

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS**Media Monitoring Report, 17 December 07

(By Public Information Office)

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## Highlights

### UN/ Agencies

#### **Transfer to the hybrid by end of this month**

(*AlAyam*) (*AlAyam*) The AU-UN Joint Special Representative for Darfur Rodolphe Adada said the transfer from AMIS to UNAMID will take place at the end of this month. Adada said, following a meeting with the Governor of North Darfur Osman Kibir, that the Headquarters of the hybrid operation will be in al Fashir. Governor Kibir said his government will cooperate with the UN to ensure the implementation of the hybrid operation. Adada accused the opponents of the DPA and the rebels who live in the IDP camps of carjacking the NGO vehicles. The AU-UN JSR has discussed with the Wali of North Darfur the security measures in Darfur.

### GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

#### **Al Turabi refuses meeting with al Bashir, sets conditions**

(*AlSahafa*) The Leader of the Popular Congress Party (PCP) Dr. Hassan al Turabi has ruled out possibility of holding a meeting with President al Bashir. He has, however, made some conditions for meeting al Bashir. Al Turabi's conditions are releasing all political detainees, stopping obstruction of PCP activities and returning the PCP confiscated property.

#### **Federal Cabinet meeting adjourned for second time**

(*AlWatan*) The meeting of the Federal Cabinet has been adjourned for the second time without explaining to the public why the Council of Ministers is not holding its regular meetings at a time when it is required to meet and follow up the CPA implementation.

#### **Minster of Parliamentarian Affairs denies acknowledgement of amendments on Police Act**

(*SMC*) The ministry of parliamentarian affairs denies acknowledgement of any amendments alleged have been made on the proposed police act draft. Minister of parliamentarian affairs Joseph Okilo told (*smc*) that he did not see the draft. But he said he understands that the act was referred to the ministry of justice for legal drafting. However the minister said the parliament could not investigate the case unless a complaint is submitted on this regard.

## **Presidency to hold a meeting today to discuss Abyei**

(*AlRai AlAam, AlSahafa*) The Presidency (al Bashir, Kiir, and Taha) is expected to hold a meeting today to discuss the Abyei issue. The meeting scheduled for last Monday was cancelled due to the death of al Bashir's uncle.

## **Six people killed, injured in attack by armed men on Id-Alfirsan**

(*AlRai AlAam*) An unidentified armed group has attacked three commercial trucks heading to Id Alfirsan Locality from Nyala. The armed group looted the properties of those who were on the trucks. According to reports one person was killed and five others wounded.

## **Security frees Darfur students, still jails 30**

(*The Citizen*) The security forces yesterday freed three students from Darfur arrested two weeks ago.

Ishag Abakar, Yasir Madoo and Khatab AlMahdi, the members of United People's Front (UFP), were freed without charges. The students told the Citizen that they were treated very badly in the period of their detention. They said the conditions of other 30 students who are still in detention are very miserable.

The released students said that they call upon the Judiciary of the Government of South Sudan to intervene and visit their colleagues in jail. The students also called upon the human right groups to visit the thirty students who are still in custody.

## **Court postpones sabotage trial to 30th December**

(*Khartoum Monitor*) A court has declared the postponement of sabotage trial till 30th December. It is worth mentioning that the trial was to be held yesterday but one of suspects demanded a lawyer according to the law and that is within the legal procedures. In an exclusive statement Mr. Farouq Abu Eissa member of the defense council said they had demanded the court to quickly release Mahmoud al Hassanein.

Abu Eissa condemned the way in which the police force has treated the people who have crowded in front of the court to witness the trial.

In related development the head of the political and foreign relations, of Umma Party, Dr. Mariam AlSadiq Al Mahdi has sharply criticized the postponement of the trial of Ali Mahmoud Hassanein and his colleagues from both the civilians and military officers. She described what has happened as stabbing the democratic process at the back.

## **Rift Valley Fever spreads south – doctor**

(*The Citizen*) Cases of rift Valley Fever are turning up at hospitals in the northern states even as government officials say the disease is non-existent.

Officials at hospitals in Khartoum, Gezira and White Nile State say that everyday they receive infected cases with the epidemic. But the government media and the imams at mosques continually urge people to consume animal products, saying they are safe.

Ministry of Animal Resources last week declared that Sudan had exported thousands of sheep to Saudi Arabia through Port Sudan and a sample of eighty sheep to South Africa for inspection.

The Ministry Under-Secretary, Prof Bashir Taha, in a press release said that no infected case was reported. But a veterinary doctor, Prof Mirghani Abdul Rahman, has attacked the government's apparent attempt at cover up, saying that none of the officials had paid a single visit to hospitals either in Gezira or Khartoum. He said no samples have been send to South Africa. He said that the report which was sent to France had confirmed the presence of the epidemic in Sudan.

### **The government and the parties signatories of the Abuja Peace Agreement reaffirm their keenness to continue implementation of the clauses of the agreement in a team spirit and in a group work**

(SUNA – 16 Dec. KHARTOUM) The Government and the parties signatories of the Darfur Peace Agreement on Sunday reaffirmed their readiness to continue implementation of the clauses of the agreement in a team spirit and collectively with the view to achieve the objectives of security and stability in the entire region of Darfur.

The parties agreed in the meeting of the mechanism for the implementation of Abuja Agreement headed by the Assistant of the President of the Republic, Dr. Nafie Ali Nafie, held at the Republican Palace on Sunday, that the coming days would see some practical steps on the implementation of the clauses that have been reviewed top of which the question of security arrangements and the sharing of power and wealth as well as the Darfur-Darfur Dialogue.

### **22 Sudanese voluntary organizations take part in UN Human Rights Council's session**

(SUNA – 16 Dec. KHARTOUM) The National Human Rights Group, comprising 22 Sudanese national voluntary organizations, participates in the 6th session of the Human Rights Council, currently in session in Geneva till December 17. Chairman of the National Human Rights Group, Ibrahim Abdul Halim, said in a statement to SUNA the Group has presented 4 working papers about the situations in Sudan and organized a symposium on the humanitarian situations in Sudan as well as abduction of Sudan's children. Abdul Halim further explained that the Group organized a demonstration against the abduction of children of Darfur. MF/ BT

### **Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs demands restoration of 100.000 sack of sorghum**

(SMC) The ministry of humanitarian affairs urges Strategic Reserved Corporation (SRC) avail 100.000 sack of sorghum to maintain repatriation program targeting the return of 3500 IDPS to their villages in the south

Undersecretary of the ministry ambassador Charis Manyang told (smc) there is an increase in the number of IDPS who expressed desire to return home. Meanwhile he said his ministry demands restoration of food to feed IDPS on their way to unity, Rank and south Kordofan. In the same development Manyang said the ministry has set 2008 plan regarding land mines clearing and preparing of relief for IDPS repatriation program.

## **GoSS**

### **Former Sudan's FM dismisses reports about his removal from SPLM**

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 16 Dec. KHARTOUM) The Sudan's former minister of foreign affairs, Lam Akol has dismissed his removal from the southern Sudan ruling party. But he accused some circles of acting to sack him from the party.

Lam Akol told a pro- National Congress Party newspaper, Akhir Lahza, that he is still a member of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM). Further he said he had never been summoned by an investigation commission to probe with him over organizational or political issues.

This statement comes at a time where press reports published in Khartoum say Lam would be excluded from the national unity government.

## **Darfur**

### **Darfur rebels say they repulsed attacks, sabotaged oil facility**

(*AFP* – 16 Dec. KHARTOUM) Darfur rebels of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) in west Sudan said on Sunday they had beaten back two attacks by government soldiers and sabotaged an oil facility.

One of the main rebel movement's commanders, Abdel Aziz Nur al-Ashr, told AFP by telephone that in a clash with Khartoum's troops in the Sirba region JEM forces seized 32 vehicles and took "numerous prisoners."

Ashr said that two JEM members were killed and six wounded in several hours of fighting northeast of the West Darfur capital of Geneina between Friday night and Saturday afternoon.

He said government forces had attacked civilians and burned their villages before clashing with the rebels.

Ashr said an army colonel was killed in the fighting, but there has been no confirmation of the incident from the Sudanese military.

The rebel movement also claimed in a statement posted on the Internet that it had repulsed a government attack in the Sarf Omra area of west Darfur and inflicted "heavy losses" on the Sudanese military.

JEM said it had attacked the Defra oil facility in south Kordofan, halting production estimated at 50,000 barrels a day.

### **Armed banditry reported in South Darfur**

(*AlHayat*) It has been reported that armed banditry and incidents of killing individuals have increased in South Darfur especially at Nyala-Id Alfirsan and Nyala-Omlibasa roads. Omda Saeed Mohamed Arian appealed to the Government to deploy troops in order to sustain security. The leaders of Id Alfirsan held the Government responsible for the deterioration of the security situation in the area as it has withdrew the police force from the area due to alleged shortage of fuel.

### **United Revolutionary Front accuses Government of arrests and assaults**

(*Sudan Tribune*) The United Revolutionary Forces Front, a Darfur movement, accused the government of launching wide-range arrests and assaults campaign amongst Arab tribes in Zalingei and west Jabal Marra regions and otherwise areas scattering in Darfur.

Front official spokesman, El Hadi Ajab said in a telephone call that the government grouped some dignitary personalities under a so called “Arab Tribes elders” to abort spreading awareness gathering momentum among Arab tribes in Darfur. El Hadi Ajab said they condemn and denounce the arrest cases and are asking the civil community, the human rights organizations and the international community to stop these violations.

### **The Washington Post calls on Bush to intervene for Darfur force deployment**

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 16 Dec. WASHINGTON) The ‘Washington Post’ called on US President George Bush to intervene in order to ensure that the Darfur peacekeeping force is deployed timely with all the resources needed.

In the editorial published Sunday, the newspaper accused Sudanese president Al-Bashir of backpedaling on his agreements.

“Mr. Bashir, Sudan’s Arab dictator, has made an art form out of confounding Western attempts to end his genocidal repression of Darfur’s African population. His pattern is to resist international pressure until it reaches a peak. He then appears to give in, waits until Western attention wanders and returns to intransigence” the Washington Post said. **Read more** <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25208>

### **Gunmen attack senior Darfur peacekeeper: AU**

(*Agence France-Presse* – 16 Dec. KHARTOUM) A senior officer with the African Union peacekeeping force in Darfur in western Sudan was attacked by gunmen who seriously wounded his driver, the mission said on Sunday.

"Four unidentified armed men attacked the car of the Ghanaian colonel in El-Fasher in north Darfur, wounding his driver and seizing the vehicle," the spokesman for the

7,000-strong African Union force known as AMIS told AFP. The attack happened on Friday.

### **Report: Sudanese army confirms clashes with rebels, denies soldiers captured**

(*The Associated Press*— 16 Dec. KHARTOUM) The Sudanese army said it clashed with a Darfur rebel group but denied that scores of soldiers were captured and army vehicles seized in the fighting near border with Chad, an independent newspaper reported Sunday.

The rebel group, the Justice and Equality Movement, claimed that rebels attacked an army convoy near the West Darfur capital of El Geneina on Saturday, capturing about 50 army privates and several officers and seizing 32 army vehicles, the Al-Rae Al-Aam newspaper reported, quoting JEM deputy secretary general for political affairs, Abdul-Aziz Ushar.

The newspaper said the office of the Sudanese army spokesman confirmed a clash occurred between a group of rebels and a military force that was on its way to El Geneina from the town of Kulbus. But the office denied the allegations that many soldiers and vehicles were taken by rebels.

Repeated calls by The Associated Press to the office of the army spokesman on Sunday went unanswered.

Last week, JEM claimed it attacked an army garrison in central Sudan, forcing more than 1,000 soldiers to flee the area.

U.N. security reports in the area confirmed there was an incident in Heglig in the state of Kordofan early Tuesday. But the Sudanese military said in a statement that reports of rebel "takeover" were "baseless" and that the oil field was "stable."

### **Sudan, former rebels to accelerate Darfur peace implementation**

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 16 Dec. KHARTOUM) Sudanese government and the signatories of the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) on Sunday agreed on Sunday to accelerate the implementation of the 2006 deal in order to re-establish security and stability in the troubled region of Darfur.

The Mechanism for the DPA implementation headed by the presidential assistant, Nafi Ali Nafi, the parties agreed to undertake practical steps on the implementation of the clauses that have been reviewed in the meeting related to the security arrangements and the sharing of power and wealth as well as the Darfur-Darfur Dialogue. *Read more* <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25199>

### **Darfur refugees remember Nanking, call for China to help**

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 16 Dec. LONDON) Sudanese refugees, who escaped the ongoing violence in Darfur yesterday, lit candles outside the Chinese Embassy in London in memory of the victims of the Nanking massacre, showing solidarity with its survivors in the week of its 70th anniversary.

The Nanking Massacre was an infamous genocidal war crime committed by the Japanese military in Nanjing, then capital of the Republic of China, after it fell to the Imperial Japanese Army on December 13, 1937.

The Darfuris also took the opportunity to call on the Chinese Government to use its power as Sudan's primary economic partner to bring an end to the suffering in Darfur

Abdul Jabar, President of the Darfur Union, the umbrella body for Darfuri survivors in the UK, said "We are very sorry about what happened in China. Yet today, in Darfur, the same thing is happening. More than 300,000 people have been killed. More than 3,000 villages have been burned. Women, girls, have been raped. Who has been doing that until now?"

Jabar appealed on the Chinese government to stop supporting the Sudanese government saying "The people of China should stand with the population, stand with the civilians, stand with the people who have no weapons. And our government is killing our people. If you are not happy about that, you have to take action now."

### **JEM: Crushes A GoS Battalion in Darfur: A Military Communiqué**

(*JEM website*— 15 Dec) JEM forces in Darfur engaged a moving GoS battalion between Sibra and Saliaa, Darfur. Government battalion was summarily defeated. 25 army vehicles belonging to Khartoum government have been captured by JEM forces while a similar number have been destroyed in the battle.

Unfortunately, JEM lost its Commander Athak Thom, a fine fellow fighter and an inspiring JEM member, from the south of the country.

News are also coming that JEM Kordofan Military Division has destroyed the Oil Filed of Difra in south Kordofan. Details will be released later when full information is at hand.

### **Darfur rebels say attack Sudanese army, capture 29**

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 16 Dec. KHARTOUM) (*Reuters*) - Darfur rebels said on Sunday they had inflicted a crushing defeat on Sudan's army in West Darfur in an overnight battle during which they captured 29 soldiers, 32 vehicles and heavy weaponry.

The Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) led by Khalil Ibrahim said had also simultaneously attacked for a second time Sudan's Defra oil field, shutting down its pumping station.

Sudan's armed forces said they had no immediate confirmed information on the fighting to release to the media. **Read more** <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25203>