



## UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN

## UNMIS

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(By Public Information Office)

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## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

### **United Nations, the transition debate and the Frazer visit**

#### **Khartoum rejects amended draft resolution**

Many local dailies report government rejection to the amended draft resolution on Darfur that, *AlRai AlAam* says, will allow the United Nations to send in peacekeepers to Darfur by early October with the acceptance of the Sudan government.

*AlRai AlAam* produces a summary of the highlights of the resolution on Darfur [*sourced from the Sudan Tribune website and reproduced in yesterday's MMR*] and quotes a number of Security Council members as expecting a vote on the draft resolution today. The paper further quotes them as saying that they do not expect a veto despite reservations expressed by China, Russia and Qatar.

Sudan has praised the support these three states have shown.

In New York, Sudan's representative has accused the UK and the US of leading a campaign to shade doubt on the ability of the African Union to safeguard security in Darfur, reports *Akhbar Alyaum*.

The paper adds that Presidential Advisor, Majzoub el-Khalifa, has described the draft resolution on Darfur as an “insult” to the African Union and a disregard for the political gains reached through the Abuja talks and the military gains that brought security to the region.

Meanwhile, *AlRai AlAam* further adds, foreign minister Lam Akol is expected to travel to Washington in the next few days with President Bashir's response to a message from President Bush. Quoting sources here, the paper says his mission will also be to prepare for an impending meeting between the two leaders in New York.

#### **President Bashir says Sudan ready for a military showdown should UN forces come to Khartoum**

Addressing the Khartoum State Youths' Union in Omdurman yesterday, President Bashir reiterated rejections to the deployment of international forces to Khartoum, described the UK-US draft resolution as flagging of a new era of re-colonization and guardianship over the Sudan and said Sudan was ready for a military showdown should United Nations troops set foot in Khartoum, *AllIntibaha* reports.

In an unprecedented move, the President reportedly said that the government is ready to coordinate even with the National Redemption Front to confront the “invaders” who seek to infringe on the country's unity.

The president also blasted what he described as the “conspirators and fifth columnists from the political parties” who support a foreign intervention and warned that there are “red lines” that no one is supposed to cross.

The president pointed out that the government had accepted a United Nations force in southern Sudan with a limited military mandate and through consent of the Parties to the CPA but stressed the need to preserve and protect the country's institutions. Stressing that there will not be a re-negotiation with the parties that did not sign the Darfur Peace

Agreement, President Bashir described the talks on eastern Sudan as the “last stage for peace”.

### **Sudan’s Taha - UN draft resolution shows US voracity for oil**

Reported in most local Arabic language dailies and covered in the *Sudan Tribune* website is the story on the Vice-President’s trip to el-Obeid where he addressed a political symposium at the University of Kordofan.

On the story, *AlRai AlAam* reports that Vice-President Taha has thrown his weight in support for President Bashir whom he said has freed the will of the people of Sudan through his leadership.

Of a possible transition of the AMIS to a United Nations operation, Taha said that the UK-US draft resolution on Darfur is but an example of the struggle for the oil resources in the region.

Taha referred to American strategic reports which indicated that Africa has provided the United States with 15% of its requirement for fuel in the past period, adding that this percentage would increase to reach 30% during the coming 10 years and pointed out that strategic reports have urged the US administration to prevent China from carrying out its leading role in oil exploration in Sudan.

Earlier, adds *AlRai AlAam*, a pilot error caused the helicopter with Vice-President Taha on board to lose its way for a while but *Alltibaha* reports that the aircraft did indeed land somewhere far from its destination and, after getting information from the local people in that remote part of Darfur, took off again and landed at its intended destination. During this time, the *Alltibaha* story goes on, el-Obeid tower lost contact with the aircraft for a period of more than two hours.

The *Sudan Tribune* website goes on to say that Taha was in favour of the UN peacekeeping mission in Darfur but has shifted position since one week to denounce any role of international force in Darfur.

### **Demonstrations in Khartoum\***

All major Arabic local dailies today carry the story on two demonstrations that took place in Khartoum yesterday. While the *Sudan Vision* carried in its front page the story on the demonstration protesting the UK, US draft resolution before the Security Council, the *Khartoum Monitor* and the *Citizen* newspapers took a different turn and carried the story on the other demonstration against the price rise that was dispersed by the police.

The protest against a United Nations Darfur force presented a memorandum to DSRSG Manuel Aranda da Silva calling upon the United Nations to back the peace process for Darfur instead of busying itself with the issue of peacekeepers for Darfur. The memorandum also called on the Security Council not to make haste in issuing a resolution that will be rejected by the Sudan and could not be applied on the ground.

Nafei Ali Nafei, Vice-chairman of the National Congress Party, gave a speech during before the protestors in which he said that the demonstration against a United Nations force deployment to Darfur was a “death warrant for Fifth Columnists in the country and a strong message to Bush, Blair and Annan”.

Speaker of the National Assembly, Ahmed Ibrahim el-Tahir, who also addressed the protestors said that the UK-US draft resolution on Darfur was an extension of the bad record of the British during colonial rule.

*The Citizen* reported 12 persons, including some party leaders and an AlJazeera TV cameraman, arrested while *AlSudani* reports that at least one person suffocated to death as police used teargas to disperse the demonstrations against the price rise.

Thousands were expected to turn up at the demonstrations organised by the political parties but riot police prevented opposition leaders and others from joining the rally which, authorities said, was illegal. Quoting Umma Party's Mariam el-Mahdi who participated in the demonstrations, *Reuters* reports that she said they had requested but were denied a permit.

The march, *The Citizen* reports, coincided with a government-organised protest against the deployment of United Nations forces to Darfur.

The march of about 1,000 people was allowed to take place nearby.

*AlSahafa* daily carries in its first page two photographs side by side; one showing protestors running under a cloud of teargas [with the caption "police confront protests on price rise with teargas"] while the other shows demonstrators carrying anti-United Nations deployment banners [with the caption: "angry citizens in Khartoum reject UK-US draft resolution"] and a full page [Page 5] pictorial on the two demonstrations.

\* Also see commentaries below

### **UNMIS to study the demands of its national staff**

Follow up to the stories yesterday on the memo presented by the UNMIS National Staff Association to the Senior Management at the mission, *AlRai AlAam* quotes spokesperson Radhia Achouri as saying that the mission will interact positively to the demands.

She said the mission will do whatever is in its powers to resolve these issues in accordance to the relevant guiding regulations in the United Nations but added that the salaries of national and international staff at the United Nations are scaled by headquarters in New York and not by the mission in Sudan.

### **CPA**

#### **Constitution Commission to assess implementation of the CPA**

*AlHayat* reports that the Constitution Commission will make an assessment of the steps taken by the Government of National Unity towards the formation of and drafting of the statutes of the other CPA commission.

El-Dirdeiri Mohamed Ahmed, the spokesperson for the commission, told *Sudan Media Services* yesterday that they expect the GoNU to set up the Human Rights and Lands commissions before the next meeting of the Constitution Commission.

He also underlined the need to consult with all parties in the commission on what amendments would be required to incorporate aspects of the Darfur Peace Agreement into the Interim Constitution.

## **SPLA and SSDF sign cessation of hostilities under UN-led brokerage**

Mediation efforts by the UN in Malakal have led to the signing by the SPLA and the SSDF of an agreement on a cessation of hostilities between the two sides in Upper Nile, *AllIntibaha* reports.

The agreement was signed by Mjr. Gen. George Ator for the SPLA and Mjr. Gen. Gabriel Tang for the SSDF and also called for an exchange of prisoners and that the two sides would open up land and river corridors into the Fam-el-Ziraf area.

## **GoNU**

### **Salva Kiir manages to convince non-signatories of the DPA to dialogue**

Vice-President Salva Kiir has managed to convince the non-signatories to the Darfur Peace Agreement to resort to dialogue in order to find means to come aboard the Darfur Peace Agreement, *AlHayat* reports.

Of the Salva Kiir visit to Asmara, the *Sudan Tribune* adds on its website that the V-P also held talks with other opposition figures.

### **Deputy Speaker Atim Garang calls for revamp of the police force**

*AlAyaam* reports that Atim Garang, the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, is calling for a police force which is more like a police force than the ones currently on the ground.

He described the police as a politicized institution that does not represent the GoNU. A case he cited as an example is the police crackdown on demonstrators.

### **Sudan sends high rank military delegation to Chad**

The SAF has revealed it is making arrangements for a high rank military delegation to Chad in the next few days, *AlSudani* reports.

SAF spokesperson, Osman el-Aghbash, says the delegation will discuss with Chadian counterparts means to activate the military and security protocols signed lately between them.

### **Sudan ups security on laptops entering airport**

*Reuters* reports that Sudanese security forces have begun temporarily seizing laptop computers entering the country to check information stored on them as part of new security measures.

A state security source said on Wednesday the procedure was introduced because pornographic films and photographs were entering Sudan. "We return the laptops after one day," he said.

U.N. officials, aid agency workers, businessmen and journalists who regularly visit Sudan worry, however, that the security of sensitive and confidential information such as medical, legal and financial records could be at risk.

"They could download email systems, passwords, even get into people's bank accounts," said one source in Khartoum's aid community, who declined to be named for fear of retribution.

Other innocent material could also be construed to be subversive, like maps or photos, the source added.

## **Southern Sudan**

### **Malut commissioner denies ordering Musim prayer call ban**

Under this heading, the *Sudan Tribune* says the commissioner for Malut has denied recent reports appearing on *AllIntibaha* alleging that he has ordered a ban on the call for prayer for Muslims [*athan*].

He has threatened to take legal action against the paper over the issue.

## **Darfur/DPA**

### **Darfur crisis spreading to Central Africa - UN**

If the crisis in Sudan's Darfur region is not resolved soon, the conflict could spread deeper into neighbouring Chad and the Central African Republic and destabilise the whole region, the United Nations representative in Chad warned in an exclusive interview, *IRIN* reports.

"[The Darfur conflict] is creating armed groups that are destabilising entire populations in the east, and now it is moving towards the south, towards Central Africa," Kingsley Amaning, the UN resident representative in Chad told *IRIN* on Tuesday.

Amaning said stopping the flow of weapons to the dozens of armed militia movements in the region was a major target.

The UN refugee agency (UNHCR) has warned that Sudanese rebels have been sheltering in eastern Chad, threatening the security of refugee camps holding 240,000 Sudanese who fled attacks at home.

Human rights groups have also documented widespread attacks on Chadian civilians in the remote east of Chad by militia groups based in Sudan. Aid agencies estimate that 55,000 Chadian civilians have fled their homes in the last year, a trend Amaning warned will continue without action in Darfur.

### **Aid worker killed in Sudan: ICRC\***

The *AFP* reports that the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on Wednesday said that one of its aid workers had been killed after being abducted in Sudan's conflict-ravaged Darfur region.

The ICRC did not name the dead staff member, but said in a statement that he was a 31 year-old Sudanese national.

"The staff member was part of an ICRC team stopped by an unidentified group of armed men on August 16 after distributing food in the area" of the Jebel Marra mountains in North Darfur, the organisation said.

\* Full text of the report attached separately

## **58 killed in Janjaweed raid on Gereida**

The Minnawi faction of the SLM reports that 20 civilians were killed and 38 injured and 13 villages torched in an attack by Janjaweed militias with direct backing from the government, *AlAyaam* reports.

In a statement yesterday, the SLM described the raid as a violation of the ceasefire agreement and security arrangements and has called on the African Union for an urgent investigation into the incident.

### **Commentaries:**

Many columnists [*notably Khalid el-Fateh and Haydar el-Makashi in AlSahafa, Mohamed Latif and Zuhair el-Sarraj in AlSudani*] have written on yesterday's demonstrations in Khartoum and draw a comparison between the two – the government-backed demonstration that was allowed to proceed without hindrance and the demonstrations organised by the political parties on the price rise that authorities used teargas to disperse.

All the above mentioned columnists condemned in their own way what they saw as an excessive and unnecessary use of force by the government as it dispersed the demonstrations but Zuhair el-Sarraj goes further in his article in which he wonders whether there is a “secret” constitution other than the Interim Constitution drafted by the National Congress Party and the SPLM. He argues that the said constitution clearly grants the citizens the freedom of association and expression which they were exercising.

He pointed out that if there is another constitution that allows the authorities to permit a demonstration and stop another, then the citizen has the right to know; if not and if the Interim Constitution is the governing constitution then it should be shelved because the government itself which drafted the constitution in the first place has violated the document by stopping the demonstrations against the price rise.