



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN
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UNMIS Media Monitoring Report, 21st August 2006
(By Public Information Office)

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IN THE NEWS TODAY:

- Arabs ask UN to give Sudan more time on Darfur
- Kigali confirms the death of two soldiers in Darfur
- CJMC to investigate killing of 10 SPLA soldiers
- Police: not compromising safety and security of homeland

HIGHLIGHTS:

Arabs ask UN to give Sudan more time on Darfur

Reporting from Cairo, *Reuters* and a number of local Sudanese newspapers report that while junior diplomats have started negotiations on the draft, drawn up by Britain and will resume work on Tuesday, a resolution passed by the Arab League council of foreign ministers said: "(The council) asks the Security Council to give the Sudanese government more time to implement its plan to improve conditions and preserve security in Darfur, which it presented to the United Nations on August 2."

The resolution also called for the postponement of the U.N. Security Council meeting which is due to take place next week in New York...to "allow time for consultation and coordination between regional organizations on the role of AU forces in Darfur."

The resolution further called on Arab countries to fulfil a promise, made at a summit in Khartoum in March, to finance the African Union peace operation in Darfur for six months from Oct 1. The operation has been costing about \$17 million a month.

Arab foreign ministers pledged to fund AMIS operations for six months starting October 1st this year and underlined the need for AMIS to continue its work in Darfur.

Meanwhile, EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana, concerned about a worsening situation in Darfur, will send a special envoy to the Sudanese region shortly, his spokeswoman said on Saturday, reports *Reuters*.

The European Union's special envoy to Sudan, Pekka Haavisto, will visit Sudan in the coming days to meet the government, Darfur armed movements, the African Union and the United Nations, Gallach said.

Kigali confirms the death of two soldiers in Darfur

Rwandan government confirmed the death of two Rwandan soldiers who were among the African Union peacekeeping mission in Sudan in an ambush suspected to have been carried out by a faction of the rebel Sudan Liberation Army, *The Sudan Tribune* reports on its website.

Meanwhile local dailies in Khartoum quote the SAF spokesperson as condemning the attack by the NRF on the AMIS convoy and said that the by this attack, the NRF sought to justify the need for a United Nations force in Darfur.

Mjr. Gen. Osman el-Aghbash also rebuffed recent claims by the United Nations that the SAF is preparing to wage an offensive in the Darfur region and is amassing its forces there for that purpose. He pointed out that such an amassing of forces by the SAF is only natural in light of the presence of armed outlaw groups in the region.

In another development, *AlAyaam* daily reports that justice minister Mohamed Ali el-Mardi told the press in Khartoum yesterday that the Sudan rejects the deployment of international troops to Darfur under a Chapter VI mandate.

The justice minister described the UK-draft resolution on the issue as misleading and said it assumes as though the Sudan is a state without a government. He also said that the draft grants the United Nations troops wide powers and grants it permission for the use of force and thus makes of these forces an occupation force in all that the term applies to.

He pointed out that the state in Sudan can not be held responsible for the protection of a force it has never invited into the country.

He also warned that such a force, should it come in without the consent of the Sudanese government, may invite in groups through the countries neighbouring the Sudan to engage these forces in battle alongside the people of Sudan who are opposed to such an intervention.

CJMC to investigate killing of 10 SPLA soldiers

An armed group attacked Kouar Jang in Malakal and killed 10 SPLA soldiers, injured 6 ceasefire monitors and robbed agencies operating in the area of 4,000 dollars and 2230,000 Sudanese dinars, two Thuraya satellite phones, a communication equipment and a solar panel, reports most major newspapers.

Quoting an UNMIS statement issued in the wake of the incident, the papers say UNMIS has condemned the attack, described it as a gross violation of the ceasefire and called upon the parties to the CPA to bring the perpetrators to book.

AlAyaam also reports that the AJMC in Malakal has launched an investigation into the incident and the CJMC has called for an end to the issue of Other Armed Groups and within the context of the OAGCC.

The UNMIS statement further points out that an unidentified armed group attacked a joint monitoring team around the Fam el-Ziraf area near Malakal on 17th August injuring 2 United Nations soldiers and one SAF monitor.

The head of the JDB technical committee Mjr. Gen. Elias Waya accuses a militia group aligned to the SAF and headed by a Mjr. Gen. Teng Manjar for the attack in that area.

He said the group of 405 fighters was repulsed by the SPLA soldiers in the Kuarjang area and then headed for Fam-el-Ziraf where they injured the ceasefire monitors.

He also added that the SPLA command ordered their forces to camp about 2 kilometres from the militia group and not to fire back in spite of the heavy shelling they were subjected to early yesterday morning.

Mjr. Gen. Waya says the SPLM/A intends to file a formal complaint with the SAF over this issue.

Police: not compromising safety and security of homeland

Following recent criticism of the police by the SPLM, the police issued a statement yesterday stating it would not compromise security and safety of the national capital and of Sudan at large, reports *AlRai AlAam*.

The police said in its statement that the heavy police presence is necessary in Khartoum.

It further pointed out that the police is an independent body and only pledges allegiance to God and the nation.