



## UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN

## UNMIS

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(By Public Information Office)

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**IN THE NEWS TODAY:**

- **United Nations and the AMIS-United Nations transition debate**
  - Positions on a possible AMIS-United Nations transition
  - President Bashir holds talks with African Union's Konaré
  - Sudan government to participate in Security Council meeting tomorrow
  - Washington adds little weight to new push on Darfur peacekeepers
  - Rebel group says Sudan inviting Arab Mujahideen to Darfur
  - Pronk Promises the politically retrenched to refer their issue to the Secretary-General
  - SPLM call upon UN to protect civilian in Sudan's Unity State
  
- **GoNU**
  - El-Bashir and the Vice-Presidents to discuss the establishment of peace commissions
  
- **Southern Sudan**
  - Sudan SPLM delegation arrives in official visit to USA
  
- **Darfur/DPA**
  - The British ambassador, European Union delegation meet with field commanders
  
- **Commentaries:**
  - US journalist charged with spying in Sudan

## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

### **United Nations and the AMIS-United Nations transition debate**

#### **Positions on a possible AMIS-United Nations transition**

Covered by **all major local Arabic language dailies**, *President Bashir* leads the opposition to such a transition and has reiterated Sudan's rejection to a deployment of United Nations forces to Darfur.

The reiteration comes ahead of talks yesterday with US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Jendayi Frazer, and Mr. Konaré's visit.

Addressing a group of Sudanese media persons plying their trade abroad, the President said in an opening meeting at the Friendship Hall yesterday that a Chapter VI deployment is even much worse than a deployment under a Chapter VII mandate and that the government in Sudan faces the two options of whether to reject or accept of its free will this new form of colonialism.

“Nobody blamed el-Khalifa el-Ta'aishi [*legendary Sudanese fighter*] when he faced the might of the imperial British army under the command of Kitchener in Karari and lost 18,000 men in the span of 1 and a half hours in that battle but he surely would have been blamed if he had let them in”, the President said, likening the current situation the Sudan is in to the historic events that led to that battle. “We will first fight these [*UN*] forces should they set foot in Darfur and then turn to addressing our own internal problems”, he added.

The president pointed out that Jendayi Frazer's mission [*to convince Sudan to accept a deployment*] could have been well received in any other state but not in Sudan and added that rejection to the deployment is not for fear that these forces will pursue the 55 wanted by the ICC for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Darfur but an issue of principle. He also pointed out that the international community had sought to create a rift between the National Congress Party and the SPLM over the issue.

Of the current United Nations [*read UNMIS*] presence in the Sudan, the president said that despite the fact that the United Nations military is deployed to southern Sudan by virtue of the CPA, they only constitute an “unnecessary crowd in the country's airports and in the streets of Khartoum” and does not rule out a possibility that a day may come when the National Congress Party and the SPLM reach an agreement that those forces are not needed.

He called upon all Sudanese media persons to defend the country.

The president also defended the National Congress Party against accusations that it is responsible for the delays in the implementation of the CPA but instead pointed out that the SPLM should face most of the blame.

He also said that all laws not conforming to the Interim Constitution will be deliberated over in parliament come November.

*Dr. Majzoub el-Khalifa* who led the Sudan delegation to the talks in Abuja that culminated to the signing of the Darfur Peace Agreement, said [*as reported in AISahafa*] that the government has nothing to fear and shall listen to the US envoy and decide whether or not her views will

contribute to the implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement. He said however that the Sudan will reject any calls for a transition.

This has also been echoed by the spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, ***Ambassador Jamal Mohamed.***

Supporting views:

But Senior Presidential Aide and head of the Interim Authority for Darfur, SLM leader ***Mini Minnawi,*** says there is no solution to the problems of Darfur but through the deployment of an international force to the region.

He said that President Bashir was only echoing the views of the National Congress Party when he reiterated the rejection and not of the GoNU.

Speaking to the *BBC*, he said that Jendayi Frazer will be visiting Sudan to convince the National Congress Party and not the GoNU over the need for the deployment of United Nations troops to Darfur but added that he does not expect an immediate positive outcome to this visit.

### **President Bashir holds talks with African Union's Konaré**

(*AIRai AlAam* – 27<sup>th</sup> Aug. **Khrt.**) Presidential advisor Majzoub el-Khalifa told SUNA that African Union Commissioner Alpha Oumar Konaré arrived in Khartoum yesterday on the invitation of President Bashir.

He said that the president, in his meeting with Konare, reiterated Sudan's rejection to the deployment of international forces to Darfur.

### **Sudan government to participate in Security Council meeting tomorrow**

(*AlSudani* – 27<sup>th</sup> Aug. **Khrt.**) The Sudan government has revealed it will participate in tomorrow's session of the Security Council through her permanent representative to New York.

### **Washington adds little weight to new push on Darfur peacekeepers**

(*AFP, AlSudani* – 27<sup>th</sup> Aug. **Washington, Khrt.**) A senior envoy sent to Khartoum at the weekend by President George W. Bush said before departing that the United States would not seek deployment of the UN peacekeepers to Darfur without a green light from Khartoum.

"We're not prepared to deploy against the will of the Sudanese government," said the diplomat, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Jendayi Frazer. "We're not talking about fighting our way in."

Frazer also said Washington was not currently contemplating fresh sanctions against Sudan if it persists in opposing the peacekeeping force.

US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs arrived in khartoum yesterday to a welcome of an angry crowd of Sudanese women carrying placards asking her to go.

She is expected to start talks with officials today.

## **Rebel group says Sudan inviting Arab Mujahideen to Darfur**

(*ST*- 25<sup>th</sup> Aug. **Paris**) A Darfur rebel group accused the Sudanese government of transporting Islamists Arab groups to Darfur region in order to train them to face the eventual arrival of United Nations force to the region.

A press statement by a faction of rebel Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) signed by Esamedin Al Haj, Sudanese government transports Arab Mujahideen in night flights after the curfew to Nyala and Al-Fasher airports.

Al-Haj added that the Mujahideen are transported to camps in Sarf, Omrah and Kabkabya, areas known as Janjaweed controlled zones.

## **Pronk Promises the politically retrenched to refer their issue to the Secretary-General**

(*AlHayat* – 27<sup>th</sup> Aug. **Khrt.**) SRSB Pronk has promised the executive commission of the politically retrenched from the civil service that their memorandum demanding their rights will be submitted to the Secretary-General Office in New York.

The committee had submitted a memorandum for the Secretary-General through the office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Khartoum on 13<sup>th</sup> June asking the United Nations to intervene to put an end to the injustice of their dismissal.

## **SPLM call upon UN to protect civilian in Sudan's Unity State**

(*ST* – 26<sup>th</sup> Aug. **Khrt.**) The former rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) has called on the UN mission to take responsibility for the protection of civilians in the Fanjak, Unity State, southern Sudan area and for disarming citizens.

One of the members of the Joint Military Commission, Maj-Gen Bior Ajang, revealed that the committee investigating incidents in Rabkona in Unity State would be presenting its report to the commission at its next meeting at the beginning of September. Ajang told Arabic language *AlAyaam* that they had sent an official letter to the UN calling on it to take responsibility for protecting residents and disarming the area following the withdrawal of the SPLA.

He said the UN was pressurizing them on the basis of false information, which stated that the SPLA is besieging Fanjak town. He said the SPLA is carrying out its duty to protect residents against militia attacks. In this regard, the spokesperson for the UN special representative to Sudan, Radhia Achouri, reaffirmed that the situation in the Fanjak area is tense and that the UN is doing all it can to reinstate stability to the area.

Ajang further said the SPLA had sent an official letter to the [Sudan government] armed forces demanding they take responsibility for the attack by one of its militias, the Teng Meng, against the SPLA forces. He said this was in accordance with the decision by the militias committee taking at its last meeting ordering each side to take responsibility for attacks by their militias.

Ajang further demanded SAF withdraw its forces from Fanjak as the area was not their base. He said if the armed forces withdrew from the area, the number of attacks against citizens by armed groups would be reduced.

## **GoNU**

### **El-Bashir and the Vice-Presidents to discuss the establishment of peace commissions**

(*AlSahada* – 27<sup>th</sup> Aug. **Khrt.**) President Omar el-Bashir held a meeting yesterday with Vice-Presidents Kiir and Taha in the presence of the State Ministers of Presidential Idris AbdelGadir and Telar Deng.

The meeting discussed the establishment of human rights and lands commissions.

## **Southern Sudan**

### **Sudan SPLM delegation arrives in official visit to USA**

(*ST* – 25<sup>th</sup> Aug. **Washington**) A SPLM delegation arrived to Washington in a ten-day visit to the United States. Reasons of the visit are unclear but the delegation will hold meetings with the Sudanese community in different cities.

According to a statement by the SPLM Chapter in the USA, a SPLM delegation headed by Secretary General Pagan Amum arrived Friday to Washington an official visit to the United States of America. The delegation will meet Sudanese communities in New York, Dallas, Denver, and Phoenix.

The delegation will stay in the US up to the end of the first week of September.

The members of the delegation are Pagan Amum, the Diplomatic Advisor of the president of the southern Sudan government and Secretary General of the SPLM, Ms. Awut Deng Acuil, Advisor to the President of GOSS for Gender and Human Rights and SPLM Secretary for External Affairs and Abdulbaghi Mukhtar.

No details are given for the reasons of the visit but it comes after the second visit of the Sudanese First Vice President, president of Southern Sudan government to Washington last July.

In July visit, the US Administration pledged to provide sizeable development aid to South Sudan.

## **Darfur/DPA**

### **The British ambassador, European Union delegation meet with field commanders**

(*AlHayat* – 27<sup>th</sup> Aug. **Khrt.**) The JEM has revealed the occurrence of two secret meetings between the British ambassador in Khartoum and the European Union delegation with its field commanders.

JEM spokesman, field commander Jar-El-Nabi Abdul Kareem revealed that the British ambassador met with a number of commanders of the JEM in Oum Sidir, North Darfur and said they came to acquaint themselves with the situation in the region and in the framework of UK efforts for peace in the region.

Abdulkareem also stated that a meeting took place in one of the areas called Hashaba between elements from the movement and members of the European Union. The meeting

discussed the latest development in Darfur and efforts made to unite all movements under the umbrella of the NRF.

The newspaper stated that the president of the republic would expel the British ambassador to Khartoum if the UK continues such policy against Sudan.

## **Commentaries:**

### **US journalist charged with spying in Sudan**

(*AFP* – 26<sup>th</sup> Aug. **Washington**) National Geographic and the Chicago Tribune newspaper called Saturday for the release of a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist they said had been arrested in Sudan and charged with spying.

Paul Salopek, a foreign correspondent for the Chicago Tribune, was on assignment for National Geographic in the war-torn Darfur region when he, his Chadian driver and Chadian interpreter were arrested by pro-government security forces on August 6, according to the two publications.

On Saturday they were charged in court in el-Fashir, North Darfur with criminal espionage, reporting false information and entering Sudan without a visa, National Geographic said in a statement.