

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS**Media Monitoring Report, 30 December 07

(By Public Information Office)

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Highlights

UN/ Agencies

UN to convene a meeting on helicopters shortage for Darfur force

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 28 Dec. UNITED NATIONS) Peacekeeping troops in the Darfur region of Sudan may obtain helicopters with help from the U.K. as the United Nations and African Union prepare to take joint command of the force.

The U.K. mission to the UN will convene a meeting of nations sending troops to Darfur to coordinate proposals for getting helicopters, British envoy Michael Hoare said yesterday. The UN is considering offers that don't include pilots or maintenance crews, and ideas for purchasing helicopters from private contractors, none of which would fulfill mission requirements.

The UN flag will be raised at the mission's headquarters in El Fasher on Dec. 31, and African troops that have been in Darfur since 2004 will switch to the blue berets of the UN. Little else will change immediately, UN officials said, in part because the force lacks the 24 helicopters needed to patrol an area the size of France.

Read more <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25362>

Hybrid force for Darfur set to deploy on 31 December – UN

(UN – 28 Dec.) The United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur ([UNAMID](#)), set to become the world body's largest peacekeeping operation with some 26,000 personnel at full strength, is poised to officially take over on Monday from the AU force currently on the ground trying to quell the violence and suffering in the war-wracked region of western Sudan.

The transfer of authority from the AU Mission in the Sudan (AMIS) to the new hybrid operation will take place during a signing ceremony at UNAMID's headquarters in the North Darfur capital of El Fasher on 31 December, the UN said in a news release today. At that time, AU troops will exchange their green headgear for the UN's blue beret.

Authorized by the Security Council on 31 July, UNAMID will have some 20,000 troops and more than 6,000 police and civilian staff at full strength.

There are currently more than 9,000 uniformed personnel on the ground, including 7,000 troops and 1,200 police serving with the AMIS, which was established in 2004 to help bring peace to Darfur, as well as UN soldiers and police officers serving as part of the UN's "heavy" and "light support packages" deployed to support AMIS over the last year.

At the same time, UN officials have cautioned that some of the critical equipment necessary to support the troops is still lacking – particularly air assets such as helicopters – and have appealed to Member States to close this critical gap.

The new mission is headed by the AU-UN Joint Special Representative for Darfur, Rodolphe Adada, and is mandated to protect civilians where possible, facilitate humanitarian assistance and help provide a secure environment in which peace can take root.

Along with UNAMID's deployment, the UN and AU are continuing efforts on the political front to broker a comprehensive peace accord between the Government of Sudan and Darfur's many rebel movements.

GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

SAF denies JEM allegations on downing air fighter

(*AlRai AlAam*)The Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) on Friday denied that rebels in had shot down SAF aircraft at Kondawa area, East of Nyala in South Darfur State.

"This is just false information," Office Director of the SAF spokesperson Brig. Alsawarmi Khalid Saad told (*AL-Rai Alam* daily), adding that the allegation of downing SAF aircraft was a mere political propaganda.

He added that the rebels were seeking political gain by putting out sensational information, calling on the mass media institutions to abide by objectivity in the news reporting.

JEM leading figure Abubakler Hamid had told reporters that JEM forces hit the plane in west Darfur, pointing out that the plane went down near south Darfur's main town of Nyala.

President Al-Bashir receives telephone call from French President

(*SUNA*— 29 Dec. KHARTOUM) President of the Republic Field Marshal Omer Al-Bashir received Saturday a telephone call from French President Nicolas Sarkozy.

SUNA learnt that President Sarkozy expressed regret and denunciation over the Chadian aggression on the Sudanese territories and requested President Al-Bashir to exercise self-restraint and solve the problem through the diplomatic and political channels.

President Sarkozy pledged during the telephone call that France would play a prominent role in resolving the matter. President Al-Bashir thanked his French

counterpart and invited him to visit Sudan and President Sarkozy accepted the invitation which would be determined through the diplomatic channels. BT/BT

Renewal of clashes between SPLA and Miseriya, reports on killing 60 people, hundreds suffer injuries

(*Akhbar Alyaum, AlWifaq, AlSudani, AlWatan*) The security situation in the border areas of the South Kordofan and North Bahr Al-Ghazal States witnessed further deterioration yesterday. Reports received by Akhbar Alyaum from Al-Muglad, Al-Meram, Al-Fula and Khartoum suggest that clashes between the SPLA and Miseriya were resumed yesterday morning when SPLA personnel fired at the Miseriya cattle and killed five heads in Al-Girinty area. However, AlWifaq reported that the SPLA personnel looted the Miseriya cattle and refused to return them back on the request of the Miseriya. In retaliation, the Miseriya attacked and occupied the SPLA camp in Al-Juruf area. According to the Miseriya leaders 17 Miseriya were killed and 18 others wounded.

A delegation from the Miseriya MPs and community leaders is now visiting the area. It is also expected that the Wali of South Kordofan and his State Security Committee will pay a visit to the area.

The SPLA Deputy Chief of Staff (Operations), Maj-Gen James Hout, said in a statement to AlSudani that a force of the Maraheel and the Popular Defence Forces (PDF) attacked at 10 am yesterday the SPLA camp in Al-Girinty area.

MP Angoy Deng (from Bahr Al-Ghazal) accused the Miseriya and the SAF of attacking the SPLA camp in Majok area south of River Kiir.

Presidency sets up three committees for national reconciliation and laws contradicting the constitution

(*AlSahafa*) The Presidency has resolved in its meeting yesterday to set up three committees for national reconciliation, amendment of laws and the police law. The committees which will be announced within 48 hours are required to submit their reports by the 9th of January.

The Presidency (Bashir, Kiir, and Taha) meeting discussed the tense situation in Al-Meram area in South Kordofan and decided to send a joint NCP-SPLM delegation to the area to contain the situation.

The Presidency agreed to hold its next meeting on the 7th of January. The meeting will be briefed by the Joint Defence Board.

Anti-Polio Campaign Launched Saturday in all Northern States

(*SUNA— 29 Dec. KHARTOUM*) A three-day anti-polio campaign was launched Saturday in all the northern states to target more than six million children at the age of less than five years.

The polio expert at the World Health organization (WHO), Dr. Salah Al-Haithami, said that the WHO has provided in cooperation with UNICEF 2.8 million dollars for success of the anti-polio campaign, besides support and facilities extended by the

government. He said that the campaign coincides with similar ones in neighboring African countries.

Sudan accuses Chadian army of violating its territory

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 28 Dec. KHARTOUM) Sudan accused Chad today of violating its airspace, and territory, denying Chad's accusations of supporting the neighboring rebels.

Khartoum foreign ministry said on Friday that three military aircrafts violated Sudan's airspace and bombed Rajel al-Harzia and Karmolah localities, 56 km southern east el-Geniana, the capital of West Darfur. Sudan also, said Chadian troops incursed into Sudanese territory, on Friday December 28 in the morning.

The statement disclosed that Karmolah had been air attacked in mid December without elaborating.

Yesterday, Chadian government spokesperson Hourmadji Moussa Doumgor accused Sudan of arming Chadian rebels to block the deployment of European troops that expected to be deployed in Chad and Central African Republic.

The foreign ministry said that Chadian allegations are just an attempt to cover the host of a meeting held by the rebel Justice and Equality Movement in the mountainous area of Bhai, inside Chadian territory. It further said that the rebel movement obtained N'djamena support that conducted to deteriorate the security situation in western Sudan. **Read more** <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25355>

Sudan lodges complaint to Security Council against Chad

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 29 Dec. KHARTOUM) Sudan has lodged a complaint to the UN Security Council over incursion of Chadian troops and military plane inside its territory the previous day.

Sudan has filled an urgent complaint to the Security Council against Chad, through its Representative to the United Nations in New York, Abdelmahmood Abdelhalim, exposing the Chadian stances and its repeated aggressions on the country's borders, the latest of which was the air and troops' attack Friday on Sudan Western borders, the official SUNA reported on Saturday.

Sudan asked in this complaint that the Security Council assume its responsibilities and ask Chad to stop its attacks against Sudanese territory.

Minister of Interior regrets confrontation between SPLA and Miseriya

(*AIRai AlAam*) Ministry of Interior has expressed regret over clashes erupted between the SPLA and Miseriya tribesmen which left 11 persons dead and other 15 wounded in two successive attacks.

A statement issued by the Ministry on Friday said the freedom of movement was stipulated by the constitution, adding that any person has the right of movement without any restrictions.

The statement stressed the prohibition of carrying unlicensed, calling on the two parties to be committed to the spirit of the CPA, as the peace agreement was considered as the sole solution to the country's crisis.

Presidency resumes meeting, discusses Abyei and other issues

(*Akhbar Alyaum*) The Presidency is expected to resume its meeting today. The meeting would be devoted to discuss Abyei issue as well as the recent clashes in South Kordofan and Northern Bahr el- Ghazal States. Meanwhile, First Vice-President Salva Kiir was learnt to have instructed, in a meeting he held Friday morning with his Ministers participating in the Cabinet to put into account the challenges confronting the up coming period.

Joint Defense Council to meet on 5th January Next Year

(*SMC*) The joint defense council headed by Gen Way Deng should hold meeting on 5th of January next year to discuss redeployment of Armed forces and SPLA forces to north and south of border line of 1956 respectively.

Former Sudan FM says he was targeted since appointment

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 28 Dec. KHARTOUM) Sudanese former foreign minister said he was targeted by some people who working to oust him from his position since his appointment in the national unity government.

Lam Akol told Ashrouq TV, a new private channel in Khartoum, that his removal from the national cabinet was an ordinary matter and he was not surprised. He further accused some persons of being behind his dismissal.

Lam added these people are the same who were targeting Telar Ring Deng, the former state minister at the presidency and Aleu Ayeng Aleu, the former state minister of Interior.

It was a campaign from "people that we know their objectives, with whom they are working and who is backing them" he told the pro-National Congress Party TV channel. However he declined to name them.

The former foreign minister stressed that accusations of implementing the NCP policy directed against him are baseless. He said such allegations are spread by people who ignore the decision making process in the state or they wanted to damage his reputation.

Sudan Central Bank to deal only in euros, advises to avoid dollar

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 28 Dec. KHARTOUM) The Central Bank of Sudan has announced it would deal only in the Euro starting from Jan. 1, and advised local commercial banks to opt for convertible currencies other than the U.S. dollar.

The announcement, made public in a circular note distributed to the banks late Thursday, reflected efforts by the central authorities to steer away from the weak dollar amid a Sudanese economic boom.

The new policy note, signed by central bank Governor Sabir Mohamed al-Hassan, said all central bank dealings would be in the Euro starting with the New Year. For an unspecified provisional period, dealings along with the Euro would also be possible in the Saudi riyal and the Emirates dirham.

GoSS

SPLM Ministers oath taking signifies end of partners' crisis

(Sudan Vision) SPLM Deputy Chairman, Dr. Riek Machar, stated that SPLM ministers who have recently taken the oath before the President of the Republic will implement the program of the Government of National Unity while SPLM leader and Minister for Presidential Affairs,

Dr. Luka Biong described the swearing in of SPLM ministers as an important step for overriding the two partners' crisis.

Machar on the other hand revealed that former Foreign Minister, Dr. Lam Akol, has been withdrawn from the list of executive post for the purpose of being assigned other tasks though he did not disclose the nature of those tasks.

Dr. Biong meanwhile added that the coming phase transcends the Abyei crisis and poses a challenge in real terms for the NCP and SPLM to build a robust partnership and get set for the elections.

He further told Sudan Vision that dropping some names in the SPLM ministerial list will not affect the performance of SPLM considering that it is a movement with established constitutionality, added to the fact that the posts themselves are only temporary for an interim period.

Biong explained that exclusion of some SPLM leaders from the ministerial list was for the purposes of internal reorganization and upgrading the movement's performance rather than a difference in viewpoints so that SPLM will be rendered capable of competing with the NCP. He said SPLM intends to hold a general popular conference to keep on track, lay down regulations for running its affairs and eliminate any residues of misunderstanding between SPLM, other political parties and the Sudanese community at large.

He reiterated that the new ministerial list has observed geographic, state-wise and tribal representation as well as representation of all the trends and the capacities present in the South, indicating that the list was drawn after exhaustive deliberations so that the new ministers will be capable of contributing effectively to their local and external executive work.

He further disclosed that SPLM ministers in the Government of National Unity held a deliberative meeting with the First Vice President of the Republic yesterday for

working out means for engaging in the activities of the coming phase as a unified harmonious team.

Presidential Advisor, Andrew Makur, has affirmed his keenness after taking oath Thursday to dedicate himself to work for the interest of Sudan.

SPLM Presidential Advisor, William Ajal Deng, also affirmed that the coming stage requires awareness about its importance and commitment of all parties to perform their roles and responsibilities for implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and the welfare of the nation. Deng said that the oath taking of the SPLM ministers marked the beginning of a new era of joint work and cooperation between the SPLM and the National Congress to implement the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and to surpass differences in compliance with the recent agreement between the two partners.

Darfur

Police returns AU vehicle carjacked by armed group

(*AlSudani*) North Darfur police had succeeded to retrieve a vehicle affiliated to a company working for the AU after it was carjacked by an unidentified armed group.

Deputy State Police Director Brig. Ahmed Atta Almanan told reporters the armed group threatened two of the Russian workers of the company inside Abu shouk IDPs camp, carjacked the vehicle and fled away from Alfashir city, capital of North Darfur.

SPLM organizes capacity building workshops for Darfur rebel movements

(*Alwan*) The SPLM has resolved to resume its special efforts, in coordination with the GoNU, UNMIS, AU and Darfur rebel movements with the aim to making the coming round of talks between the GoNU and Darfur rebels a success.

SPLM official assigned to follow up Darfur dossier Father Clement Genda told (SMC) that SPLM would organize during the coming day's capacity- building workshops for the various Darfur rebel movements, united in recently in Juba, adding that the workshops would be adopted by UNAMID.

He reiterated SPLM's determination to continue its unswerving support to attain sustain

Fathi Khalil describes trial of the accused of French Zoe's Ark organization as mock trial

(*SUNA— 30 Dec. KHARTOUM*) Dean of Sudanese Bar Association, Fathi Khalil, has described trial of the accused of the French Zoe's Ark organization as mock trial. Speaking to Sudan News Agency's press forum on Saturday, Khalil said the trial is a blow to justice. Compensating families of the abductees is just a dust in the eyes, he added. The Chadian authorities prevented the Sudanese advocates to look into the proceedings of previous sessions, said advocate, Atayib Haroun who took part in the trial.

Britain provides copters for the hybrid

(*AlRai AlAam*) Sources in the UN expect Britain to provide helicopters for the hybrid force in Darfur which will shoulder the responsibility of peacekeeping as of Monday. The British Representative in the Security Council said his country will organize a meeting for the troop contributing countries so as coordinate efforts for providing 24 copters for the hybrid force in Darfur.

JEM says it has occupied Silaia area west Darfur

(*AlSudani*) JEM said it has occupied yesterday Silaia town in western Darfur. A senior security official admitted fighting in the area but did not confirm occupation of the town. JEM Deputy President, Mohamed Bahr Hamadain, told *AlSudani* that they have occupied Silaia town (50 kms north of Geneina) at 5:30 pm yesterday.

Chadian Sudanese Abducted Children Case a Political Deal between

(*SMC*— 29 Dec.) Child Care National Council (CCNC) urges the international community and human rights organizations to condemn the nominal conviction issued by Chadian court regarding abduction attempt against Sudanese and Chadian children. The CCNC issued statement highlighted that the local regional and international communities were surprised by the transportation of the convicted persons to France yesterday.

The CCNC however accuses Chad that it did not deal with transparency regarding in the case. It describes the conviction made by the court as apolitical deal between French and Chadian governments

Convicted French national Transported from Chad to France

(*SMC*— 29 Dec.) The French convicted nationals by Chadian court in the case of the abduction attempt committed against 103 Children from Darfur transported yesterday from Chad to France by a charter plan. It was reported the convicted persons should complete sentence to eight year in prison in French according to the court verdict.

Mubarak & Sarkozy Discuss Situation in Darfur

(*SMC*— 29 Dec.) President Hussani Mubarak will meet tomorrow with his French counter part Nicolas Sarkozy who is currently visiting Egypt. Besides the bilateral relationship the two leaders should discuss situation in Darfur Iraq and Lebanon Sarkozy was quoted yesterday saying that the peaceful settlement for Darfur is as significant as the deployment of hybrid troops in the region.

Darfur rebel JEM claims control of army base

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 29 Dec. KHARTOUM) The rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) today said it had taken control of a Sudanese army garrison in West Darfur.

"JEM forces have taken full control of control over GoS Silaiaa garrison at the outskirts of el-Geneina," the capital of West Darfur state, the rebel movement said in a military communiqué. JEM added it would release more details on the operation "later".

The Sudanese army was not immediately available to comment on the unconfirmed report.

The rebels said that the attack on Silaiaa is a step towards the control of el-Geneina.

Darfur rebel group rejects Egyptian, Chinese and Pakistani troops

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 28 Dec. JUBA) Troops from 3 countries are not welcome in Darfur, Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) said in a statement today.

The rebel SLM led by Ahmed Abdelshafi Toba said that Egyptian troops are "nothing but intelligence units used to support the National Congress Party (NCP) government".

The statement accused the Chinese government of blocking UN Security Council (UNSC) resolutions punishing Khartoum and providing the Sudanese government with weapons used to "commit genocide and human rights violation".

The spokesperson of the group, Esam Eddin al-Haj, said the SLM do not want "Pakistani troops and forces from any country that harbor terrorists".

However on the other side of the conflict Justice and Equality Movement and SLM of Abdelwahid al-Nur rebel groups expressed reservations with regard to Chinese troops.

Sudanese army denies Darfur rebels claim of downing plane

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 28 Dec. KHARTOUM) The Sudanese army on Friday denied that Darfur rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) had shot down a government aircraft in West Darfur.

JEM leader Khalil Ibrahim said Thursday that his troops hit an Antonov plane as it flew over Geneina, the capital of West Darfur state which rebels claim to have surrounded, but that it went down near south Darfur's main town of Nyala.

"This is just false information," armed forces spokesman General Osman al-Aghbach told the Sudanese Media Centre news agency which is close to Sudanese intelligence services.

He added that the rebels "are seeking political gain by putting out sensational information," referring to JEM leader statements where he declared Darfur a no fly zone urging commercial, humanitarian and peacekeeping plans to request a prior authorization from his group.

The JEM leader said this applied to "government aviation including commercial flights and we ask that organizations like the United Nations inform us in advance of their flight plans so that they are not targeted."

"We don't want to victimize anyone but we are targeting the government who are using civilian aircraft for their operations." He underscored.

The United Nations has reported that the government has used white aircraft for offensive operations in Darfur, a move which was condemned by the world body. White is the universal color for humanitarian or peacekeeping aircraft and distinguishes them from combatants.

Darfur rebel leader urges to pressurize Sudan over Peacekeeping force

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 27 Dec. KHARTOUM) Darfur rebel leader today urged the international community to pressurize Khartoum to facilitate the deployment of Darfur peacekeeping force to curb the ongoing violence against the civilians and to create conducive environment for the peace talks.

In an interview with Sudan Tribune on the eve of the New Year, the founder of the Sudan Liberation Movement, requested the international community to help him to find a lasting peace in 2008.

Al-Nur said his demand for the security of Darfur civilians should be adopted by all the peace lovers in the world adding it is a necessary matter before to start peace negotiations with Khartoum. **Read more** <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25350>

Chad says Sudan arms rebels to block EU peace force

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 27 Dec. KHARTOUM) Chad has warned the European Union that delay in deploying peacekeepers on its eastern border with Sudan risked "setting the region ablaze", and it accused its neighbor of arming Chadian rebels to block the EU mission.

Chad's government held a crisis meeting late on Wednesday to confront what it said was the threat of attack from its larger Chinese-backed neighbor Sudan, which has resisted efforts to deploy international peacekeepers to war-torn Darfur.

"(This) new aggression on the greatest scale aims to destabilize Chad and block the deployment of Eufor forces in Chad and Central African Republic as well as the formation of a hybrid U.N.-African force in Darfur," government spokesman Hourmadji Moussa Doumgor told state radio after the meeting.

"Any delay in deploying the hybrid forces in Darfur and those of Eufor in Chad and Central African Republic will inevitably result in the region being set ablaze," he said, warning Sudan-backed rebel attacks against Chad were imminent.

Government officials in Khartoum, which accuses Chad in turn of aiding Sudanese rebels, could not be reached for comment.