



## UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN

### UNMIS

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(By Public Information Office)

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# Highlights

## UN/ Agencies

### **On SRSG press conference on 17 December**

#### ***1. Sudanese Media:***

(*AlSahafa, AlRai AlAam, AlSudani, AlWatan, Sudan Vision*)The UN looks optimistic that the two CPA partners will overcome their differences over the CPA implementation. The SRSG Ashraf Qazi said the CPA is facing challenges but the leadership of both the NCP and SPLM have demonstrated determination to address these challenges in the discussions between the two parties during the last few weeks.

He pointed out some positive steps. The UN SRSG said that the two parties have agreed to complete redeployment of troops by the 9<sup>th</sup> of January, establish the JIUs and to reach a solution for Abyei issue by end of this year. In addition to conducting the population census in April in preparation for elections at the agreed time. Preparations for the population census, he said, are progressing well. He said delays were based on an agreement by both parties. SRSG said the UN is ready to assist in addressing these issues.

The SRSG refuted reports on deploying international troops across the north-south borders. He said that, “we as UNMIS are ready to assist in every way possible that is required by both parties in respect to all issues related to the implementation of the CPA”.

The new UN SRSG Ashraf Qazi said yesterday in his first press conference in Khartoum that the UN is making contacts with all parties concerned with the CPA implementation. The SRSG said that, judging from his meetings with President al Bashir and his deputies Salva Kiir and Ali Osman Mohamed Taha, he has a feeling that they are committed to implement the CPA.

The SRSG explained that the UNMIS is preparing plans on the population census, disarmament and reintegration in order to secure funds from donors. He said he has participated in the last donors’ meeting which was held in Geneva to discuss the fourth Sudan Work Plan which made an appeal for \$ 2.29 billion for 2008. Last year’s budget was achieved by 70%, he said.

The UN warned of tensions in south Sudan resulting from clashes between the Dinka and Murle tribes. SRSG Ashraf Qazi said conflicts in south Sudan resulted in the killing of many people and that this has affected negatively the security situation in the area and **held the GoSS responsible for this**. Qazi said that the role of the UN is to train the police cadres to enable them to deal with such incidents.

On demobilising the Popular Defence Forces (PDF), Qazi said that he has no details on these forces which are seen by some as part of the army while others consider them as a militia. I cannot answer this question now, he said. All the militias have to be reintegrated in SAF or SPLA.

SRSR said SAF has redeployed 9,266 troops from south Sudan.

Although he said that Darfur is not part of his mandate, the SRSR has, however, said the security situation in Darfur is a matter of concern. He said the flow of arms to the IDP camps is a danger for Darfur. He called for collecting arms from the camps based on an agreement with UNAMID. The SRSR emphasized that the disarmament process should be in line with international human rights and humanitarian laws.

SRSR Ashraf Qazi said the number of troops pledged by countries for the hybrid operation is less than what is needed.

He concluded, "as I said, the challenges are there and there is a need to overcome them but the leadership has demonstrated the ability and determination to deal with these challenges and this is a hopeful sign which encourages us, in our own Mission".

## ***2. International Media***

### **UN ready to help cement north-south Sudan agreement**

*(Agence France-Presse)* The United Nations on Monday offered to help north and south Sudan cement a recent agreement to implement a 2005 peace deal that was threatened by the walkout of southern partners from the unity cabinet.

"We are ready to help by any means possible," the UN Secretary General's Special Representative in Sudan Ashraf Qazi told reporters during his first news conference since taking up the post almost two months ago.

He welcomed the agreement between north and south Sudan on key outstanding issues to pave the way for a return of the former rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) to the unity cabinet.

The SPLM, led by First Vice President Salva Kiir, walked out of government in October complaining that the north was failing to implement the 2005 CPA or Comprehensive Peace Agreement that ended Africa's longest-running civil war.

The move sparked fears of a resumption of fighting, but Kiir and Sudanese President Omar al-Beshir eked out an agreement during talks late on Tuesday with the only remaining disagreement being the fate of the oil-rich area of Abiye.

"We witnessed some challenges for the implementation of the CPA but I think some progress has been made and we are looking forward to the outcome of the impasse," Qazi said.

Wednesday's agreement between Khartoum and the SPLM was hailed by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, who reiterated that full implementation of the CPA was "fundamental for lasting peace and stability in Sudan and the region."

## **U.N. reiterates readiness to help Sudan implement 2005 peace agreement**

(*Xinhua via COMTEX*) Special Representative of the U.N. Secretary General, Ashraf Qazi, reiterated on Monday that the world body was ready to help implement a 2005 peace agreement between southern Sudan and the central government.

Qazi held a press conference on Monday, the first one since he assumed his function in Sudan in October, during which he highlighted the progress made by the two peace partners in Sudan in overcoming the current political crisis.

On Oct. 11, the former rebel Sudan People's Liberation (SPLM) announced a decision to freeze the participation of its ministers and other officials in the Government of Nations Unity.

The SPLM withdrawal led to the most serious political crisis since the government was established in September 2005 based on the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA).

Qazi indicated that progress had been made in ending the political impasse following several meetings between the two partners -- Sudanese President Omer al-Bashir and First Vice President and President of the Government of Southern Sudan Salva Kiir Mayardit.

He said that there would also be positive movement with respect to the redeployment of the government forces and the forces of the SPLM in southern Sudan, expressing his hope that the demarcation of the boundaries between northern and southern Sudan would begin early next year.

Qazi disclosed that preparations were also being made with respect to the national census, which is essential for the holding of the elections before July 2009.

He said that the important issue of the oil-rich Abyei enclave had been taken up by the Sudanese presidency, which would seek to either reach an agreement on Abyei borders or to reach an agreement on how to resolve the issue by the end of this year.

Qazi admitted that there were still challenges ahead, adding that the leadership of both parties had demonstrated the determination, willingness and ability to deal with these challenges.

"This is very hopeful sign which encourages us in our own mission," he said.

## **Sudan's census delayed to April 2008 - UN**

(*Reuters*) Sudan's census has been delayed again to April next year but the United Nations is still hopeful this will not hinder elections due before July 2009, the new head of the U.N. mission in Sudan said on Monday.

Sudan's former north-south foes signed a landmark peace agreement in 2005 ending Africa's longest civil war. But slow implementation led the southern Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) to withdraw from national government in protest.

The partners in peace have resolved their differences over most issues including funding the census and the SPLM will return to government soon, officials said.

"The beginning of the census has... been postponed from February to April (2008)," Ashraf Qazi told reporters in his first news conference since taking office in October. Sudan's rainy season begins in May until September and cuts off access to large swathes of the country, but Qazi said there was still hope the census would be completed ahead of the rains.

"We do hope there would not be further delays ... we hope to have the elections on schedule before July 2009," he added.

He said the delay gave more time to prepare for the census.

One issue yet to be resolved is whether questions on religion and ethnicity will be included in the census. The northern National Congress Party had rejected these questions whereas the SPLM wants them included.

Religion and ethnicity were factors in the north-south conflict which has raged on and off since 1955. The mostly African, Christian and animist south felt marginalised by the Arab-dominated, Islamic government in Khartoum. The conflict killed 2 million and drove at least 4 million from their homes.

The two sides missed a July 9 deadline to redeploy their forces from either side of the north-south border but have agreed to complete this by the end of the year, they said. Qazi said the redeployment would help ease tensions on the north-south border which have run high since the SPLM froze its participation in national government.

But he said there was no plan to deploy any of the almost 11,000-strong U.N. peacekeeping mission in Sudan's south along the border, a job which would be left to joint units from the north and south armies.

"The JIUs (Joint Integrated Units) would be there and the international community ... would be prepared to assist in training and helping them," he said.

Qazi said Sudan was an "extraordinarily important" U.N. mission. However the world body took a year to fill his post after predecessor Jan Pronk was expelled for saying Sudanese army soldiers were demoralised after defeats by Darfur rebels.

Sudan's north-south conflict has been largely overshadowed in recent years by a newer revolt in Sudan's western Darfur region. Qazi's mandate will cover only the north-south conflict.

### **Ki-moon defends granting American company big contracts in Darfur**

*(AlSahafa)* Sudan has officially asked the UN to investigate on the contract granted to one of the international companies to construct the hybrid operation camps in Darfur. Sudan Ambassador to the UN Abdelmahmoud Abdelhalim said the company was granted a contract of \$ 250 million without following the UN procedures.

The UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, who decided personally to grant the company this bid, rejected allegations on bribes being paid by the company.

### **Darfur: UN envoy holds security talks with local leader after armed attack**

17 December 2007 – A senior United Nations envoy has held talks with the provincial leader in North Darfur about security issues concerning the upcoming hybrid UN-African Union peacekeeping mission to the war-racked region after a recent attack by armed gunmen on members of the existing AU force.

Rodolphe Adada, the AU-UN Joint Special Representative for Darfur and the head of mission of AMIS, the current AU mission to the region, met yesterday in El Fasher with Osman Mohamed Yousif Kibir, the Wali (Governor) of North Darfur state.

The meeting follows an attack near El Fasher on Friday by four unidentified men against the vehicle of the AMIS military chief of staff. The chief of staff survived the incident but the driver was injured and the vehicle was seized by the gunmen before it was later recovered by Sudanese police.

Mr. Adada and Mr. Kibir discussed measures to be put in place to avoid a repeat of such incidents when the hybrid force, known as UNAMID, takes over duties from AMIS next month.

Senior officials of both UNAMID and North Darfur are scheduled to meet later today to finalize a security plan to protect UNAMID and AMIS personnel and facilities in El Fasher, the provincial capital.

Mr. Kibir reiterated the readiness of authorities in North Darfur to cooperate with the new mission and to provide all necessary facilities to make the mission a success, while Mr. Adada thanked him for the help so far to AMIS.

### **GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)**

### **Sudan's NCP failed to meet spirit of peace – SPLM officials**

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 16 Dec. CAIRO) The Presidential Advisor, Dr. Mansour Khaled and Deputy Speaker of National Assembly, Mr. Atem Garang, briefed the Sudanese community in Cairo about the reasons of deadlock in the CPA implementation. Both blamed the National Congress for a persisting will to continue a monopoly of power policy despite the 2005 peace deal.

Mansour and Atem, who are visiting Cairo to deliver a message from the Sudanese First vice president to the Egyptian president, told the Sudanese community on Sunday December 16 that the NCP had missed the CPA implementation because it failed to meet the spirit of national reconciliation, democratic transition and sharing power which are pillars of the Sudan peace agreement between the NCP and the SPLM.

The Deputy Speaker of National Assembly, Atem briefed the audience about the reasons which led to the suspension of SPLM ministers from government of national

unity, which was mainly due to the slow implementation of the agreement, lack of transparency in the oil share, border demarcation and the implementation of Abyei report.

The meeting was held at the Cairo International Conference Center, Mycerinos Hall and was attended by great number of Sudanese and political leaders, civil organizations, television crews and journalists and Sudanese community in Egypt.

*Read more* <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25227>

### **90% of outstanding issues resolved, Atem Garang**

(*Sudan Vision*) National Assembly Deputy Speaker, Atem Garang affirmed that the two partners to GoNU, NCP and SPLM have made commitment to the interim constitution and determination of no return to war.

In his enlightening meeting with Southern Sudanese in Cairo, in the attendance of the president advisor, Dr. Mansour Khalid, Garang said that Sudan's sufferings of war necessitates comprehensive Sudanese reconciliation that would help in promulgating peace, national unity and democracy culture irrespective of any political or partisan loyalties.

He further stressed on the necessity of political parties commitment to CPA, warning against its failure that would yield negative effects countrywide.

In a press statement in Cairo, Garang hoped the commitment of the two partners to have been agreed upon, noting that 90% of the disputed issues have been resolved with only Abyei question pending its settlement within the scope of the presidency.

### **Eastern Front demands share in diplomatic representation**

(*Khartoum Monitor*) The Sudanese Presidency has issued a directive to the National Petroleum Commission to implement the decision issued on 17 June 2007 relating to the disputed oil block B. and enabling the total Company to resume its oil operations in Southern Sudan.

The decision was approved by the presidency among a series of decisions, adopted by the six-member committee, relating to the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

### **Demands representation in the hybrid implementation bodies, Government supports transfer to UNAMID**

(*SUNA, AlRai AlAam*) Assistant of the President of the Republic Dr. Nafie Ali Nafie has affirmed the government's support to transfer of the mandate of the African Mission in Sudan to the United Nations and African Union Mission in Darfur on the 31st. of current December. Dr. Nafie said in a statement to SUNA following his meeting at the Republican Palace Monday with AU-UN Joint Special Representative for Darfur Rodolphe Adada that the meeting discussed the transfer of the mandate of the African Mission in Sudan to the United Nations and African Union Mission in Darfur, the

steps to be taken and the related mechanisms besides the process of signing of the transfer on the 31st. of current December.

Dr. Nafie added that they agreed on a number of remarks that should be considered in the transfer operations and participation of the government in them besides the transfer of the tasks of the ceasefire from the African Union to the joint mission.

The Assistant of the President of the Republic affirmed the importance of participation of Sudan in these bodies, saying that he believes the transfer would be completed in accordance with what has been agreed upon in full cooperation and easily.

### **Sudan will accept international arbitration over Abyei: Official**

*(Sudan Tribune.com — 17 Dec. KHARTOUM)* A senior Sudanese official said that his government may accept international arbitration over the disputed oil rich region of Abyei.

Dr Mutrif Siddiq Ali, the undersecretary of the Sudanese foreign ministry told the daily Al-Sharq Al-Awsat published in London that returning to war is not an option over Abyei. "If all attempts to resolve the Abyei crisis politically or through internal mechanisms fail, then we have no problem resorting to international mediation" he said.

"The call to resolve the crisis through regional and international mechanisms boils down to a rejection" of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement that ended Africa's longest running civil war" Sudanese president Omar Hassan Al-Bashir said last October.

Siddiq hinted that his government will accept a US proposal submitted to break the deadlock over the Abyei region. **Read more** <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25225>

### **Sudan coup trial delayed, lawyers accuse police**

*(Sudan Tribune.com — 17 Dec. KHARTOUM)* The trial of 30 Sudanese opposition figures accused of a coup attempt was postponed until the end of the month and defence lawyers on Monday accused police of setting dogs on defendants' families.

The trial on Sunday was delayed as one of the defendants, being held in army headquarters away from the main group, said he did not have legal representation, lawyer Muez Hadra said. The other accused are represented by prominent Sudanese lawyers.

Hadra said some families of the accused were denied entry to the court by police who set their dogs on them.

The 30 were arrested in their homes in July and include ex-army, police and security officers as well as prominent opposition politicians. They were accused of plotting political assassinations and to overthrow the government.

**Read more** <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25214>



## **Outcome of Presidency meeting of 17 December**

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 17 Dec. KHARTOUM) The Sudanese Presidency in a meeting held Monday evening agreed that the ministers of Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) in the government of national unity will be sworn in on the next Thursday December 27.

In a meeting chaired by the President Omer al-Bashir and attended by his two deputies, Salva Kiir Mayadrit and Ali Osman Taha, it was decided that the national cabinet would hold an extra-ordinary meeting on the same day after the sworn in of the SPLM ministers.

The Presidential Press Secretary, Mahjoub Fadl Badri, said today that the meeting deliberated on the required arrangements to follow up the decisions and recommendations that were agreed upon during the previous meeting of the Presidency related to the progress of CPA implementation and the consolidation of the political partnership.

Badri further added that a report on the north-south border was also examined, the Presidency also listened to the committee that had ended its work in identifying maps and records. The committee will embark on drawing the maps after Eid Al-Adha holidays to prepare its report on the border line between the north and south so that the Presidency may adopt it, and so that the committee can embark on drawing the border on the ground according to the time tables agreed upon.

*AlSahafa*-- The Presidency meeting has also resolved to set up a committee, to be chaired by Presidential Adviser Dr. Nafie Ali Nafie, to address the problems facing South Kordofgan State. Another committee, to be headed by VP Taha and the GoSS VP Machar, will also be established for following the implemetation of the agreed CPA schedule by the Presidency.

*AlKhartoum*-- President al Bashir has issued on 16 December thgree presidential decrees endorsing the agreed CPA implementation schedule, establishing a committee to address the issues of South Kordofan and a committee for following up CPA implementation.

## **White Nile unsure about South Sudan consortium involvement**

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 17 Dec. LONDON) Shares in the British White Nile company slumped after the Sudan-focused oil explorer said it is still unsure about its position regarding Block Ba in Southern Sudan.

The AIM listed oil firm said most recent developments suggest that it would receive a controlling interest in a new Southern Sudan government company that would hold a 22.5% interest in a consortium that will develop Block B, including Block Ba, Block Bb and Block Bc.

White Nile says it has again asked Sudanese government officials to clarify the situation, the financial news website SHARECAST reported today.

The Block Ba is attributed by the National Petroleum Commission to a consortium headed by the operator Total after a two year dispute with the French firm.

### **Sudan jails two Egyptians for blasphemy**

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 17 Dec. KHARTOUM) A Khartoum court has sentenced two Egyptians to six months in prison for marketing a book that is deemed offensive to Aisha, one of Prophet Mohammed's wives, local press reported on Monday.

Abdel Fattah Abdel Raouf and Mahrous Mohammed Abdel Aziz were sentenced on Sunday under article 125 of Sudan's penal code, the same section under which U.K. teacher Gillian Gibbons was convicted after allowing her class to name a teddy bear Mohammed, the daily Al-Rai al-Am reported.

Justice Minister Mohammed Ali al-Mardhi said Dec. 11 following the pair's arrest that they were guilty of bringing over the book entitled "Aisha, mother of believers, devoured her sons" from bookseller and publisher Madbouli in Egypt and selling it in Sudan.

Under article 125, the two could have faced 40 lashes and a fine, as well as the jail sentence.

### **GoSS**

### **South Sudan's Machar reiterates commitment to Uganda peace mediation**

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 16 Dec. JUBA) There is no return from mediating a peace involving government of Uganda and rebel Lord Resistance Army (LRA), Dr. Riek Machar, Chief mediator in Ugandan conflict has declared.

"We have reached a point of no return from mediating peace and reconciliation in Uganda, therefore I appeal to all IDPs and Sudanese refugees to return to their respective homes" said Machar.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of two days workshop organized for the representatives of the LRA affected Areas in Southern Sudan by Conciliation Resources International Organization, credited for conflict transformation; Vice President Machar reminded the participants that CPA provision empowered the government of southern Sudan (GoSS) to use force in situation of foreign insurgency in Southern Sudan territory. However, he adds, GoSS opted to mediate peacefully with Ugandan warring parties in order to realize lasting political solutions that will benefit Ugandan and its neighbors.

**Read more** <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25221>

### **Prominent SPLM member threatens to disclose corruption by some movement members**

(*Sudan Vision*) SPLM Prominent member Telar Deng threatened to disclose documents implementing some movement's members in financial corruption in South Sudan or

in Khartoum. In an interview with Sudan Vision Deng said himself and Aleu Ajang are in the process of submitting an appeal to SPLM leader Salva Kiir against their dismissal from the movement, adding that the movement political office is the sole party empowered to dismiss him from the movement.

### **JEM Prominent Commander Surrender Himself to Local Authorities**

(SMC) Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) prominent commander Mohammed Abdallah Gado nicknamed Majdubi Surrendered himself with 12 field commanders to local authorities in Tina town on borders with Chad.

Reliable sources told (smc) that Majdubi said he was expecting more political and military leaders flee the movement camps due to escalation of power struggle and physical liquidation campaign committed by some tribal groups against other members. Sources stated that physical liquidation campaign targeted those who may attempt to flee the camps in response to direct instructions given by JEM leader Dr Khalil Ibrahim to rescue his collapsing power.

### **Newly appointed Jonglei Governor sworn in**

(Sudan Tribune.com — 17 Dec. JUBA) The newly appointed, Kuol Manyang Juk, was sworn in as a Governor of Jonglei State before the First Vice-President of the Republic and President of the Government of Southern Sudan, Salva Kiir Mayardit.

The former governor, Brig. Gen. Philip Thon Leek, was relieved from his duties last week over accusations that he was unable to curb cattle raiders and children abduction in the region.

The Kuol Manyang Juk who is a native of Bor, was the federal minister of roads and transport.

## **Darfur**

### **Japan declines Burundi request for airlift support in Darfur**

(Sudan Tribune.com — 17 Dec. TOKYO) Japan has declined a request from Burundi to help airlift its soldiers to take part in a peacekeeping operation in Darfur, Sudan, because one of the prerequisites for Japan to deploy troops — the implementation of a cease-fire accord — has yet to be satisfied, government sources said Monday.

The decision came despite rising international expectations for Japan, which will take the rotating presidency of the Group of Eight nations next year, to contribute to resolving the grave humanitarian crisis in Darfur.

The issue of Darfur is a focus of international attention and is expected to be among the key issues to be on the agendas of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development in May and the G-8 summit in July, both of which will be hosted in Japan.

The Burundi government made the request to Japan unofficially in October for support because Burundi lacks the necessary helicopters and other equipment to transport its troops who are scheduled to take part in the United Nations and African Union Hybrid peacekeeping operation in Darfur, known by its acronym UNAMID.

But Japan concluded that "there is no comprehensive peace agreement yet between the Sudanese government and the antigovernment forces" and has told Burundi that Tokyo will not be able to participate, a senior Foreign Ministry official said.

#### **14 killed in clashes between Habania and Salamat**

*(AlSahafa)* The leaders of Al Salamat tribe said 14 people have been killed in the recent clashes between their tribe and Al Habania tribe. The Omda of Al Salamat tribe, Jibreel Hassan Adam, and the Deputy Secretary General of Al Salamat Shura Council, Abaker Mohamed Abdelrahman, said the recent clashes took place on last Friday when individuals from the Habania stole donkeys owned by individuals of Alsalamat tribe.

#### **Armed group loots NGO camp in Kabkabia, carjacks vehicles in Garsila**

*(AlRai AlAam)* A statement issued by the UN yesterday said that armed men have looted a NGO camp in Kabkabia, carjacked a vehicle and looted equipment. The group has also carjacked vehicles owned by one of the NGOs operating in Garsila. The NGO driver was abducted by the group.