



## UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN UNMIS

Media Headlines, 13<sup>th</sup> December 2006  
(By Public Information Office)

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## **HIGHLIGHTS :**

### **UN/ Agencies**

#### **Security Council failed to support me - UN's Pronk**

(via *SudanTribune.com*) The U.N. envoy expelled from Sudan after making remarks critical of the Sudanese army said Tuesday that the U.N. Security Council had failed to support him and that he feared the consequences.

"I think that I didn't get sufficient support from the side of the Security Council," Pronk told the Netherlands' state broadcaster NOS on Tuesday, in his first interview since returning from Sudan.

"My worry is that the (Sudanese) government thinks now that it can get away with anything," he said.

*Click on the link below for the full AP story*

[Security Council failed to support me - UN's Pronk](#)

#### **More Sudanese refugees to return home to south - UN**

(*Reuters* – 12<sup>th</sup> Dec. Geneva) The United Nations said on Tuesday that 20,000 Sudanese refugees would begin returning home this week to southern Sudan from Ethiopia and Central African Republic, as its post-war repatriation operation expands.

The voluntary return programmes from the two countries had been suspended after the Central African Republic closed its border with Sudan last April and the rainy season made roads impassable from Ethiopia last May.

"With the resumption of convoys from the two countries, we expect to assist the return of nearly 20,000 Sudanese refugees from both countries over the next six months," Jennifer Pagonis, spokeswoman of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) told a news briefing.

On Wednesday, a convoy of 10 buses is due to transport the first group of 500 Sudanese refugees on a four-day journey from Bonga refugee camp in eastern Ethiopia to their villages in Sudan's Blue Nile State, Pagonis said.

A return operation is expected to begin on Saturday from the Central African Republic, which has agreed to open the border only for the repatriation of Sudanese refugees, according to the U.N. agency.

#### **UN says Malakal events are political and cannot be solved through a military committee**

UNMIS spokesperson Radhia Achouri said that the recent incidents in Malakal are of a political nature and cannot be resolved through a military committee, *AllIntibaha* reports.

She described these incidents as an alarming threat facing the implementation of the CPA.

She also added that the recent events have proved that the reintegration of the other armed groups has not fully been implemented.

### **WHO denies pullout from el-Fashir**

*AlHayat* reports that the WHO denied it has pulled out from el-Fasher due to the recent deterioration of the security situation there.

WHO expert Salih el-Haithami said that the World Health Organization staff is still working in the Darfurs and is conducting vaccination campaigns that do not involve field work with vaccination teams.

### **UN rights council postpones vote on Darfur fact-finding mission**

(via *SudanTribune.com*) The UN Human Rights Council postponed a vote on whether to dispatch a fact-finding mission to Darfur and remained mired in debate, despite cries of alarm from senior UN officials about the situation in the strife-torn region of Sudan.

The first ever special session on the situation in Darfur was extended into Wednesday as a rift between Western countries and their African and Islamic counterparts opened up again, despite a plea from outgoing Secretary General Kofi Annan for a united stance.

The Council has long been criticized, especially by Annan and human rights groups, for not paying enough attention to Darfur while overly focusing on the Israeli/Palestinian dispute.

*Click on the link below for the full AFP story*

[UN rights council postpones vote on Darfur fact-finding mission](#)

### **Right to food and relief are hampered in Darfur - aid workers**

(via *SudanTribune.com*) The U.N. Human Rights Council held an emergency meeting Tuesday in Geneva to assess just how bad the crisis has become in Darfur.

"Food security is one of the most basic human rights, and it's constantly being challenged in Darfur," said Oshidari.

The increasing violence has forced U.N. and aid workers to pull back their relief efforts almost daily. Over 200 have had to leave remote outposts and refugee camps and some of the region's main towns like the North Darfur capital of El Fasher, which was looted last week by Janjaweed.

*Click on the link below for the full AP story*

[Right to food and relief are hampered in Darfur - aid workers](#)

## **United Nations & the Transition Debate**

### **UK Blair pushes for no-fly zone over Sudan's Darfur - report**

(via *SudanTribune.com*) Tony Blair has backed imposing a no-fly zone over Sudan's Darfur region while military planners in Washington are also developing plans for air strikes and a naval blockade to pressure Khartoum to stop the violence, the Financial Times reported.

The British prime minister declared his support for a no-fly zone for the first time during his visit last week to Washington, during which he told President George W. Bush that they had to deal with Omar al-Bashir, the Sudanese president, in the next two to three months.

*Click on the link below for the full FT story*

[UK Blair pushes for no-fly zone over Sudan's Darfur - report](#)

## **GoNU**

### **Civilians of Al Khawi reject to receive North Kordofan Governor and stone his car.**

Citizens in Al Khawi locality, N. Kordofan State, threw stoned yesterday at the entourage of the Governor of North Darfur as the procession was leaving the locality, *AlAyaam* and other major dailies report.

The citizens were protesting a move by the local government to join AlKhawi and Abu-Zeid localities.

The governor has downplayed in the incident and described it as an individual act committed by a limited group of people.

### **Minister of Energy: Vraalsen statements personal**

*Alwan* reports that Minister of Energy Awad el Jazz has described Tom Vraalsen's recent statements as personal and inaccurate.

The minister was responding to recent statements by the head of the Assesment and Evaluation Commission on the issue of oil revenues, the environmental degradation caused by oil industry in Sudan and the lack of compensations for those indigenes adversely affected by the oil exploration and extraction.

The minister pointed out that Mr. Vraalsen did not investigate the credibility of the reports submitted to him.

### **4 SPLA to face military trial**

*Alwan* reports that 4 SPLA soldiers will face a military court for attacking police in the Soba area.

One of the policemen attacked has been seriously injured.

## **Southern Sudan**

### **South Sudan bans Ugandan airline from Yei**

(via *SudanTribune.com*) South Sudan authorities have banned all Eagle Air flights into Yei, South Sudan, alleging the Uganda-registered private airline violated Sudanese aviation rules.

Armed Sudanese Peoples' Liberation Army (SPLA) soldiers on Thursday 7 December raided Eagle Air offices and ordered the staff there to leave the country, the first such incident involving the authorities here and airline operators. But Eagle Air operations manager Nathan Nataka over the weekend said the ban did not affect flights into Juba, the South Sudan administrative capital.

"Juba flights are operating normally but Yei until we get a written communication cancelling the order our flights we shall not resume" Nataka said.

*Click on the link below for the full Daily Monitor story*

[South Sudan bans Ugandan airline from Yei](#)

## **Darfur**

### **African Union regrets killing rioters in Darfur**

(via *SudanTribune.com*) The African Union peacekeeping mission in Darfur said Tuesday it deeply regretted shooting dead two rioters, but that its troops fired in self-defence.

The killings on Sunday in the west Sudanese town of El-Geneina were the first time that Darfur refugees had died at the hands of the peacekeepers who are mandated to protect them.

In Sudan, a United Nations official said three refugees were killed in the riot, but AU spokesman Nouredine Mezni said only two had died and that the AU had taken a third refugee with severe wounds to hospital.

"We infinitely regret shooting at the crowd. The AU came to Darfur to protect civilians, but this was a last recourse in legitimate defense," Mezni told The Associated Press.

*Click on the link below for the full AP story*

[African Union regrets killing rioters in Darfur](#)

*Rai AlShaab* meanwhile reported that the African Mission in Sudan has intensified precautionary measures to protect its forces in Darfur.

These steps following the recent kidnapping of two AMIS soldiers from near AMIS HQ in el-Fasher.

### **Memorandum by SLM- Minnawi threatens to withdraw from the DPA**

*AlSudani* reports that The SLM-Minnawi has submitted a memorandum to the President of the Republic demanding the implementation of the provisions of the Darfur Peace Agreement within a period of a month.

Reliable sources say the SLM is likely to withdraw from the Darfur Peace Agreement with the government does not respond to these demands within the stated timeframe.

### **Head of JEM arrives N'djamena to meet the US envoy**

*AlSudani* reported that head of Justice and Equality Movement Dr. Khalil Ibrahim will visit the Chadian capital N'Djamena where he is expected to meet the US envoy Natsios to discuss the Darfur issue.

A spokesperson for the JEM accuses the Government of Sudan of implementing a comprehensive program aimed at creating a crisis in Darfur.

Meanwhile the armed groups in Darfur are in efforts to unify their positions for negotiating with the government.

### **Chad pursues rebels across border into Sudan**

(*Reuters* – 12<sup>th</sup> Dec. N'Djamena) Chad's army pursued rebels across the border into the Sudanese region of Darfur on Tuesday, capping several days of clashes in the east of the landlocked central African oil producer, military sources said.

The fighting took place three days after a major battle between government forces and rebels from the Union of Forces for Democracy and Development (UFDD) on Saturday, some 50 km (31 miles) north of the eastern regional capital Biltine.

Chadian President Idriss Deby flew to Biltine on Sunday to direct army operations in the region, the sources said. Government troops again engaged rebels some 40 km from Biltine on Sunday, but no casualty figures were immediately available.

Tuesday's clashes took place at Hadjar Marfaine, some 750 km (470 miles) from the capital N'Djamena and close to the Sudanese border. Casualty figures were not immediately available.

"The forces of defence and security entered 20 kilometres inside Sudanese territory," said a regional military commander, who asked not to be identified. "The clean up operation continues."

Chad accuses the Sudanese government of supporting the insurgents. It says rebels and Arab militia raiders in Sudan's western Darfur region are spreading across the region, destabilising central Africa. Khartoum denies this.

The rebels, led by Chad's former defence minister Mahamat Nouri, have threatened to launch a fresh attack on the largest city in the east, Abeche, which they briefly captured last month before retreating to the desert.

"Abeche is calm," said the military commander. "We are waiting for (the rebels) with feet firmly planted."

### **Rape used as weapon of war in Darfur - rights groups**

(via *SudanTribune.com*) Growing numbers of Darfur women and girls are being raped, mainly by Sudan's forces and allied militias who use sexual violence as a weapon of war with total impunity, human rights activists said on Tuesday.

Victims, who often lack access to medical care and counselling, can be further humiliated under Sudanese law which allows them to be charged with adultery or defamation if they fail to prove rape, they said.

The activists were speaking at a workshop called "Voice from Darfur: Relaying the Victims' Account", held on the sidelines of a special session of the U.N. Human Rights Council on Darfur.

*Click on the link below for the full Reuters story*

[Rape used as weapon of war in Darfur - rights groups](#)

**Rejoinder:** *The "Headlines" sent earlier this morning carried a headline from AlHayat that read: "NGP may have been involved in el-Fasher events". The paper does not carry any story related to the headline article afore-mentioned.*

### **Other Developments**

#### **Egypt- Collapse of voluntary repatriation of Sudanese refugees**

(via *SudanTribune.com*) The Southern Sudan government plan for the voluntary repatriation of around 3500 refugees from Egypt to Sudan has been stopped because of lack of money. Nonetheless since last September 701 Sudanese have regained the country thanks to this program.

Thirty thousand U. S. dollars is the total of the money spent for the return of 701 people, but the true figures of the allocated sum are held secret. Unconfirmed sources say the

amount released for this operation varies between three hundred fifty thousand to seven hundred fifty thousand U. S. dollars.

*Click on the link below for the full story from the SudanTribune.com*

[Egypt- Collapse of voluntary repatriation of Sudanese refugees](#)