

The move seems to find out means of bridging between the two parties on Abyie issue which is seen to be an obstacle for the implementation of the CPA.

Vice President of GoSS Dr. Riek Machar told Akhbar ALYaam Daily consultation were made during the past days in light of the stalled negotiations of the Executive Committee, co-chaired by Vice President Ali Osman and Dr. Machar.

He said that the consultations generated bilateral agreement to set up a joint 14 member joint committee to be divided between the two parties. (This attempt is to find out mutual understanding to avoid any future escalation), he added.

Machar noted that the committee would be tasked to conduct comprehensive field survey on northern border of Abyie in accordance with the border which was agreed upon in 1974.

He explained that resorting to the US is possible, if the two sides fail to reach an agreement. "If we differ after all these endeavors, we will appeal to international arbitration" he stressed.

Ministry of Interior pledges to institute measures to expedite accountability for police

(ALSahafa – SMC)Director of Police General Mahgoub Hassan Saad decreed expediting measures providing for lifting immunities on police forces in case of committing crimes, looking after detained civilians in terms of human and legal aspects and facilitating duties of international observers.

Rapporteur of Human Rights Consultative Council Abelmonieum Osman Mohamed Taha told reporters at a joint press conference he held with Justice Minister that the measures were taken last month drawing the attention that the Director of Security and Intelligence General Salah Abdala issued directives for the implementation of warrants in case of detention, banning illegal detention, notifying families of detainees, forbidding psychological tortures.

He emphasized that Sudan showed flexibility in response to advice presented by Sudan's friends as regards dealing with the Experts Committee formed by Human Rights Council.

On the other hand, Federal Minister of Justice has announced that the government is thwarting the operation of the International Criminal Court as the later has no jurisdiction over its nationals. The ICC Chief Prosecutor, Luis Morino Ocampo has stated that he has sufficient evidence to try Ahmed Haroun and Ghosaib in ICC court in the Hague and as such they are bound to appear before the Court for details to the incidents under charge. Responding to Ocampo's statement, the Sudanese Minister of Justice Mohammed Ali Al Mardi noted that neither of the indicts have any intention to appear before the ICC court as they both do not recognize its authority to try either of them in case legal charges have been established against them. Al Mardi reiterated the absence of ICC jurisdiction over Sudan, saying that Sudan won't bow to pressures from any party as its position is legally correct, solid and clear. The Minister of Justice comments came in the back drop of the briefing delivered to the Arab League Secretary General Amro Musa by Ocampo on his activities in Darfur. The ICC chief prosecutor told Musa that the ICC has investigated war crimes in Darfur upon UNSC directions and that he hoped the Sudan Government would not directly hamper the Court work on the issue.

Sudan releases journalist, activists held over coverage of dam construction

August 20, 2007 (KHARTOUM) — Authorities released a local journalist Monday who had been held for two months for allegedly violating a government ban on coverage of dam construction in northern Sudan. Also five other activists released besides the journalist.

SUNA said Mujahid Abdallah had violated the prohibition against writing about the Kajbar dam in northern Sudan's Shamalia area.

Abdallah's newspaper, the independent pro-Islamist Rae Al Shaab, confirmed the reporter's release in its Monday edition but denied the government had legal basis for his detention.

Sudan Organization Against Torture (SOAT) further said that five other activists are released besides the journalist who had been arrested on 13 June 2007.

Alam Aldeen Abd Alghni (Lawyer, arrested on 13 June 2007), Emad Merghni Seed Ahmed (Lawyer, arrested on 13 June 2007), Abd Allah Abd Alghume (Lawyer, arrested on 13 June 2007), Osman Shammam (Driver arrested on 13 June 2007), and Osman Ibrahim (spokesperson of the Committee against the Kajbar Dam arrested on 20 July 2007) were released from Dabak prison, North of Khartoum, SOAT said.

No reason for their detention was given and their release was conditional on signing a document whereby they agree to abide by certain conditions, namely to refrain from engaging in further political activities.

"Security authorities have released our colleague, the journalist Mujahid Abdallah, after 60 days he spent in detention without any legal justification," the paper said in an editorial.

Abdallah had written articles about journalists who had been detained for covering protests against the construction of the dam.

Both SUNA and Rae Al Shaab said officials released five others Monday who had been held for their opposition to the dam. The five were reportedly from the Shamalia area, but the news reports did not provide additional details.

On 13 June a demonstration against the building of Kajbar Dam took place at Farraig village, 140 km north of Dongola. Police and security forces shot at people peacefully demonstrating against the building of the dam. Four people were killed and thirteen others were injured.

Local residents have been long complaining about the complete lack of transparency and of a participatory consultation process during the project for the dam which will have major socio-economic and environmental repercussions on local residents and livelihoods.

(AP/ST)

Sudan development competition to take place 21 August – World Bank

August 19, 2007 (KHARTOUM) — The Sudan World Bank Country office is holding its Sudan Development Marketplace (DM) event that will take place on August 21-22, 2007 at the premises of the Central Bank of Sudan Club in Amarat, Khartoum.

The Development Marketplace (DM) is a World Bank program that invites people to share ideas for enhancing development outcomes by participating in transparent grant competitions, the World Bank said in a press release today.

This year the Bank DM team has received 523 proposals for its Sudan Development Marketplace competition. The project proposals came from all corners of the country and reflected the richness of the diversified Sudan. Out of the 523 project proposals submitted, 57 have been selected to compete for the grant awards to receive up to US\$20,000, finalists proposals came from Southern Sudan, Darfur, Kordofan, the East and Greater Khartoum.

Asif Faiz, Country Manager, World Bank Sudan Office said “The theme for this year’s DM is “Towards an Inclusive Sudanese Society” has been selected to capture the aspirations of Sudanese people for peace and development. The aim is to support the recovery and reconstruction efforts in the country through pro-poor and pro-peace initiatives working towards consolidating peace and supporting the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA).”

Donors providing funds for the awards include DFID, the Netherlands and the World Bank. Other contributors provided in-kind support to the event including Meridian Hotel and the Central Bank of Sudan that has provided its club facility for the occasion.

The 57 finalists have submitted their full project proposals to be scrutinized by a panel of jurors consisting of Sudanese and non-Sudanese development practitioners. Finalists will be brought from their different locations to Khartoum, for displaying their project ideas and answer questions from a panel of independent jurors.

The jurors will then select the winners. The Khartoum event will also provide opportunity for finalists to interact with development experts and potential investors working in their areas of interest. The second day of the DM will host a Knowledge Forum in which experts will discuss issues of social accountability.

(ST)

GoSS

Khartoum unwilling to self determination in South Sudan - MP

August 20, 2007 (FREETOWN) — An MP from Southern Sudan has told a Sierra Leone audience that the situation in his country is rapidly deteriorating. He further said that Khartoum seems unwilling to the self determination as it is provided in the CPA, the Freetown based Concord Times reported.

Dr. Peter Adwok Nyaba, a senior representative of the Sudan Peoples Liberation Movement (SPLM) in Khartoum told journalists yesterday that the ongoing situation in Southern Sudan is worsening.

Nyaba, who is on a week’s visit in Sierra Leone as a guest of the Africanist Movement, said his mission to West Africa is to help other Africans understand the crisis in Sudan and its implications for the rest of the continent.

"The situation in South Sudan is that of marginalization, exploitation, racial oppression and political exclusion by the north," Nyaba said, adding that the key to the solution of Sudan's problems is the granting of the right to self-determination to all Sudanese.

He explained that relative peace is being experienced in South Sudan due to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), but the Khartoum government appears unwilling to sincerely allow the Southern Sudanese their right to self-determination as provided in the CPA.

"According to the CPA, the South will have to decide in an international referendum whether they should remain with the north or secede in favor of self-determination," he stated and added that, "key to our struggle is for justice, equality, social reconstruction and democracy for everyone in the Sudan. If we have these, there is no point of struggle." The referendum to determine whether the South will split from the North will be held in 2011.

Earlier in the programme, Africanist leader Chernoh Alpha M. Bah said his group is hosting the visit on the basis of international solidarity.

"We believe in a free, united Africa and African people everywhere," he said, adding that the question of South Sudan is highly complicated and requires discussions and a more profound understanding.

The President of the Sierra Leone Association of Journalists (SLAJ), Ibrahim Ben Kargbo said this is the first visit of an official of the SPLM in Sierra Leone.

"I think it is a significant step because Africans need to know about each other's struggles," he stated.

(Concord Times)

Darfur

Donors conference for Darfur States to kick off in November

(Alhayat)The Islamic Development Bank has earmarked the sum of 11 million US dollar as an emergency aid to IDPs in Darfur States.

A senior Advisor to the Islamic Development Bank Dr. Bashir Omer said that the Bank also agreed to speed up the release of 40 US dollar, had been donated earlier in the year 2003 by the Bank, to boost health, education and water sectors in Darfur States.

He asserted that the Bank and the Secretariat – General of the Islamic Conference Organization will kick off next Nov. a donor conference for the sake of war-torn Darfur States.

Omer reiterated the Bank's adherence to convene the conference as scheduled stressing that its success lays on the timely and appropriate preparation as well as the proposals that would be presented by the donors.

Speaking to a press conference, he held at the Federal Ministry of Finance premises, Dr. Omer noted that all the 57 Islamic countries would be invited to attend the conference besides the financial institutions and civic society organizations in these countries.

He added that other states as well as international and regional financial institutions would also be invited to the conference as observers indicating that the Bank was considering to provide technical assistances for the preparation of the projects documents which would be submitted to the conference. However, the venue of the conference will be identified following consultations.

AU forces demands establishment of mosque

(Alhayat, SMS) Acting Wali of North Darfur State and Minister of Social Affairs Yassin Baher eddinMahmoud held a meeting with a delegation of the Gambian contingent participating in the AU forces in Darfur

Mahmoud said that he discussed with Commander of the contingent Brig. Ambo Ali coordination and cooperation to promote religious institutions within the AU camps disclosing that the AU forces requested the establishment of a mosque at the AU Headquarters to perform their religious rituals.

Mahmoud confirmed his Ministry's commitment to fully cooperate with the AU Mission to carry out its duties' adding that the Ministry would shortly proceed in constructing a mosque for the AU Mission

Jamous be transferred for treatment outside

(ALSahaf)a leading figure of Sudan Liberation Movement, Unity Faction ,Suleiman Jamous, who is in compulsory custody at a UN clinic in Kadoglu, South Kordofan ,said UNMI SRSG communicated to him the approval of the government to allow him travel for medical treatment abroad.

He noted that the approval was conducted following an encounter of UNMIS delegation with the Federal State Foreign Minister Al-Wasilla Al-Samani.

Sudanese forces attack Kalma camp in South Darfur

August 21, 2007 (KHARTOUM) — Sudanese forces surrounded and attacked Darfur's most volatile camp on Tuesday to flush out rebels they say are behind recent attacks on police, an army source and camp residents said.

The move on Kalma camp, home to 90,000 people, follows two attacks in the past week on police posts in South Darfur, one near Kalma and the other inside al-Salam camp. One policeman was killed and eight injured.

"At 6 a.m. the government of Sudan moved 2,000 soldiers to surround the camp — army, police and border intelligence," said Abu Sharrad, a spokesman for Kalma Camp.

Sharrad, who called Reuters from inside the camp, said government forces had opened fire but it was unclear if anyone was killed or injured.

"We still cannot tell. They are still surrounding the camp," he added.

An army source said those who attacked the police posts were believed to be in Kalma camp, where rebels have previously taken refuge.

"This is an administrative, organisational operation to restore internal security," he said, adding the army was not involved, only police forces.

Kalma camp is one of Darfur's most volatile.

Government offices were torched and officials expelled from the camp in 2005. Last year frustrated camp residents rioted, looting an African Union police base in the camps and hacking to death their Sudanese translator.

The 7,000-strong African Union force in Darfur has failed to stem the violence despite a 2006 peace deal. While large-scale fighting has largely ended, rebels and militias have fractured creating lawlessness and uncontrolled banditry.

International experts estimate some 200,000 people have died and 2.5 million driven from their homes since mostly non-Arab rebels took up arms in early 2003.

Khartoum agreed to a 26,000-strong joint U.N.-AU force which will absorb the AU mission and try to stop violence which has hampered the world's largest aid operation in Darfur. Some 500,000 people are out of reach of relief workers.

(Reuters)

