

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS**Media Monitoring Report, 10 December 07

(By Public Information Office)

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Highlights

UN/ Agencies

Fur leaders refuse meeting Eliasson, accuse him of pushing Khartoum agenda

(*AlSahafa*) The UN Special Envoy for Darfur, Jan Eliasson, has admitted his failure in convincing the leaders of the Fur tribe to join the peace talks. The Spokesperson of the IDPs in Kalma camp said they have given Eliasson a memo in which they stated the reasons for their refusal to meet with the UN envoy. In this memo they accused the UN Envoy of serving the Khartoum agenda. The IDPs explained to Eliasson that peace should be discussed after ensuring security.

Situation easy to control, says UNMIS head, UN offers to ferry troops to Jonglei

(*The Citizen*) The United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) says the tribal clashes in a state where an aid worker was killed last week can be easily contained returned from Bor Thursday said that his preliminary assessment was that the situation was temporary and the repatriation of refugees and IDPs to the area could resume soon.

“That is my assessment” he said “I believe that can be resolved very easily”

The UN agency has offered to ferry troops to halt tribal raids in a place where an aid worker was killed last week forcing aid agencies to halt repatriation of IDPs. The tribal raids and counter-raids started last week.

UNMIS Celebrates World Aids Day (WAD)

AlKhartoum-- UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon has called for renewed leadership to play proactive role in eradicating stigma associated with HIV/AIDS.

In his global message marking the World AIDS Day (WAD) under the logo “Stop AIDS: Keep the Promise”, which coincides with 01 December every year, Moon appealed for leadership among governments to fully understand the pandemic, so that resources would be allocated to the most needed persons.

During a celebration organized by UNMIS, in collaboration with the University of Medical Sciences and Technology, to commemorate the Day, Moon urged, through his message, which was read out by UNMIS’s Chief of Special Campaigns Unit Jordan Dakamseh the leadership at all levels to scale up efforts towards universal access to HIV/AIDS prevention, care and support by the year 2010.

In a news report published last Wednesday by (AlKhartoum Arabic daily) depicting the photo of UN Secretary-General, Dakamseh underlined that overcoming stigma remained the sole biggest challenge facing the governments’ work to reach the target groups, revealing that this was one of the reasons why the epidemic continues to devastate the world.

On his part, a leading figure in the Government of National Unity (GoNU) Prof. Moses Machar, who addressed the same occasion, emphasized that the AIDS became one of the serious threats confronting universal communities, indicating the importance of rallying local, regional and international efforts to contain the spread of the endemic.

He called for paying due concern to the pandemic, as he said, it was not confined to a specific segments of a society.

Vice- Chancellor of the University of Medical Sciences and Technology Dr. Hafez Humaida said that the university was contributing in various workshops aimed at fighting the HIV/AIDS disease, warning of the hazards of the pandemic.

GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

South Sudan army denies defection of Gen. Paulino Matip

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 9 Dec. JUBA) The Sudan People’s Liberation Army denounced allegations made by David de Chand in a pro-Khartoum ruling party newspaper saying that General Paulino Matip had defected from the southern Sudan army.

David De-Chand, who is a leading member in the South Sudan Democratic Front and former member of the SSUDA, told the pro National Congress Party daily, al-Intibaha last week that the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the SPLA had defected from the southern Sudan army.

"Despite incredibility of the sources [...] we are hereby obliged to unleash our constrain strategy, to clear doubts." Said statement issued by the office of Deputy Commander in Chief of the SPLA. The statement added "It is a senseless claim, that have no place in this united south."

Read the text of the press release <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25106>

Three children killed by grenade explosion

(*AlAyam*) Three children from one family have yesterday lost their lives as a result a grenade bomb explosion. The incident took place in Soba Aradhi area in Khartoum. The children picked up the grenade bomb from the ground and started playing with it.

Imposing European forces on Sudan breaches hybrid operation provisions, al Wasila

(*Sudan Vision*) Under secretary of Foreign Affairs, Al Samani Al Wasila, said an important cycle in the hybrid operation, i.e. the State of Agreement or what is known as SofA, has not been signed to date, explaining that SofA is a step in the hybrid operation that provides for positioning, movement and privileges of the hybrid forces.

Al Samani said agreement should have been made a month after issuance of Resolution 1769, adding, “We have been informed about it three months after that date. “He reiterated that despite the delay, they have been seeking to expedite the signing of the agreement as the government proposed the signing of a provisional model of the agreement which they received from the UN to facilitate the flow of forces into Darfur. He underscored that the UN has skipped implementation of some items of Resolution 1769 as of the first and heavy-support packages and until the hybrid operation, citing that after the passage of a full year only 70% of the light support package has been implemented. He deplored the UN hazy stance which in turn affected participating countries.

NCP meets parties over standstill with SPLM

(*Khartoum Monitor*) A source in the National Congress Party (NCP) said the party will continue meeting with political parties to clarify its position on the stand still with the SPLM. The NCP will meet today with the reconciliation committee and with the Communist party on Tuesday. The NCP’s Political Relations Secretariat will hold press conference this week to review the out come of the meetings with the political parties.

Women barred from some university courses, at universities students tell of widespread military infiltration

(*The Citizen*) Security has arrested four students, including the secretary General of the Darfur students, from the University of Khartoum. The arrest students who spoke to The Citizen said, is a sign of how the security apparatus has taken over the university campuses.

The university Deans, a student pointed out are politically appointed, and the authorities are cooperating with National Security and siding with the National Congress Party, setting off marginalization of all other students not members of the NCP.

Aiman Mohamed Ali, a student, said that the Government of Sudan has excluded women from studying some branches of civil engineering and geology because they are colleges of hardship. “Which is more hardship, the military colleges where we

have women in Popular Defence Forces, or studying in these colleges?” said the student.

To fortify hold on Abyei, NCP builds houses there

(The Citizen) The National Congress Party is building free houses for Miseriya through a local company it formed in Abyei to strengthen the Arab tribes claim on Abyei, the community here says.

Speaking to citizens last week, the Administrator of Alal Payam Deng Ali Bathbuny said the company called (ANGATO) was based in Muglad, and was heavily involved in building temporary houses for the Miseriya in an attempt to invade Abyei in the immediate future.

Business community says 2008 budget impacts all economic sectors

(AlSahafa) The Sudanese Business Association has warned that the 2008 budget will have negative impacts on all economic sectors. The Association appealed to Minister of Finance to reduce the value added tax (VAT). The increase in VAT, the Association argues, will discourage investment in the Sudanese economy.

Sarkozy to al Bashir: We gave Abdelwahid one month to join peace negotiations or leave France

(AlSahafa) A senior government official revealed that the French President has informed President al Bashir that France has given the SLM Abdelwahid Nour a period of one month to join the peace negotiations or leave France.

Khartoum affirms acceptance of the hybrid, urges UN Secretary-General to provide funds

(AlSahafa) In a joint statement issued yesterday, the GoS and the UN have renewed their commitment to what has been agreed on the deployment of the hybrid operation in Darfur. The GoS denied hindering the deployment of the hybrid. It blamed the UN for delays in deploying the peacekeepers in the region.

NCP-SPLM six-member committee concludes work today, Presidency meeting tomorrow may overcome Abyei

(AlSahafa) The NCP-SPLM six-member committee told reporters yesterday that it hopes that the Presidency meeting tomorrow (Tuesday) puts an end to the NCP-SPLM conflict over Abyei. The committee said it will complete today a joint document suggesting solutions for all pending issues. The document will be submitted to the presidency. The SPLM co-spokesperson of the committee, Yasir Arman, said the committee has met yesterday with the Minister of Finance, the head of the Population Census Council and the officials of the Borders Commission.

Sudan SPLM express concern over Chad fighting

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 9 Dec. KHARTOUM) The Sudan People Liberation Movement (SPLM) expressed concern over the recent fighting in eastern Chad and its spillover into Darfur.

Yasir Arman, deputy SPLM secretary general told Sudan news agency (SUNA) said that events in Chad will reflect negatively on the Darfur conflict.

The Rally of Forces for Change (RFC) and the Union of Forces for Democracy and Development (UFDD), the two main rebel groups, have said recently they are coordinating their battle against Deby's regime.

The Chadian army fought heavy battles against RFC forces Tuesday in the east near the border with Sudan's troubled Darfur region, prompting warnings from the UN of an impending refugee crisis.

Arman called for a "good understanding and a working relationship between the SPLM and the National Congress Party (NCP) to work for a peaceful resolution of the Darfur crisis.

Sudan civil society discusses in Abyei role of advocacy in democratic process

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 9 Dec. ABYEI) Civil society representatives met in a conference organised by the US based Mercy Corps in Abyei last week to discuss the need for advocacy in the democratic process. In the country

More than 250 representatives of civil society groups hailing from regions across southern Sudan and the Abyei area, Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states, participated in a meeting in Abyei to discuss the role of advocacy in democratic process.

Participants showed a strong interest in advocacy, which in many cases was a new concept for them. The trainings and debates revealed the participant's belief that the role of citizens in a democracy is not just confined to casting their ballot, but they should be actively engaged, particularly when the government fails to deliver essential services. **Read more** <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25105>

Jailed British teacher says blaming herself

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 9 Dec. LONDON) A British teacher who was jailed in Sudan for naming a teddy bear Muhammad said in an interview published Sunday she blames herself for what she went through.

Gillian Gibbons was convicted of insulting Islam after she allowed her 6-year-old pupils to name the class teddy bear "Muhammad" — a violation under Sudan's Islamic Sharia law. While Gibbons expressed incomprehension at how anyone could interpret her actions as intentionally insulting, she told the newspaper she blamed herself for the incident.

"I shouldn't have done it," the newspaper quoted her as saying. "Ignorance of the law is no defense."

Gibbons was sentenced to 15 days in jail and deportation after a seven-hour trial in Khartoum, a judgment that triggered outrage worldwide and embarrassed moderate Muslims in Britain and elsewhere.

The sentence was eventually cut short after two Muslim members of British parliament, Baroness Sayeeda Warsi and Lord Nazir Ahmed, met with Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir to plead for her release. He pardoned her on Dec. 3, after she had spent more than a week in custody, and she returned home the next day.

Gibbons, who was kept in what she described as a filthy prison cell in the Sudanese capital of Khartoum before her trial, said that while she was never mistreated, she initially feared her captors would rape her, fears that were ultimately unfounded.

Arrangements for holding Wise Men Forum completed, says NRC (National Reconciliation Committee) Spokesman

(*SMC*) National Congress Announces readiness to participate in the proposed wise men forum sponsored by National Reconciliation Corporation (**NRC**) The forum was suggested to take place after Id Al Atha holiday.

NRC spokesman Osman Abdallah said he met presidential advisor Dr Mustafa Osman Ismail for the second time this week and that the latter confirmed readiness of his party (**NC**) to set good atmosphere for holding the forum. Abdallah said his organization has completed all arrangements needed for launching of the forum.

Deby to visit Khartoum next week

(*AlHayat*) The Chadian President Idris Deby is expected to visit Khartoum next week to meet President al Bashir and discuss tensions between the two countries.

Minister refutes "unjust accusations" that Sudan is obstructing peace operations

(*Suna website*) Sudan has reiterated its commitment to the deployment of the hybrid operation in Darfur so that the African Union will have the pioneering role in the work of keeping security, peace and cooperation in the region.

Speaking at a press conference at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Sunday [9 December], Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs Al-Samani Al-Wasila said Sudan wants the African Union to play its role as stipulated by the charter of the United Nations.

The minister refuted the unjust accusations against Sudan of obstructing the peace operations, saying this gives negative signals, pointing that the best place for this is the tripartite mechanism that comprises Sudan, UN and AU.

He called on the UN officials to put correct picture before the [UN] Secretary General, citing as a proof what was said by the current President of the Security Council, the permanent envoy of Italy, that Sudan should not be blamed as it has implemented 97 per cent of its commitments towards the hybrid operation.

Former armed forces soldiers protest in Sudan's capital over delayed payments

(*AlRai AlAam*) In an act of compliant over the stipulations of the Naivasha agreement, dozens of former armed forces personnel staged a demonstration yesterday at the junction of University Avenue and Armed Forces Avenue [in Khartoum] bringing traffic in the area to a standstill for over half-an-hour.

A number of armed forces commanders and the head of the state's security service managed to diffuse the situation by persuading the demonstrators that they would abide by their commitments. The former soldiers told *AlRai AlAam* that there were 37,000 of them in total and that they had not received their entitlements for 20 months.

Sudanese minister, UN emissaries discuss hybrid operation

(*Suna website*) Sudan and the UN affirmed in a joint statement issued in Lisbon, Portugal, their commitment to the agreement reached earlier on the deployment of the hybrid operation in Darfur, stressing importance of sticking to the agreements and references in this connection.

In this regard, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs Ali Karti said following his meeting with the envoys of the UN Secretary General in Lisbon that return to references on the issue would solve all the questions being raised.

Karti pointed to existence of faulty information regarding the government's refusal to grant lands or facilities or even places for helicopters in Al-Fashir, North Darfur State.

The minister explained that the meeting has totally cleared Sudan's position, affirming that the two sides have agreed on the details of the deployment of the hybrid operation.

GoSS

Ugandan envoy hails South Sudan efforts to improve Juba Security

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 9 Dec. JUBA, Sudan) The security situation in Juba and the surrounding areas has now greatly improved and offer ample opportunities for flourishing of business, Ugandan Consulate General Busho Ndinyenka has said.

Speaking during an Interview with Journalists from various media houses in Juba last Friday Consul Busho emphasized that the ruling SPLM party and Uganda had the same experiences of waging national liberation struggle from the bushes for the purpose of correcting governing systems in their respective counties now are enjoying cordially good relationship which is growing stronger day by day.

Busho further said that government of southern Sudan (GoSS) has accorded Ugandan consulate team the necessary support especially the host state of Central Equatoria who offers them office and accommodation premises. "I and my staff are treated with respect and dignity by southern Sudanese nationals".

Read more <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25113>

Sacking Two Senior SPLM Leaders is Wrong Political Decision/ Southern Party Leader

(SMC) Southern political leader said sacking of the two SPLM senior members namely Tilar Deng and Alio Ajang from the membership of the movement was wrong political decision.

Head of National Labor Party (NLP) James Andaria told (smc) that SPLM should review the decision. He said the movement in this particular stage needs the experience of its historical leaders. He noted that political leaders could be sacked from executive positions when they commit mistakes. However he said they could not be relieved from their parties unless through a decision from the general assembly.

Democratic Alliance of Southern Sudan (DASS) announces transfer political activities to the South

(SMC) Head of Democratic Alliance for Southern Sudan (DASS) professor David Dechan said his party should transfer its political activities from the north to the south. He said the situation in south needs pushing up democracy there and marinating of good governance.

Dechan explains that his party has grassroots supporters in the south and the north as well. He said as a democratic party they should work with grassroots in the south so as to participate in election process. He noted that the party should open offices in Malakal, Juba and Wau to kick off activities in the south.

Sudan's Kiir to address human rights day celebrations 10 December in Juba

(BBC Mon, Sudanese radio) The first vice-president and president of the Government of South Sudan, Lt-Gen Salva Kiir Mayardit, will today address celebrations marking International Human Rights Day at Juba stadium. Our reporter in Juba said that the Human Rights Commission urged the citizens attend the event.

Darfur

Sudan has the right to reject non-African troops: Official

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 9 Dec. KHARTOUM) A senior Sudanese official said today that his government reserves the right to reject non-African troops in Darfur peacekeeping force.

Sudan's minister Foreign Affairs in charge Al-Samani al-Wasila told reporters today at the foreign ministry that UN Security Council (UNSC) resolution 1769 establishing UN-AU hybrid force, states that the selection of countries was to be made by the tripartite committee that includes UN, African Union (AU) and Sudan.

“The UN charter does not allow for sending of troops to a country without the approval of this country” he added.

Al-Wasila also accused the UN of delaying the financing of the African troops on the ground saying that their salaries are backlogged five months. The official said that lack of funding will make African countries hesitant to send their forces to Darfur.

Read more <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25101>

China and Qatar block Security Council statement on Darfur crimes

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 9 Dec. UNITED NATIONS) The UN Security Council (UNSC) failed to agree on a presidential statement supporting the arrest of Darfur war crime suspect and their extradition to the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Italy's UN envoy Marcello Spatafora, who is also the UNSC president for December, said that the council members felt a statement was “not needed” since the briefing by the ICC prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo was “loud and clear”.

Spatafora also noted that the UNSC members have already said what they feel about the matter during the briefing by Ocampo last Thursday.

Ocampo formally told the UNSC that Khartoum “has not complied with resolution 1593. The government of Sudan is not cooperating with my office or the court”.

The UNSC issued resolution 1593 under chapter VII in March 2005 referring the situation in Darfur to the ICC.

After 18 months of investigation Ocampo charged Ahmed Haroun, state minister for humanitarian affairs, and militia commander Ali Kushayb with crimes including murder, torture, and persecution and intentionally attacking civilians.

The judges of the ICC approved Ocampo's request last May and issued their first arrest warrants for Haroun and Kushayb accused of war crimes in Darfur. Sudan has refused to hand over the suspects to the ICC.

The Inner City press website quoting unidentified UNSC envoy as saying that China was trying to water down the statement “so much that their might be no statement at all”.

China has abstained from voting on resolution 1593 causing anger among members of Sudanese government at the time, including 2nd Vice president Ali Osman Taha, who were expecting a veto from their close ally.

Sudan's UN ambassador Abdel-Mahmood Mohamad also told Inner City press website that Qatar and South Africa opposed the statement. However he noted that the latter was forced to take different position since they are state parties of the ICC.

Darfur rebels express distrust over talks with Sudan

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 9 Dec. KORMA, Sudan) A key Darfur rebel group voiced deep distrust about the idea of negotiating with Sudan's government as a U.N. envoy toured the front lines on Sunday in a bid to restart peace talks.

The Sudan Liberation Army's top commanders lined up with their fighters, some on camel back, to greet envoy Jan Eliasson in the desolate hamlet of Korma, their stronghold on the edges of central Darfur's mountains just 20 kilometers from government lines.

The main faction of the SLA, led by Abdelwahid al-Nur from his exile in Paris, has lost some military clout as it fractured into competing splinter groups, but still enjoys large support among Darfur civilians.

Al-Nur, however, is adamantly opposed to the new peace talks begun in Libya Oct. 24, and the negotiations have since stalled.

Read more <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25103>

George Clooney urges UAE to help in ending Darfur crisis

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 9 Dec. DUBAI) US movie star George Clooney, who has campaigned strongly to end bloodshed in Sudan's Darfur, said on Sunday he hoped the United Arab Emirates could use its influence in the region to help end the conflict.

"We are trying to find places (through which) we can have a real conversation with people in Sudan and President Omar al-Beshir. And obviously here (in the UAE) they have an influence," Clooney told AFP in Dubai, which is one of seven emirates that makes up the Muslim Gulf state of the UAE.

The Oscar-winning actor is in Dubai to attend the regional premier of his new film "Michael Clayton" at the start of the cosmopolitan emirate's fourth international film festival.

Clooney has used his star power to draw attention to the almost-five year conflict in western Darfur region, in which more than 200,000 people have died from the effects of war, famine and disease, while 2.2 million others have been left homeless.