

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN
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Media Headlines, 21 December 2006
(By Public Information Office)

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HIGHLIGHTS:

UN/ Agencies

UN special envoy arrives in Sudan to discuss Darfur crisis

(AP – 20 Dec. Khrt.) The U.N. Secretary general's special envoy to Sudan arrived in Khartoum on Wednesday on a one-off mission to push for the government to accept U.N. peacekeepers in Darfur, officials said.

Ahmedou Ould Abdallah would deliver a message from U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan to Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir following up on phone calls between the two on the standoff over the U.N.'s role in Darfur, said U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric earlier this week.

The official Sudanese news agency, SUNA, said Ould Abdallah held talks upon his arrival Wednesday with the Sudanese State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ali Karti, but did give details on their exchange.

The African Union said its representatives in Khartoum met with the U.N. envoy on Wednesday and "expressed concern over the prevailing security situation in some parts of Darfur."

The AU and the U.N. "appealed for the cessation of hostilities on the ground to create a conducive environment for the success of the political process," said an African Union statement*.

Meanwhile the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has issued a clarification over the role of special representative Jan Eliasson.

Ambassador el-Sadig el-Maqli who heads the ministry's peace department told *Alwan* daily that Mr. Eliasson is not Jan Pronk's successor as SRSG and not the UN-AU envoy that has been agreed upon in Abuja. He pointed out that Mr. Eliasson is a special peace envoy for the Secretary-General of the UN and will oversee the first and second phases of the resolutions of the Addis Ababa and Abuja meetings on support to facilitate the political and negotiation process between the government and Darfur Peace Agreement non-signatories.

** See separate attachment for full text of the AMIS statement on the meeting*

Exodus of air workers in Darfur after raids

(Juba Post) An attack by 20 gunmen in Darfur's largest IDP camp on 20 December started an exodus of aid workers.

A gang of gunmen entered NGO premises in Gereida, S. Darfur, stealing money, equipment and vehicles.

Oxfam and Action Contre le Faim which have been supplying food and water to 130,000 people say that they have been forced to halt operations in Gereida.

At least 71 aid workers have been evacuated yesterday, the UN said, bringing the number of staff moved in December to a record 400.

There is growing suspicion that the government tries to penetrate the IDP camps by befriending NGOs.

According to the latest UNHCR situation report, an increasing number of national NGOs have started doing this in Mornei and in the camps in el-Geneina. According to the UN, these NGOs are well supported by the HAC.

“They by-pass the camp coordination system and are apparently not welcome by the IDPs. Some of these NGOs are new and seem to be lacking experience”.

UN shies from Sudan, Ivory Coast sanctions - envoy

(*Reuters* – 20 Dec. UN) The U.N. Security Council lacks the unity and political will to impose sanctions on more individuals seen as blocking the peace process in Ivory Coast and Sudan, a key council member said on Wednesday.

Security Council committees charged with monitoring the peace process in both African nations have been given lists of individuals recommended for sanctions but have not acted, Greek U.N. Ambassador Adamantios Vassilakis said in his final report to the council on his activities as chairman of its sanctions committees on Sudan and Ivory Coast.

Click on link below for the full Reuters story from the SudanTribune.com
[UN shies from Sudan, Ivory Coast sanctions - envoy](#)

The Transition Debate

US gives Sudan until year-end to accept UN force

(*via SudanTribune.com*) Sudan must allow a team of U.N. personnel into Darfur and formally accept an international force for the area by the end of the year or face unspecified U.S. steps next year, a U.S. special envoy said on Wednesday.

Andrew Natsios, U.S. President George W. Bush’s special envoy for Sudan, told reporters he delivered the message to Sudanese President Lt. Gen. Omar Hassan al-Bashir during a visit to Khartoum this month.

Natsios specifically asked that Sudan allow about 60 U.N. military and civilian personnel now in Khartoum to go to Darfur and that the government provide its written, detailed agreement for more than 10,000 international troops to deploy as part of a hybrid force of U.N. and African Union peacekeepers.

While Natsios declined comment on what Washington might do if Sudan fails to act by year-end, the United States and others are considering options from travel bans on Sudanese officials and an assets freeze to imposing a no-fly zone in Darfur.

In response to a Sudanese request, the rotating president of the U.N. Security Council on Tuesday issued a statement reaffirming an agreement reached last month for the hybrid force of U.N. and African Union troops for Darfur, a step U.S. officials hoped might help Sudan accept the hybrid force.

Click on link below for the full Reuters story from the SudanTribune.com
[US gives Sudan until year-end to accept UN force](#)

CPA

SAF to demobilize 22,000

(Allintibaha) The National DDR Commission started its meeting yesterday with giving the northern and southern DDR commissions a period of one month to draft a comprehensive and detailed strategy for implementing its plans for the next four years. The meeting also called upon the two sides to work hand in hand and concurrently.

The meeting was chaired by Minister for the Presidency Bakri Hassan Saleh who underlined the need for the two parties to clearly define the role of international partners – especially the UN – in the work of the national commission.

The Minister of Defence who also participated at the meeting meanwhile announced that his ministry has presented to the Northern DDR Commission a list of 22,000 SAF to be demobilised.

GoNU

Bashir meets Uganda's Defence Minister

AlRai AlAam daily reports that President Bashir met yesterday an envoy of President Museveni of Uganda.

Amama Mbabazi who is also Uganda's defence minister delivered a message from the President Museveni to President Bashir regarding bilateral relations between the two countries.

During the meeting, President Bashir expressed his appreciation for the Ugandan president concern on peace in Sudan particularly in Darfur.

Taha warns of tribal conflict in south Kordofan

AlRai AlAam reports that V.P Taha who was yesterday addressing people in Taloudy, S. Kordofan State, warned against tribal conflict and stressed on the importance of spreading a culture of peace and unity among all people of Sudan.

In a meeting held with the government of South Kordofan, Taha called for a plan to cover all the requirements for peace.

Interior ministry launches militia disarmament campaign in Khartoum

AlSahafa reports that the Ministry of Interior yesterday officially declared the launch of implementation of the disarmament plan for militias existing in Khartoum.

Interior Minister Prof. AlZubair Bashir informed President Bashir about the security situation in the States, the role played by police forces for the implementation of the security arrangements and Ministry of Interior 2007 plan.

Nafie travels to Asmara today for negotiations with the DPA non-signatories

AlRai AlAam reports that the Presidential Advisor Dr. Nafie Ali Nafie and head of security and intelligence organ flew to Asmara today for negotiations with the DPA non-signatory faction National Redemption Front.

In the same context the Presidential advisor, Dr. Mustafa Osman said that the Government hasn't received so far any official note to postpone negotiations. He added that the delegation to Asmara includes many governmental officials.

Minnawi denies having given Blair maps for international troop deployment for Darfur

AlHayat reports that the SLM spokesman denied yesterday having given maps on Darfur to UK Blair for international troops in Darfur. He described reports on this issue as irresponsible and express only individual points of view that are not supported by official decisions by the SLM.

On another context the SLM spokesman stated also that all arrangements for the declaration of the SLM as a political party are ongoing so as the SLM could cooperate in the next elections.

Southern Sudan

Follow-up on Juba events

(Reuters, AlAyaam et al) The south Sudanese army has detained six officers from a unit that went on a mutinous rampage through the southern capital Juba last week, an SPLA spokesman said on Wednesday.

Spokesman Major General Kuol Diem Kuol told Reuters in an e-mail that the six officers, along with 23 non-commissioned officers, were being taken for questioning to garrisons in the southern town of Yei, 130 km (80 miles) to the southwest.

AlAyaam daily meanwhile reports that the curfew imposed on Juba has been partially lifted. Luka Biong, the Minister for Presidential Affairs at the GoSS, says that a military committee has been formed to investigate on the role of 23 SPLA soldiers currently in detention over the Juba events.

GoSS legislature considers \$1.375 budget 2007

(The Citizen) The GoSS Legislative Council, in its session yesterday chaired by Lt. Gen. James Wani Igga, listened to the 2007 budget presented to the council by GoSS Minister of Finance and Economic Planning Arthur Akwein .The budget allocated funds for government projects that include agriculture, education, health, clean drinking water and infrastructures.

The budget was forwarded to the specialized financial committee in the council for more discussion and to be represented for the second reading after which it would subject to vote.

Uganda rebels said ready to face justice, not ICC

(Reuters – 20 Dec. Kampala) Ugandan rebel leader Joseph Kony is willing to face justice at home as an alternative to the International Criminal Court, officials said on Wednesday, in a move that may boost efforts to end a two-decade conflict.

Government officials back from visiting Kony in his hideout also said they had succeeded in opening up a direct phone line between Kony and President Yoweri Museveni — a development they hoped would speed up talks in south Sudan.

LRA officials were not immediately available for comment.

Local politicians in the war-torn north have advocated traditional justice for the LRA leaders, who are accused of killing civilians, rape, torture, mutilation and abducting children to swell their ranks.

On Saturday, the LRA and the government renewed an existing truce until the end of February, and have since agreed on a draft proposal for the next phase of the peace deal.

"There is not yet a comprehensive assessment of the draft by the two sides," LRA spokesman Obonyo Olweny told Reuters in south Sudan's capital, Juba, adding that it would not be signed before Christmas.

The draft document deals with reconstruction of the north after a war that has killed tens of thousands of people and displaced nearly 2 million.

But analysts fear the delegates representing the LRA in talks — many of them LRA sympathisers from the Ugandan diaspora in Britain, the United States and Kenya — are pushing a political agenda in which the commanders have little interest.

LRA deputy commander Vincent Otti talked with Museveni over the phone for the first time this month, and Ochora said a direct line with the president would speed up talks because LRA representatives now feared being sidelined.

"The direct talk of Museveni with the LRA caused a lot of panic in the LRA delegation ... did they need to be in Juba, really?" he added.

Darfur

Sudanese army attacks rebel convoy in North Darfur

(*SudanTribune.com* – 20th Dec. **Paris**) Sudanese army troops attacked a rebel convoy moving from North to South Darfur today. A rebel source said they repelled the attack after inflicting heavy casualties to the government troops.

The Sudan Liberation Army leading commander Suleiman Marjan told the Sudan Tribune that the regular army attacked a convoy of SLA troops moving from North to South Darfur. The rebel commander who belongs to SLM-Abdelwahid Al Nur group indicated that the army ambushed his forces near Kobah area on Kutum Al-Fasher road.

He said that his troops repulsed the assailant adding that they captured 22 vehicles and destroyed thirteen vehicles. Marjan also said that the government forces abandoned behind them much of arms and ammunition.

He further said that a Sudanese military antonov plane bombed the village of Hashaba in the same area before the fighting killing seven civilians.

Asked about the human casualties, Marjan said there were no immediate figures.

Eritrea's mediation on Darfur seems compromised

(*SudanTribune.com* – 20 Dec. **Khrt.**) While Eritrea has indicated tomorrow as a date for the starting of Darfur peace talks in Asmara, rebel representatives are yet to arrive.

A delegation from the ruling National Congress Party led by Nafie Ali Nafie, presidential adviser and the party's secretary for political and organizational affairs, will leave for Eritrea Thursday 21 December for Darfur peace talks.

On the other hand, no rebel delegation will send a delegation to Asmara. It seems that the rebel groups prefer to stay far from such initiative. They all argue that Asmara rejects the participation of the international community in the talks.

Also, according to different rebel sources Asmara is so engaged in its relations with Khartoum, they fear that Eritrea would not be a neutral mediator in the talks.

Despite the high ranking delegation headed by Nafie Ali Nafie Sudanese officials said the talks could be adjourned to the next month. Khartoum says didn't being informed of the postponement of the negotiations.