UNITED NATIONS



ألأمم المتحدة

UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN UNMIS

<u>UNMIS Media Monitoring Report, 23nd August 2006</u> (By Public Information Office)

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HIGHLIGHTS:

UN and the AMIS-UN transition debate

Differing views on a possible transition

A number of local dailies, notably *AlAyaam*, *AlHayat* and *AlIntibaya*, have focused on a statement yesterday by Dr. Nafei Ali Nafei reiterating rejection to a transition of the AMIS to a United Nations operation and on threats by the PDF to wage a war against the United Nations forces should they set foot in Darfur.

AlAyaam carries a front-page headline "The evil of the United Nations can only be avoided through confrontation" and AlHayat's main headline reads, "PDF threatens long war against the international community". AlIntibaha, on the other hand, links between the PDF threat and the arrival in el-Fasher of a delegation from the US Congress that, the paper says, will be preparing for a transition of the AMIS to a United Nations operation.

The papers report that National Congress Party's, Dr Nafei Ali Nafei, has lashed out criticism against whom he dubbed "the Hilton Parties" [*the opposition parties whose representatives met the Security Council delegation at the Hilton Hotel during their visit here*].

Nafei, who was speaking at a symposium in Khartoum yesterday on "Sudan and the United Nations", is quoted as having called for a confrontation of what he described as "the United Nations evil".

The Coordinator-General of the PDF who addressed yesterday convoys of the PDF on their way to help the people in Darfur and Sennar has reportedly criticised the United Nations and described it as the "claws and fangs of the US Administration and Zionists" and says it seeks to implement Israel's agenda.

He said that the PDF is prepared and able to defeat the "enemies of the nation" as they did in the past and pointed out that parliament and the Council of Ministers have both rejected the transition. He also criticised the other parties in the GoNU who support the transition.

AlIntibaha, on the other hand, points out that the PDF threat comes in response to the visit to Darfur of a delegation from the US Congress that visited yesterday the Abu-Shouk camp and pointed out to the *Wali* of North Darfur that a transition to a United Nations operation was necessary due to the deteriorating security in the area.

AlRai AlAam also says that the visiting US delegation had requested the release of a jailed US national but the governor of North Darfur told them that the state does not interfere in the affairs of the judiciary.

In its same story in which it reported Dr. Nafei's statements above, *AlAyaam* also reports tha a group of students from the Alzaim AlAzhari University have expressed support for the deployment of international forces in Darfur. They pointed out that the government is unable to maintain peace in the region.

AlSahafa meanwhile reports that the vice-chairman of the opposition Umma party, Mr. Adam Musa Madibo, defended his party's view which supports the deployment of international forces in Darfur region. He considered it as the only solution to stop bloodshed and suffering

caused by the Salvation regime. He added that the military establishment can not replace the international forces in Darfur for it is one of the Salvation regime's institutions.

Increase in number of foreigners accused of immorality in Khartoum

Allntibaha and *Alwan* report that Community Police officials in Khartoum have warned of the danger of an increase in crimes of immorality, moral blackmail and organized crimes. These crimes are run by criminal nets and some foreigners and hide in rented furnished flats wherein they practice their activities.

The country faces a big plan implemented by foreign organizations and elements from some foreign embassies and ethnic groups. "They are trying to spread immorality and affect the Sudanese beliefs and character", head of Community Police said.

Alwan mentions the United Nations as some of these agencies.

The annual report of the Community Security Police revealed that 671 foreigners have been arrested on charges of moral crimes.

US opposes Sudan plan to send troops to Darfur

The United States on Tuesday strongly criticized Sudan's plan to send more of its own troops into troubled Darfur region and said a "credible and legitimate" U.N. force was needed to stop the carnage, *Reuters* and the *AFP* report [*sourced from the Sudan Tribune website*].

State Department spokesman Gonzalo Gallegos said the United States was very concerned about the plan and urged Sudan's government to allow a U.N. force into Darfur without delay to stop what the United States say is genocide.

"This credible and legitimate U.N. force, with African forces forming its core, should include Africans in key leadership positions," he said.

Gallegos said the goal of a U.N. force would be to help those displaced by the conflict and to stop increasing attacks on humanitarian workers as well as get life-saving humanitarian aid to those who needed it most.

"The Sudanese government must do its part to enable this transition to move forward immediately," he said.

UNDP to contribute to the construction of independent training facility for the judiciary in Sudan

AlSahafa reports that the Federal Ministry of Finance, the UNDP and the World Bank are launching a \$18 million dollar initiative for the construction of an independent training facility in Sudan to train 1,200 judges from all states of Sudan.

The international community will contribute with \$13 million and the Sudanese Government with \$5 million.

The UNDP reported that the initiative will be a three year partnership between the UNDP and the Judiciary and aims to provide appropriate training and scientific and technical support for the Judiciary Services Commission and the National Judiciary.

<u>GoNU</u>

Finance Ministry says it has ordered freeze in the accounts of some cabinet

(*AlRai AlAam* - 23rd Aug. **Khrt**.)The ministry of Finance declared that it has ordered a freeze in the accounts of some cabinet ministers in the last two days for opposing the measures recently instituted on financial control and accountability.

The Finance minister also threatened to disclose the names of these ministers to the media and vowed that his ministry will stand firm to protect public funds.

The ministry has been facing much criticism of late on the recent hike in price of combustibles and many local dailies continue to focus on public reactions to the price rise.

AlAyaam reports that the finance minister's briefing yesterday before the parliamentary economic committee during which he tried to give justification for the decision was not well received and some parliamentary groups have called for his resignation.

AlAyaam goes on to report that the NDA caucus has threatened to withdraw from government.

Southern Sudan

Uganda threatens military incursions into the DRC should the DRC not evict the LRA

AlHayat, quoting sources from the Ugandan capital, says the GoSS has requested Uganda to withdraw its forces from some parts of southern Sudan as part of a confidence-building measure to bolster ongoing talks with the Lord's Resistance Army.

Ugandan chief mediator Ruhukana Rugunda says they have accepted to withdraw the UPDF from some parts of southern Sudan.

The same story goes on to say that the UPDF has threatened an incursion into the DRC in pursuit of the Lord's Resistance Army should the Congo government not evict them out.

Commentaries

The Conflicts in South Kordofan

Is the title of the editorial article of *AlAyaam* daily. The article talks of serious tension between the National Congress Party and its SPLM partners in the GoNU.

The conflict, the editorial says, is mainly because of the special status of the region and has warned that conflict may be inevitable due to the dispute over the proposed rotating chairmanship of the legislature of that area.

Another point of dispute although not so much evident, the paper goes on, is the struggle for political gain which may lead to a confrontation between the Arab and non-Arab groups in the region.

On the JEM

Mahjoub Mohamed Saleh of *AlAyaam* writes in his regular column on the controversial statements by the JEM leader, Dr. Khalil Ibrahim.

The writer says that the JEM leader sometimes calls for peace and dialogue while at other times totally contradicts his statements and advocates for an escalation of the war.

To illustrate this point, the writer refers to the speech by the JEM leader in Paris yesterday where he reportedly called for the creation of a front for the marginalised people from all over Sudan while having failed to have united the people of the Darfur region alone. The writer points out that the JEM itself is divided with a group still loyal to him and a splinter group that claims to advocate peace.

The writer goes on to point out that the JEM leader started his speech in Paris with a pledge to unity while less than two months ago he said in Slovenia that they seek to create a separate state.

The writer rounds up by saying that the JEM leader confuses his supporters rather than unites them.