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UNMIS  
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(By Public Information Office)

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**IN THE NEWS TODAY:**

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- Key SPLA figure defects to the SSDF
- Ugandan rebel leader threatens to resume war if talks collapse

## Highlights:

### UN/ Agencies/ CPA

#### Malakal updates

(Foreign and local agencies) ***The United Nations says it is monitoring the withdrawal of government and SPLA forces back to the respective positions*** they had held before violence broke out in Malakal, in line with the recommendations of the CJMC.

In a bulletin issued yesterday, the United Nations said that the situation in Malakal has returned to normalcy and that the United Nations is providing assistance in treating the injured and in burying the dead.

***Vice President Kiir meanwhile travels to Malakal this morning, reports AIRai AIAam.*** Life in the city is back to normal and all markets, shops and restaurants are open and water services returned to the neighbourhood. Malakal radio broadcasts have also resumed.

***On the other hand, Vice-President Taha who was speaking at an interview with the BBC yesterday (AIAyaam and other local newspapers have produced transcripts of the interview) said, among other things, that the Government of National Unity and the GoSS have taken a series of measures that contributed to calming the situation*** despite continued looting during the last two days.

VP Taha underlined the need for disarmament in order for security to prevail. He also added that the difference in view points between the NCP and the SPLM over issues such as the international forces do not constitute a threat to the country's security or future.

***On the military side, a joint committee of the SAF and the SPLA has travelled to Malakal to cool down the situation ahead of a meeting there of the JDB.***

Mjr. Gen. Bior Ajang (SPLA) expects the meeting to take place tomorrow.

He accused Mjr. Philip Machar\* who heads a militia group in West Nuer that split from the SPLA and has currently joined the SSDF of capitalising on the issue of the militia group in search for material gains. Deng boasts of controlling a force of 5,000 (*according to the SMC*) but Mjr. Gen. Ajang doubts this figure.

*\* Please see the section below on Southern Sudan for more on the Mjr. Philip Machar story.*

#### **Sudan has the highest rate of HIV infection in north Africa- UN\***

Foreign and international media outlets have highlighted the press conference held yesterday at the UNMIS hosting Mr. Musa A. Bungudu, the Country Coordinator for UNAIDS in Sudan.

He said that the UN is making progress in combating HIV/AIDS in Sudan, but warned that infection rates may be on the rise in the war-torn Darfur region. The United Nations estimates that Sudan has the highest rate of HIV infection in north Africa and the Middle East.

U.N. representatives said on Sunday there is growing awareness about HIV/AIDS in Sudan.

A partial survey taken in 2002 indicates that some 650,000 people are infected with the disease.

U.N. AIDS country coordinator Moussa Bungudu said Saturday that the rate of infection in Darfur may be on the rise.

*\* The Khartoum Monitor, a local English Language daily, covers the press conference as the lead story in its front page for today. UNAIDS Country Coordinator Musa Bungudu notes however that the paper's headline that read; \$256 million approved for AIDS Programmes in Sudan quotes him wrong. He wishes to post the following correction:*

What I had mentioned was that the sum of over \$132 million has been secured for HIV/AIDS under Global Funds for the next five years including the funds of last year in the North. Furthermore, a proposal had been prepared for MTDF, southern Sudan in the amount of @36 million. This is in addition to other resources under Global Funds already secured.

### **UN agencies, NGOs withdraw from eastern Chad**

(AFP – 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec. N'Djamena) UN agencies and several NGOs are withdrawing staff from eastern Chad, home to 200,000 refugees from neighbouring Sudan and where rebels have recently upped attacks, humanitarian sources told AFP Sunday.

Rebels in Chad on Saturday deployed around the town of Guereda, in the far east of the country, after attacking government positions there the previous day.

During an attack by rebels from a coalition led by the Rally of Democratic Forces (RAFD) in Guereda on Friday, HCR buildings were attacked and two of their vehicles were stolen.

"The HCR continues to work with a minimal team" in six refugee camps around Guereda, Iriba and Bahai, where there are more than 100,000 refugees, Caux said from Abeche, some 700 kilometres (435 miles) east of N'Djamena, adding that the situation was calm Sunday morning.

She said that staff reductions in Abeche began a week ago to maintain only essential workers.

Another rebel group, the Union of Forces for Development and Democracy (UFDD), entered Abeche, the main town in eastern Chad, on November 25 before withdrawing the following day.

During the attack on Abeche, several UNHCR and World Food Programme warehouses were pillaged and several tonnes of food as well as equipment such as tents and blankets were stolen.

Several other UN agencies and NGOs said they were also withdrawing non-essential staff from eastern Chad.

Meanwhile, the rebels said there was no need to panic.

"The situation is calm. We are still occupying Guereda and Koulbous," RAFD coalition spokesman Yaya Dillo Djerou told AFP.

The taking of Koulbous, on the border with Sudan, was confirmed by an anonymous government source Saturday.

"We have proved to humanitarian organisations that we're capable of providing security and of allowing them to restart their activities," Djerou insisted.

### **Other security concerns**

***President Bashir says Khartoum will soon be free from illegal arms, reports AlAyaam.*** The president who was speaking at a rally of the National Congress Party at the party's headquarters in Khartoum also said that only regular forces will be allowed to carry firearms around the capital.

Also on security, most local Arabic language dailies cover the BBC radio interview yesterday from Khartoum with VP Taha with some like *AlAyaam* producing full-text transcripts of the interview.

**AllIntibaha that carries the headlines: Taha: Security lapses may turn secession into a favourable option quotes the VP as saying that secession may be a possible option should the lapses in security continue.**

The Vice-President however did express optimism that unity will prevail based on the cooperation between the Parties.

Taha condemned the recent violence in Malakal and pointed out that only through disarmament can an end be brought to this violence.

### **United Nations and the Transition Debate**

#### **Annan says Darfur is priority before leaving UN**

(*Reuters* – 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec. UN) U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said he would make the killings in Sudan's Darfur region his priority until the day he leaves office on Dec. 31, according to an interview to be aired on Monday.

"It's very tragic and painful, not only (to me) as secretary-general but as a human being and as an African," Annan said.

"I'm going to work on it — Darfur and one or two other issues which I'm working on — up until the last day," he told BBC television and radio, which released a transcript (*full text of the transcript can be sourced from the BBC website: <http://www.bbc.co.uk>*).

Annan said the Security Council's August resolution authorizing some 20,000 troops and police made intervention dependent on Sudan's agreement, which has not been forthcoming.

"Sudan has made it quite clear to the whole world that it will not accept U.N. peacekeepers," Annan said. "If the Sudanese do not give their consent, no government, not yours or mine, is going to give troops for a peacekeeping operation in Darfur."

#### **Sudanese cabinet welcomes extension of AU mandate in Darfur**

(*Sudan TV via BBC Monitoring* – 3/12/06) In its session presided over by the president of the republic, Umar al-Bashir, the Council of Ministers has welcomed resolutions of the AU Peace and Security Council in its meeting held in Abuja, Nigeria, last week.

The resolutions decided to off the AU forces deployed in Darfur another six months as from January 2007, with an AU command to the forces.

The Council of Minister's described these resolutions as a strength to their African will and the Sudanese diplomacy which has been led by the president of the republic during these talks.

Meanwhile the council affirmed Sudan's commitment to work with the AU and the UN to implement these resolutions.

***The Council has on the other hand underlined the need for a peace agreement with the Darfur Peace Agreement non-signatory groups within the next six months when the mandate of the AMIS end, AlAyaam.***

## **Southern Sudan**

### **Key SPLA figure defects to the SSDF**

Mjr. Philip Machar, described by *AlRai AlAam* and other local papers as a key SPLA figure in West Nuer, has walked out on the SPLA to join the SSDF.

An SSDF delegation led by Mjr. Gen. Gabriel Tang was on hand to receive the defected major when he arrived in Khartoum yesterday.

He told the SMC that he decided to defect because of marginalisation from the SPLA. He said the SPLA lures its opposition into its ranks and then gradually marginalises them.

Key SSDF figures told the SMC that the defection was only natural because Mjr. Machar was part of the SSDF before going across to the SPLA.

### **Ugandan rebel leader threatens to resume war if talks collapse**

(*Xinhua* – 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec. **Kampala**) Speaking to a local radio station in Uganda's Lira district on Thursday from his hideout east of the DRC, Lord's Resistance Army leader Joseph Kony said the rebel group shall resume activities if "the government is not taking these peace talks seriously."

The rebel leader also contradicted his earlier support for government's plan to resettle the over 1.4 million people who have been internally displaced by the LRA's insurgency of two decades in northern Uganda.

## **Darfur**

### **Darfur SLM leader: Khartoum must stop civilians killing before talks**

(*SudanTribune.com* – 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec. **Paris**) Abdelwahid Mohamed al-Nur, the leader of the Sudan liberation Movement, told Sudan Tribune on Sunday that to resume talks with Khartoum in order to find out a lasting peace in Darfur, Sudanese government should stop the daily killing of civilians practiced by the Sudanese army and its militias in the region.

According to al-Nur, the deployment of the international troops must be effective in the region before they hold talks.

“The decision of the last AU Security and Peace Council held in Abuja on the additional AU peacekeeping troops would not restore security in the region” SLM leader said. “It is not a question of number but a question of mandate. We need a force enabled to protect civilians;” he added.