

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN  
UNMIS**

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(By Public Information Office)

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**IN THE NEWS TODAY:**

➤ **UN**

- Debate renews between UN and Government of Sudan over hybrid forces; Defence Minister says: We reject hybrid forces; Annan describes Bashir letter as encouraging. *AlRai AlAam*
- UN advisers to deploy in Darfur. *SudanTribune.com*
- UN to support AU in Darfur, joint force unsure *SudanTribune.com*

➤ **GoNU**

- Accused of bombing Community Police Station to trail. *Allintibaha*
- Taha receives letter from Gadaffi. *Allintibaha*
- Ministry of Foreign calls the UN to hold talks with the DPA non- signatories as soon as possible. *AlSahafa*
- Secretary of the political relations at the NC Mustafa Ismail says the Democratic Unionist party supports national stances. *Sudan Vision*

➤ **Darfur**

- Minnawi submits ministerial candidates to the presidency. *AlSahafa*
- Deputy Governor of S. Kordofan visits Alfula to calm situation. *AlSahafa*
- Umma leader Sadiq el Mahdi criticises the existence of three forces in Darfur; Communist leader Nugud suggest a popular committee to hold talks with Darfur armed groups. *AlSahafa*
- Prominent SLM leader resigns; says Minnawi is responsible for deteriorating situations in Darfur. *Allintibaha*
- Nigerian President satisfied with GoS stance over hybrid forces. . *Allintibaha*
- International team arrive Sudan soon to investigate armament of Darfur movements. *AlSahafa*
- Sudan urges evacuated aid workers to return to Darfur. *SudanTribune.com*

- SLM Minawi summons 3 commanders to contact the military command *SudanTribune.com*
- First batch of UN advisers arrives tomorrow to Darfur - official. *SudanTribune.com*
- Violence displaces more civilians in Darfur. *SudanTribune.com*

➤ **GoSS**

- SPLM rejects evolving members of southern Defence Forces in security organs. *Allintibaha*
- Imminent decision to dissolve Southern Sudan Defence Forces. *Allintibaha*
- Disagreement between the CPA partners continues in Blue Nile States *Allintibaha*.

➤ **Other Developments**

- One thousands five hundreds Sudanese refugees return from Ethiopia. *Sudan Vision*

## **IN THE NEWS TODAY:**

### **UN**

**Debate renews between UN and Government of Sudan over hybrid forces; Defence Minister says: We reject hybrid forces; Annan describes Bashir letter as encouraging.**

*AlRai ALAam.* In his last meeting with the UN Security Council UN Secretary General Kofi Annan had briefed the SC details on the content of Bashir's letter on the UN plan on Darfur. Annan has described Bashir's letter as encouraging and positive.

Sudan agreed on Wednesday to allow a small number of U.N. troops to support a struggling African Union force in Darfur, with 105 soldiers and police due there by the end of January, an A.U.-U.N. statement said.

But it was still unclear if Khartoum had agreed to a joint United Nations-African Union peacekeeping force in the violent region of western Sudan, where 200,000 have been killed and 2.5 million driven from their homes in the last four years.

Defence Minister Abdul Rahim Mohamed Hussein has denied the Government of Sudan acceptance for phase three of support package, the deployment of joint or hybrid forces. He added that the Government of Sudan has accepted only phase one and two of support packages.

Government officials spoke instead of a heavier support package to the A.U. from the United Nations, denying there had been agreement on a joint force.

### **UN advisers to deploy in Darfur**

*SudanTribune.com* The first group of more than 175 United Nations advisers and staff supporting African Union peacekeepers in Darfur will deploy within days, the U.N. and AU said Wednesday.

A joint statement issued by U.N. and AU offices in Sudan said they had provided the Sudanese government Wednesday with a list of names of the 43 U.N. military staff officers and 24 police advisers making up the first U.N. group to be deployed to Darfur. That action opens the way for sending the personnel to the troubled area of western Sudan.

The Sudanese government confirmed it was permitting the first U.N. experts to head to Darfur. But the numbers it gave were lower than those mentioned by the U.N. statement. The discrepancy could not be immediately explained.

Sadiq Al-Magli, a Foreign Ministry spokesman, said 18 military experts and 20 policemen would soon head to Al Fasher, capital of North Darfur.

### **UN to support AU in Darfur, joint force unsure**

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### **GoNU**

#### **Accused of bombing Community Police Station to face trial.**

*Allintibaha* reports that the five accused of planning for bombing Community Police Station have been sentenced by Khartoum Court of Appeal to imprisonment and fine.

#### **Taha receives letter from Gadaffi.**

*AlRai AlAam*. V-P Ali Osman Mohammed Taha has received yesterday a hand written message from Libyan President Gadaffi over UK Blair statements calling for the imposition of a flight ban on Darfur. The message also includes Blair response to Gadaffi criticism.

#### **Ministry of Foreign calls the UN to hold talks with the DPA non- signatories as soon as possible.**

*AlSahafa* Ambassador Sadiq Al Magli, the Director of the Peace Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said that the full cooperation of the government to implement this first phase of the package expressing hope that the United Nations would give priority to what has been agreed upon during the Addis Ababa and Abuja meetings and to boost the ceasefire between the parties.

#### **Secretary of the political relations at the NC Mustafa Ismail says the Democratic Unionist party supports national stances.**

*Sudan Vision* The NCP of Sudan is holding several meetings with leaders of the Sudanese political parties to conduct consultations on the National Sudanese issue.

In this respect, Secretary of the political relations at the NC, Dr. Mustafa Ismail ha said the DUP has been supporting the national stance and presenting the pioneering experiments in these hard circumstances in Sudan history.

## **Darfur**

### **Minnawi submits ministerial candidates to the presidency.**

*AlSahafa* Senior Presidential assistance and head of interim authority Minni Minnawi submitted yesterday list of SLM ministerial candidates to the presidency.

Minnawi has said the list includes 2 federal Ministers, 2 state ministers, 2 ministers in Khartoum states, a governor and 3 MPs.

He added that the list includes in addition to his faction candidates of other SLM signatory factions such as JEM and Free Will movement.

### **Deputy Governor of S. Kordofan visits Al Fula to calm situation.**

*AlSahafa* Deputy Governor of S. Kordofan Dr. Eisa Bushra arrived yesterday Rigl el Fula accompanied by a group of S. Kordofan State ministers and NCP leaders to calm situations west of the State. A storm of protest had been raised last days by civilians west S. Kordofan against the deterioration of public services. Protestors refused to meet Bushra assuring they would only meet institutions that are able to solve their problems.

### **Umma leader Sadiq el Mahdi criticises the existence of three forces in Darfur; Communist leader Nugud suggest a popular committee to hold talks with Darfur armed groups.**

*AlSahafa* Secretary General of Communist Party, Mohammed Ibrahim Nugud, has called for the formation of widely represented popular committee to hold talks with the armed groups and Janjaweed to stop violence in Darfur.

On his part the Umma Party leader el-Sadiq el-Mahdi has criticized the existence of three international forces in Darfur. El Mahdi also criticized the 2007 budget pointing out that it will increase poverty rate in Sudan.

### **Prominent SLM leader resigns; says Minnawi is responsible for deteriorating situations in Darfur.**

*AllIntibaha* SLM prominent leader Mahjoub Hussein has resigned yesterday from SLM. The SLM leader Abakar Mohamed Rashid accused the senior Presidential assistant Minnawi of deteriorating situations in Darfur. He pointed out that Minnawi has established weak institutions that are easy to be over taken.

In the context of resignation letter, he accused SLM-Minnawi as being the mastermind of all Darfur crises and the deteriorating relations with other movements and neighbouring countries.

### **Nigerian President satisfied with GoS stance over hybrid forces.**

*AllIntibaha* .President el Bashir received a hand written message from Nigerian president and former head of the AU Olusegun Obasanjo calling for adoption of the latest initiative forwarded by the council of wise African leaders as a permanent solution to the conflict in Darfur the initiative relies mainly on logistics, financial and technical support by the UN to assist in the AU mission in Darfur.

In his message Obasanjo expressed his appreciation for the continued confidence of the Sudanese people and government in the leadership of AU while calling for support of the DPA and Tripoli agreement and stressing the command of AU in the upcoming mission.

### **International team arrive Sudan soon to investigate armament of Darfur movements.**

*AlSahafa* UN team will arrive to Sudan within coming days to investigate bodies supporting armament of Darfur movements.

Reliable source says the UN team had already finished a visit to Port Sudan and met officials there to find out whether weapons flow through the Port. The investigation team hold periodically meetings in the African Union HQ in Addis Ababa, the sources affirmed.

### **Sudan urges evacuated aid workers to return to Darfur.**

*SudanTribune.com* Sudanese authorities urged the return to South Darfur refugee camps of the United Nations aid workers who were evacuated ten days ago after gunmen looted their compounds, the UNMIS news bulletin reported.

Sudanese authorities in South Darfur demanded the return of the UN aid worker and international NGOs to the largest refugee camp of Gereida. The UN officials agreed but they said they would conduct a security assessment mission before.

The emergency meeting was held in Gereida Tuesday 26 December between the Deputy Wali, local law enforcement agencies, UNMIS and UN Security to discuss the current tenuous security situation and lack of humanitarian access to the community. The area is under the control of SLA/MM.

A group of over 20 gunmen raided several humanitarian compounds in the South Darfur refugee camp of Gereida late Monday 18 December, harassing staff and stealing vehicles, communication equipment and money, the U.N. Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said in a statement.

### **SLM Minawi summons 3 commanders to contact the military command**

*SudanTribune.com* A former rebel group which signed a peace deal with the Sudanese government summoned three commanders who reportedly rejoined the holdout groups to contact their military command.

The Sudan Liberation Movement faction led by Minni Minawi requested three of its field commanders to contact their military command within one week.

According to al-Sudani newspaper the SLM-MM convened Mohamed Ali Klai, Mohamed Hamid Darbayen and Salah Mustafa Jok to present them selves to the military command of the faction.

This move confirms statements made by Darfur holdout rebel groups that leading commanders from Minawi faction had joined the rebellion.

The former Political advisor of Minawi Ibrahim Ahmed Ibrahim addressed an appeal on 17 December to the Presidential Senior aide urging him to rejoin the rebellion. Ibrahim said in his letter to Minawi that his retraction from the deal is a “national duty”.

According to his former partisans, Minawi had signed the DPA in spite of the opposition of his delegation to the deal. After the signing, he promised to hold a general conference of the group to approve the agreement; but he never did.

Sudanese president has publicly said that most of Minawi followers have joined the holdout rebel groups.

### **First batch of UN advisers arrives tomorrow to Darfur - official.**

*SudanTribune.com* Sudan announced that the first batch of the United Nations troops in support of the African Union would arrive tomorrow to Sudan’s troubled Darfur region.

Twenty policemen and eighteen military advisers from Africa and Asia will arrive Thursday to the capital of North Darfur Al-Fasher. This group constitutes the vanguard of first batch of the assistance package provided by the UN to the African Mission in Sudan.

In a letter sent to the UN Secretary General, president al-Bashir confirmed Sudan’s agreement to the implementation of the Light and Heavy Support Packages of assistance to the AU. Details of the implementation of these will be formalized through the Tripartite Mechanism, the next meeting of which is scheduled for 10 January.

A total of 38 UN military and police advisers will be on the ground in Darfur before the end of the year. Nine are already in Al-Fasher. The remaining military advisers (a total of 105 under the first phase) and police advisers (a total of 33) and 48 civilians will deploy during January.

From a legal perspective, the current Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) which regulates the relationship between the UN Mission in Sudan and the Government of Sudan will be extended to cover UN staff in Darfur providing support to AMIS, as well as to the eventual hybrid force.

As well as personnel support to AMIS, the first phase of the US\$ 21 million assistance package from UNMIS, will also include equipment, such as vehicles, computers and communications equipment.

### **Violence displaces more civilians in Darfur.**

*SudanTribune.com* Thousands of people have gone into hiding in hills near the North Darfur village of Abu Sakin after Arab militias continued their destructive rampage across parts of the western Sudanese region, aid workers said.

A United Nations assessment mission on Saturday found the village of Abu Sakin completely deserted and looted. More than 50 houses had been burnt to the ground to discourage the villagers from returning there.

Meanwhile, government security forces have increased the number of roadblocks in the North Darfur capital of El Fasher following Saturday's shooting of a police officer and an increase in car-jacking.

The violence has continued elsewhere, after 10 Janjaweed militias are alleged to have attacked two trucks carrying food aid in Habila Kanari, West Darfur. The driver of one of the vehicles was injured in the ambush.

In Jebel Marra, fresh fighting has forced people to abandon their homes in Zalingei, with Hamadia camp receiving 200 more people over the weekend, UN News reported on Tuesday.

An estimated four million people in the western Sudanese region of Darfur now depend on humanitarian aid as result of fighting between government forces, allied militias and rebel groups, according to the UN. At least 200,000 people have been killed and two million others forced to flee their homes over the past three years.

## **GoSS**

**SPLM rejects evolving members of southern Defence Forces in security organs.**  
*AllIntibaha* An informative source has revealed a decision to be taken by early 2007 to dissolve Southern Sudanese Defence Forces. Meanwhile the SPLA rejects enlisting of other groups of SSDF in police forces of south.

### **Disagreement between the CPA partners continues in Blue Nile States**

*AllIntibaha.* The CPA parties return to disagreement in Blue Nile State .deployment of the joint forces had been %100 implemented, says the State Governor. Meanwhile SPLM SG in the State criticized the statement by the state Governor describing it a groundless.

## **Other Developments**

### **One thousands five hundreds Sudanese refugees return from Ethiopia.**

*Sudan Vision* One thousands five Sudanese refugees have returned from Younga refugee camp in Ethiopia back to shale in Sudanese Kurmuk district. The refugees have been arriving at Shale from the 24th of this month. Those who remain from a total of 6100 refugees have not been able to make their way back due to routes as, explained by Blue Nile humanitarian assistance commissioner Abdallah Ali Foad. The World food Programme provided 112 metric tones of food sufficient to sustain the refugees for a period of three month.



