



**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN
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Media Headlines, 16th December 2006
(By Public Information Office)

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HIGHLIGHTS :

CPA

Calm restored in Juba

(Various local and international agencies) Soldiers in Juba are returning to their barracks after being assured their complaints about unpaid salaries will soon be addressed.

The soldiers (*AllIntibaha* puts their numbers at “about 700”) agreed to stand down and return to their barracks after negotiations with a GoSS team led by Dr. Garang’s widow ended with a promise to follow up with the Government of National Unity in Khartoum.

An earlier attempt by a GoSS team to negotiate with the disgruntled soldiers had failed causing Mrs. Garang to hurry to the Dr. Garang Mausoleum where the soldiers had camped to convince them to talk to the GoSS and SPLA team.

A curfew was imposed by the GoSS on Juba from 18:00 hours to 06:00 and a committee has been formed to investigate and *AlRai AlAam* local daily reports that the GoSS has decided to disarm some units of the SPLA barracks in Gumbo where it all started.

It all started in the early hours of yesterday morning when the town of Juba woke up to the sound of gunfire as SPLA who were part of the JIU barracks in Gumbo defied orders to go back and crossed the bridge into Juba shooting in the air and finally camping at the Dr. Garang Mausoleum while others strolled the streets –mainly around government buildings.

SPLA spokesperson, Mjr. Gen. Bior Ajang, said that the soldiers were met by Mjr. Gen. Biang Deng of the SPLA General Command who was presented a memorandum of their demands that he promised to forward to the GoSS President. He said their problems were summed as follows:

1. Delay in their pay and unpaid arrears,
2. That their pay in the JIU was less than that the SPLA pays its soldiers,

He says the JDB will meet on Monday to discuss why the salaries have delayed.

Peter Gatkuoth, the Commissioner for Juba, was quoted by the *Akhbar Alyaum* daily as saying that President Salva Kiir of the GoSS went to meet the soldiers immediately after hearing of the developments and managed to convince them to go back to their barracks.

While the GoSS and SPLA officials who spoke to the press agreed that there was a problem, they however criticized the manner in which the SPLA soldiers articulated their case and underlined the need that measures be taken to prevent a repeat. Some were also lay the blame on the Government of National Unity whom they say is responsible for paying the JIUs.

AlAyaam daily says however that Mjr. Gen. Elias Waya who heads the Technical Committee of the JDB said that salaries may have been delayed in transfer of the funds from the central bank to the Juba branch of the Omdurman National Bank. He said however that the JDB had approved the salaries a couple of months ago and it is not clear where the problems were because all JIU units, with the exception of the Gumba garrison, have received their pay.

Casualties: All major dailies agree that the soldiers shot at the air and do not report casualties but *AlRai AlAam* reports that a Kenyan woman caught in the commotion said that some of the soldiers were shooting at each other and that one group even pulled a man out of his vehicle and shot him dead on the street.

Radio Miraya: AlSahafa daily reports that a Radio Miraya employee has reported that a passer-by was run down by a motor cycle as the motorist was escaping the mayhem.

The employee also reports that despite the calm, there is still some tension.

He said that the United Nations has pulled out its radio staff after a group of SPLA soldiers stormed their offices after the radio station aired from the streets an interview with a leader of the disgruntled group. The SPLA had thought that he was in the radio buildings.

Miraya, among other local radio stations, were stopped from broadcasting.

According to *AlAyaam* daily, Radio Miraya also said it had received reports that the disgruntled soldiers shot at government vehicles near the GoSS Legislative Assembly but there are no reports of casualties.

Ministry of Interior calls on southern Sudanese factions to disarm

(*AlRai AlAam*) The Ministry of Interior has called on southern Sudanese armed groups that have chosen to join either SAF or the SPLA to hand their weapons over to their respective commands within a timeframe that will be communicated to them later and has warned those parties that refuse to do so will not be tolerated.

In a statement issued yesterday, the ministry also called on the people of Sudan to turn Khartoum into a pillar of political and not military activity.

The Transition Debate:

AU urges Sudan to disarm Janjaweed militia

(*AFP via the SudanTribune.com* – 15th Dec. **Addis Ababa**) The African Union called on the Sudanese government to "immediately disarm" the pro-government Arab Janjaweed militias in the war-torn Darfur region or face sanctions.

After a meeting of the Joint Ceasefire Commission on Darfur in Addis Ababa, the deputy head of the peace mission, Monique Mukaruliza, said: "The participants recommended that disarmament of the Janjaweed be started immediately."

"We understand from the report that was presented by the AMIS (AU Mission in Sudan) commander, the Sudanese government continues to arm the Janjaweed," she said.

"The meeting decided that where violations had clearly been proven to have taken place, punitive measures including sanctions should be taken against the violators," a text agreed at the meeting stated.

The AU's Peace and Security Council and the UN Security Council would enforce the sanctions, it specified.

The Commission examined "15 confirmed and documented cases of ceasefire violations by signatories and non-signatories of the peace accords" in Abuja and "decided to punish the violators," the AU statement said.

"The disarmament depends on the political will of the Sudanese government," Mukaruliza explained. "The government of Sudan has the means to disarm them, it has weapons, but it is up to them to disarm them."

She said the process of putting the militias' weapons beyond use should already have started, according to the agreements already signed in Abuja.

UN Security Council concerned at worsening security in Sudan, spillover into other countries

(AP – 16th Dec. UN) The U.N. Security Council expressed deep concern at the worsening security situation in Sudan and the spillover into neighboring Chad and the Central African Republic.

A presidential statement adopted by consensus Friday strongly condemned attempts by armed groups in eastern Chad to destabilize the country, calling them "blatant violations" of the African Union's principles.

The council expressed concern that the increased military activity in Chad threatened civilians, humanitarian workers, and the large number of refugees from Darfur who are now in camps in eastern Chad. It called on the Chadian government "to do all it can to protect its civilian population."

Council members also stressed the importance of a peaceful settlement to the conflict in Darfur, which they said would contribute "to restoring security and stability in the region, in particular in Chad and the Central African Republic."

The council said it was waiting for recommendations from the secretary-general on improving security on the Chad side of the border with Darfur.

Sudan walks out from AU meeting on Darfur*

(*SudanTribune.com* – 15th Dec. **Addis Ababa**) The Sudanese delegation walked out from the meeting of the Joint Ceasefire Commission on Darfur in Addis Ababa after the refusal of its demand to move the meeting to 21 December.

Sudanese representative said more time was needed to prepare well in order to address all items that the Government proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the meeting. Khartoum delegates walked out of the meeting after the rejection of their demand.

- *Please find separate attachment of the full text of the African Union Communiqué of the Fourth Meeting of the Darfur Peace Agreement Joint Commission held in Addis Ababa on 15 December 2006.*

West calls on Sudan to accept Darfur troops

(Reuters via SudanTribune.com – 15th Dec. Brussels) The United States and the European Union stepped up calls on Friday for Sudan to let international troops in to support African Union forces in Darfur amid growing talk of sanctions on Khartoum.

The calls followed warnings from London and Washington that Sudan could face measures such as imposition of a no-fly zone over its vast west if it did not agree to such a force soon.

"Time is of the essence in a dire humanitarian situation," EU leaders said in a joint communique issued after talks on Darfur at a European summit in Brussels.

"(The EU) strongly urges the government of Sudan to give its unequivocal consent to the implementation of the U.N. support package for the AU mission in Sudan in its entirety."

After talks in Brussels with EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana and NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, U.S. special envoy to Sudan Andrew Natsios also urged Sudan to unblock the U.N. proposals.

"If we cannot get that resolved then we have a big problem," he told reporters of Sudan's continued resistance, declining to spell out what consequences it would face if it persisted.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair has said his country would support a no-fly zone in Darfur as part of a sanctions package against Sudan if it continues to resist allowing an international force into Darfur.

The United States is also considering such options if Sudan does not agree to a force by Jan. 1.

EU officials said any move towards a no-fly zone would first need a U.N. Security Council resolution and stressed the emphasis at the moment was on using diplomacy with African, Arabic and other nations to put pressure on Sudan.

Darfur

Relief worker pullout threatens Darfur aid*

(AFP- 15th Dec. London) Security fears have forced aid agencies to pull out 650 staff from war-torn western Sudan and Chad, disrupting supplies to hundreds of thousands of people, they warned.

Oxfam International, Norwegian Refugee Council, Goal and other agencies said they have temporarily evacuated more than 250 workers from Darfur and another 400 from just across the border in Chad in the last two weeks.

Oxfam, speaking on behalf of these and several other agencies, said a mix of international, Sudanese and Chadian aid workers were redeployed to safer areas of Sudan and Chad, awaiting for security to improve.

In Darfur, aid workers have faced escalating fighting or attacks on staff as well as theft of vehicles, it said. In Chad, 25 staff have suffered serious attacks and the warehouses of three aid agencies have been looted.

"If the deterioration is allowed to continue, the impact on civilians could be devastating," Paul Smith-Lomas, regional director for Oxfam, said in a statement on behalf of the agencies.

The statement said food, water, medical and other basic supplies risk being disrupted to around 480,000 people in Sudan and another 310,000 people in Chad — 220,000 of them Sudanese refugees and 90,000 displaced Chadians.

Though the relief workers redeployed to safer areas in Sudan are a fraction of the total 13,000, they have been removed from key camps, including one where there are 500,000 people, a spokeswoman for Oxfam told AFP.

In Chad, she added, around 40 percent of the total staff of 1,200 Chadian and 130 international staff have been redeployed from vulnerable bases and camps.

"We're absolutely committed to going back in as soon as security improves," the Oxfam spokeswoman told AFP.

In the first week of December, agencies said they withdrew significant numbers of staff from five major areas of Darfur: El Fasher and Kutum in North Darfur; El Daein and Shearia in South Darfur; and Kulbus in West Darfur.

Roland van Hauwermeiren, Oxfam's country program manager in Chad, said: "Though some aid is continuing to reach people, unless we can get back in soon, the situation will start to deteriorate rapidly."

The agencies — which also include Concern Worldwide, International Rescue Committee (IRC) and World Vision — called on the Sudanese government and rebel groups to agree an urgent ceasefire with immediate effect.

** Please see related press releases attached separately*