



## UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN

### UNMIS

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(By Public Information Office)

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# Highlights

## UN/ Agencies

### **UN Urges SPLA & Miseriya for Self Control (SMC)**

**Sunday 30 December 2007, Al Muglad (smc)**, The dead and injured casualties in the confrontation between SPLA and Miseriya tribe at Al Meram area in south Kordofan state amounted to more than 46 persons from Miseriya tribe.

Meanwhile United National Mission in Sudan UNMIS however calls the two parties for self control. UNMIS spokeswoman Radhia Achouri has expressed regret for the clashes resulting in death and injury of casualties from both sides. Achouri said the UN is worried about these incidents and calls SPLA and Miseriya to deal with the situation there with considerable responsibility. Achouri acknowledges that the area needs stability and resolution of conflicts in order to guarantee better future for the inhabitants of the area. She explains that UN has no direct role of intervention in such incidents. Whoever she said the responsibility for controlling the situation falls on the state authorities.

According to sources in the field from Mujlad, SPLA has started mobilizing reinforcements at Al Garf area since last Friday. The source however urges SPLA pullout forces southward of January 1956 borderline. According to the sources SPLA forces were moved 50 kilometer deep northward of 1956 borderline. (smc) learnt that one of prominent named Al Sayed Ambia from Awlad Kamil clan of Missaria tribe was killed in the incidents.

Injured persons who were rescued to Hglig or Khartoum hospitals namely are: Al Daw Hamad: Yousif Mahadi: Mustafa Mukhtar: Al Mahadi Aboud: Ali Abdallah Khalifa: Syousfi Adam: Salim Mohammed Omer: Ibrahim Idris and Al Fki Randeed.

### **WORLD NEWS: Depleted UN force joins peace effort in Darfur (FT)**

HARVEY MORRIS, Source: Financial Times USA, Date: December 31, 2007, A joint United Nations African Union force takes over peacekeeping operations in the **Sudanese** province of **Darfur** today with barely a third of its planned 26,000 personnel deployed.

It is an inauspicious start to what was to have been the world's largest peacekeeping operation, mandated to aid and protect the hundreds of thousands of civilians displaced in more than four years of conflict between the Khartoum government and its militia allies and **Darfur** rebel groups.

UN officials, including Ban Ki-moon, the UN secretary-general, have accused Khartoum of "foot-dragging" over the deployment of nonAfrican contingents. But the new force, Unamid, is also being hampered by the failure of UN member states to provide the hardware to make the peacekeeping effort effective.

Unamid will take over command today from an all-African force, Amis. Apart from existing African peacekeepers exchanging their green headgear for the blue berets of the UN, little will change in the short term.

The result of Khartoum's refusal to accept peacekeepers from Thailand, Nepal and Scandinavia is that the new force is, at 9,000, barely larger than the ineffective and poorly funded all-African force that has failed to halt the bloodshed in **Darfur**.

An estimated 2.5m people have been driven from their land since the **Darfur** conflict broke out in 2003 and at least 200,000 have been killed, many of them victims of pro-government militias.

Rwandan and Nigerian battalions have been added, along with an advanced party of Chinese military engineers. But the troops will lack the transport and attack helicopters needed to operate in the vast territory.

Mr Ban lamented this month that despite his appeals to every UN member state capable of providing helicopter support, none had come forward with offers. He has declined to name the reluctant contributors, who might be wary of committing their hardware to a mission that appears doomed not to meet its objectives.

The idea of a unique, "hybrid" UN-AU force was set out in UN Security Council resolution 1769 in July, which expressed concern at attacks on civilians and humanitarian workers in **Darfur**.

The Unamid peacekeepers would have a mandate to use force to protect civilians and themselves.

The UN has at the same time been pursuing a political track towards a settlement between Khartoum and the rebels. But talks launched in Libya in October have made little progress, partly because of the refusal of key rebel groups to attend.

### **UN leader Ban Ki-moon focused on climate change and peace in Darfur in first year (AP)**

EDITH M. LEDERER, Associated Press Writer, Date: December 29, 2007, UNITED NATIONS Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon flew 125,000 miles (200,000 kilometers) and visited six continents during his first year as U.N. chief, gaining a reputation as a workaholic and a staunch advocate for peace in **Darfur** and global action to combat climate change.

But at U.N. headquarters, he's had a tougher time making progress on his goal of changing U.N. culture and re-engineering a giant international bureaucracy where 192 countries often have competing interests so the U.N. can better deal with today's fast-paced world.

And despite being an avid globetrotter \_ 132 days on the road in 39 countries or territories \_ Ban Ki-moon has yet to become a household name, though his predecessor, Kofi Annan, wasn't either in his first year. Ban also has yet to master the soundbite, which is critical for a global personality.

By all accounts, his greatest success has been in highlighting the dramatic impact of climate change \_ from melting glaciers in Antarctica to the disappearance of much of Lake Chad \_ and helping to galvanize world opinion and get political leaders to launch negotiations on a new treaty to curb global warming.

In a message on his first year in office, Ban called the agreement earlier this month at the climate change conference on the Indonesian island of Bali "the year's key achievement." Britain's U.N. Ambassador John Sawers echoed many diplomats and observers when he said "climate change stands out as an issue where he has made an impact."

"He played a personal role in Bali in getting a solution in a very difficult and complex end game there, and a solution which was way above the expectations of a number of players at the outset," Sawers said.

As for **Darfur**, the British envoy added that "nobody can doubt the energy and commitment that he's put into **Sudan**" and trying to end the nearly five-year conflict that has killed over 200,000 people and uprooted 2.5 million from their homes.

Ban has faced up to the "deeply recalcitrant regime in Khartoum ... and been more tenacious than previous secretary-generals have been in similar situations," Sawers said.

The secretary-general said no political issue has taken more of his time in 2007 than **Darfur**.

A year ago, he said, there was no movement toward peace, but today talks have started \_ although without many key players \_ and a joint U.N.-African Union peacekeeping force to eventually number 26,000 troops will start deploying on Jan. 1.

"The challenge for the coming year is to work continuously with the **Sudan** government, rebel movements, representatives of civil society and regional leaders, as well as the U.N. Security Council and the international community, to ensure the ultimate success of both the talks and the military mission," Ban said in his message.

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

### **Sudan SPLM accuse certain parties of igniting clashes on north-south border**

December 30, 2007 (KHARTOUM) — Sudan's former southern rebels accused certain parties of standing behind some of the worst clashes on north-south border region over the last week.

“We have information on their identities but we are exercising prudence before publishing it so that it doesn’t jeopardize any future investigations” said Pagan Amum Secretary-General of the Sudan People Liberation Movement (SPLM) during a press conference covered by Sudan official news agency (SUNA).

SPLA and nomadic Miseriea tribe on Saturday confirmed reports about renewed fighting in South Kordofan and Northern Bahr Al-Ghazal. Misseriya tribal leaders said the fighting started when southern forces began bombarding them.

However, the SPLM accused their northern partner of attacking them for the second time in a week in clashes which claimed dozens of people.

Amum said that SPLM chairman Salva Kiir instructed their units not to attack the Misseriya tribe or any other tribes in the area.

“Kiir ordered the government of Southern Sudan to facilitate the movement of the nomadic Arab tribes in the south and promote peaceful coexistence in the border region” he added.

The SPLM official called on the Misseriya tribe “not to be used as a fuel in the clashes”. He added that his party held meetings with the NCP figures to contain the violence and carry out investigation on the responsible party.

Yasir Arman, deputy SPLM secretary general warned against any attempts to “damage our relationship with the Miseriea tribe”.

(ST)

### **NCP delegation says arrested and tortured in South Sudan (ST)**

December 30, 2007 (KHARTOUM) — A delegation for the National Congress Party (NCP) accused the southern Sudan army of arresting and torturing them while they were in visit to Renk in Upper Nile State.

During the Christmas festivities, the NCP sent delegations to different towns in southern Sudan to participate in religious festivals and ceremonies. According to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, the NCP shares power with the ruling party in the southern Sudan, SPLM.

Member of Parliament and head of NCP delegation to Renk, Fadwa Deng, said today that all members of the delegation were arrested by the Sudan People’s Liberation Army (SPLA) and tortured over accusation that they came to the area without the authorization of the SPLA.

Deng said she wasn’t tortured but received death threats from SPLA officers interrogating here.

According to a press statement released on Sunday in Khartoum, the arrest occurred in the locality of Molbok, 73 km south of Renk, while they were in the house of the mayor of Molbok, Edor Aleu on December 22, 2007.

MP Fadwa said they were accused of betraying the southern Sudan cause by their adhesion to the NCP.

However, the delegation was released two days later and transported to Renk where they met the SPLM officials who offered their apology for the incident.

(ST)

### **SPLM moves to restore calm in Bahar El Ghazal (The Citizen)**

Commander Abdelrahman Jubara (Miseriya SPLM) said that they had paid enlightening visits to SPLA units at Abyei, Bantiu, Bahr El Ghazal North, Kadugli and Aweil. He said they addressed the SPLA soldiers in order to calm down the tense situation and informed them about the leadership orders to stay as defenders.

Commander Jubara further disclosed that a high delegation from Khartoum headed by the six-man committee and prominent NCP member Dirdiry Mohamed Ahmed, the ex-MPs of Abyei Mahdi Babo Nimir, al Khair al Fahim, Kordofan Development headman Ahmed al Salih and Abdelrasoul al Nour arrived at Al-Meram area to help calm the situation.

### **Kiir instructs SPLA to remain in defensive positions in Al-Meram (AlRai AlAam)**

(Al-Rai AlAam, Sahafa, SMC)-The SPLM has accused unidentified parties of attempting to sow seeds of sedition between the SPLM and Miseriya tribesmen and strike the distinguished historical relations between the North and the South.

The SPLM noted that these parties were seeking to add fuel to the erupted crisis between the two sides capitalizing on the security tensions in South Kordofan and North Bahr el Ghazal States.

First Vice-President and Leader of the SPLM Silva Kiir instructed the SPLA to remain in defensive positions and refrain from attacking Miseriya and other border tribes.

In the meantime, SPLM' Secretary – General Pagan Amum accused some circles, which he did not mention, in a press conference he held Monday of driving Miseriya tribesmen in this conspiracy, calling on the Miseriya to reject their exploitation as a fuel of the sedition.

He appealed to the GoNU and the NCP to the necessity of mobilizing the government institutions and security authorities in both Kordofan and Bahr el Ghazal States to halt the fighting and the security tension in the area.

Amum called for immediate investigations to unveil complications that led to the escalation of the conflict.

Meanwhile United National Mission in Sudan UNMIS however called on the two parties to exercise self control.

UNMIS spokeswoman Radia Achouri has expressed regret for the clashes resulting in the death and injury of casualties from both sides. Achouri said the UN is worried about these incidents and called the SPLA and Miseriya to deal with the situation there with considerable responsibility. Achouri acknowledged that the area needs stability and resolution of conflicts in order to guarantee better future for the

inhabitants of the area. She explains that UN has no direct role of intervention in such incidents.

However, the victims of the conflict among the Miseriya in Meram area amounted to more 46 persons.

### **SLM Minawi representative in AU killed by unidentified suspects in Mileet (AIRai AIAam)**

SLM's Minawi representative in the AU was reported to have been killed by unidentified group following his kidnapping along with his vehicle in Mileet Locality.

According to (Al-Rai AIAam daily), a court in Al-Fashir sentenced the defendants accused of assassinating the victim hanging to death, handing the vehicle to the compliant company and confiscating the weapons.

### **SPLM accuses PDF, calls GoNU to intervene (Sudan Tribune)**

Vice President of the GoSS, Riak Machar, in a statement to Sudan Tribune, held Popular Defence Forces (PDF) responsibility in escalating insecurity in Northern Bahr El Ghazal and Abyei area as well.

“We are astonished by the fact that these forces began attacking positions of our forces (SPLA).

### **Pagan calls for investigation on Al-Meram events (AlSahafa)**

### **Sudan submits complaint to African Union on recent Chadian aggression on its western borders (SUNA), Sudan files complaint to the African Union against Chad (ST)**

December 30, 2007 (KHARTOUM) — Sudan has delivered a complaint to the African Union (AU) on Chadian army incursion inside Darfur region.

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

The Sudanese complaint was handed over Sunday by Director of the African Union Department at the foreign ministry, Ambassador Gamal Al-Shiekh, to the acting Chairman of the AU mission in Khartoum Ahmed Rufaai Abu-Bakr.

The complaint exposed the Chadian “repeated aggressions” committed against the Sudanese territories in disregard to the principles of good neighbourliness and the agreements signed between the two countries, the official SUNA said.

Chad denied on Saturday the Sudanese accusation saying its ground and air forces had attacked rebel targets along the border, but had not crossed into Sudan.

(ST)

### **SPLM Ministers Informed on Experience of Council of Ministers' Secretariat General in Support of Decision Making (SUNA)**

Khartoum, Dec. 30 (SUNA)- The newly appointed ministers and state ministers of Sudan people's Liberation Movement (SPLM) in the national unity government were informed by the State Minister at the Council of Ministers, Kamal Abdul-Latif, on the experience of the Secretariat General of the Council of Minister on supporting and issuing decisions. This came at a meeting Sunday at the headquarters of the Council of Ministers, which was chaired by the Cabinet Affairs Minister, Pagan Amum. The SPLM ministers and state ministers got acquainted with the regulations, mechanisms and methods of work at the Council of Ministers' Secretariat General in support of decision making, exposing issues and submitting them to the Council of Minister to adopt decisions on them and following up their implementation. The new SPLM ministers and state ministers affirmed their readiness to cooperate in full with the national unity government toward enhancement of the executive work in the state. MO/MO

### **Government Accuses Chad of Being Responsive in Support W. Agendas in Darfur (SMC)**

**Sunday 30 December 2007, Khartoum (smc)**, Khartoum reiterates it demands to N'djamena that the latter should quit supporting Darfur rebel movements particularly JEM which operates its military activities against Darfur from Chad under full support of Chadian army. Minister of state for information Dr. Kamal Ibaid told (smc) that Darfur armed movements can't lead hostile activities without direct support from Chadian government. He adds that these movements have no military weight to continue war without Chadian support. Ibaid said the military escalation adopted recently by Chad should reflect a negative image on peace process in Darfur.

He explained that instability in Darfur has become western agendas and that Chad has been active in implementing those agendas.

He said Chad is imagining that it may be able to have strong and powerful regime by implementing such western agendas.

### **Ministry of HA Starts Evaluation of NGOS Function in the Country (SMC)**

**Sunday 30 December 2007, Khartoum (smc)**, Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs (HA) announces it is planning to conduct a study on the impact of NGOS task in the country. Head of one window complex assigned to provide services for NGOS Ahmed Adam told (smc) that the governments is committed to facilitate NGOS works in the country. However he said the proposed study should be carried out to see where positive and negative points of humanitarian work are. As consequence he said his ministry should decide which of which NGO has the right to continue working in the country or not.

### **President Al-Bashir to direct Monday important address to Sudanese nation on 52nd. anniversary of Independence (SUNA)**



Khartoum, Dec. 30 (SUNA) - President of the Republic Field Marshal Omer Al-Bashir directs Monday morning an important address to the Sudanese nation on the occasion of the 52nd. anniversary of the country's Independence. President Al-Bashir is to make his address from the Green Square in Khartoum amid huge official and popular gathering. BT/BT

### **National Group on Human Rights addresses SUNA Forum (SUNA)**

Khartoum, Dec. 30 (SUNA) - Chairman of the National Group on Human Rights Ibrahim Abdel-Halim has explained that foreign organizations are far away from the reality of the situation in Sudan, pointing out that the question of human rights in Sudan suffers from politicization. Abdel-Halim was speaking at the regular press forum of Sudan News Agency Sunday on the participation of the national group in the sixth session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva which discussed report of experts on human rights in Sudan. Director of Ana Al-Sudan organization and member of the group Dr. Mohi-Eddin Al-Gemaiabi pointed out that all European and African organizations that participated in the meetings condemned abduction of children of Darfur, noting that participation of the group has contributed to discussing issues of Sudan in a positive manner. Director of Marij Charitable Group Mohamed Hassan Ahmed Al-Bashir explained that the act of abduction of Darfur children constitutes violation to the UN laws on human rights, children rights convention, Geneva laws and religious values. BT/BT

## **GoSS**

### **SPLM Commanders: We will separate the south by force (AlIntibaha)**

## **Darfur**

### **Darfur rebel group condemn Sudan's abduction of its members (ST)**

December 30, 2007 (LONDON) — The Darfur rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) said on Sunday that the Sudanese government arrested six of their representatives at the African Union (AU) Ceasefire Commission.

“An armed unit belonging to the Government of Sudan stormed into AU HQ in Al-Fasher and abducted all remaining JEM Representatives to the AU Ceasefire Commission (CFC)” JEM said in a statement.

The AU issued a statement confirming the incident and said that Khartoum is in “violation of the N’Djamena Ceasefire Agreement of 2004”.

In accordance with a ceasefire agreement brokered by the African Union between Sudanese government and the two main rebel groups in 2004, there are two representatives of JEM and the SLA. The commission is based El-Fasher and the delegates are under the protection of the AU.

Ahmed Hussein Adam, the spokesperson of the JEM, speaking to Sudan Tribune by phone from London condemned the kidnapping and described it as an “act of piracy”.

The AU said that it tried to prevent the arrest with no success.

“Despite the relentless efforts of AMIS leadership to prevent the arrest, Government authorities stormed the premise housing the JEM representative at 03:00” the AU said.

Adam said that AU asked JEM for a 48 hour timeframe before they take any response so they can resolve the matter.

The JEM official said that the event “is clear example of how Khartoum is blocking peaceful resolution and the deployment of peacekeeping force in Darfur”.

“This is an act of aggression not only against JEM but also against the AU and UN. The Sudanese government doesn’t really care about the AU” he added.

It is not clear what prompted the arrest but JEM has been intensifying its military campaign against Sudanese forces in Darfur.

Yesterday the rebel group said it has taken full control of control over Silaiaa garrison at the outskirts of El-Geneina, a key town in Darfur.

But the Sudanese government denied the claim.

(ST)

### **AMIS Officially Transfers Authority to UNAMID Today (Sudan Vision)**

**By: Mona Al Bashir,** The African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS) will today transfer authority to UNAMID at a big ceremony in El Fashir, North Darfur, where UNAMID Headquarters are located. A document transferring the authority from AMIS to UNAMID as per Resolution 1769 will be signed at the ceremony by UN and the African Union, hence signaling the beginning of the hybrid operation as of June 1st 2008.

AMIS spokesman, Nouredine Mezni, described the operation as the biggest peace-keeping operation in the world, affirming that its presence would be felt on the ground, as well as it would contribute to the success of the peace process.

Mezni called on all the parties to cooperate with UNAMID, expressing hope that the forces deployment will be expedited to complete the number of the force required within the coming months.

The spokesman further stated that at El Fashir ceremony messages from UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, and AU Commission Chairperson, Alpha Omar Konare, will be presented. According to him, that would be followed by a press conference by the Joint Special Representative, Rodolphe Adada, which will be attended by foreign and local media representatives. Mezni expressed hope that the recent tension between Sudan and Chad will not affect the deployment of the hybrid operation.

In reply to a question on the needed helicopters, Mezni assured that efforts are underway to obtain helicopters.

In this context, reports yesterday published in New York said the issue of provision of helicopters is about to be resolved. The British Ambassador to the UNSC was quoted as saying he would chair a meeting comprising the representatives of troop contributing countries to discuss a number of proposals to make provision for helicopters.

### **Little relief for Darfur seen from new peace force (ST)**

By Opheera McDoom, KHARTOUM (Reuters) - The people of Darfur are unlikely to see much change on the ground when the African Union makes what is seen as a largely symbolic handover to a joint U.N.-AU peacekeeping force on Monday, analysts say.

Lacking equipment, money and experience, the African Union's first major peacekeeping effort has stalled in Sudan's remote west, unable to protect itself let alone more than 4 million people in the region who depend on the world's largest humanitarian operation.

Khartoum refused to allow a U.N. takeover of the existing peacekeeping mission and instead reluctantly agreed to a 26,000-strong AU-U.N. joint force.

But Khartoum has continued to throw bureaucratic obstacles in its way, delaying deployment of what will be the largest U.N. peacekeeping operation in the world, known as UNAMID.

Few are optimistic ahead of the formal handover to the joint force on Monday.

"Nothing is going to change — they are building on the same African Union forces," said Ibrahim Mudawi, head of the Sudanese non-governmental organisation SUDO which works in Darfur.

There are currently around 7,000 troops and 1,200 police in the AU force with soldiers from Egypt, Pakistan and Ethiopia expected to deploy in the next two months. The final joint force should comprise 20,000 soldiers and 6,000 police.

The joint force's commander, Martin Luther Agwai, said 20,000 troops was the bare minimum needed to secure the vast and chaotic area the size of France.

"How do you expect this force to do the job of 20,000 just because we are rehatting on December 31?" he said. "Let people look at December 31 as the day that the process (of change) will begin."

Head of U.N. peacekeeping Jean-Marie Guehenno said the mission was in doubt because of obstacles from Khartoum, and rights groups urged the world body to sanction Sudanese leaders if they did not comply.

President Omar Hassan al-Bashir has refused non-African troops, delayed allocating land to the force in Darfur, demanded the right to disable the mission's communications during "security operations" and refused night flights.

"The new hybrid peacekeeping force for Darfur is being set up to fail," said Human Rights Watch along with 34 non-governmental organisations.

"The Security Council has responded to this defiance with hand-wringing but nothing more, said Steve Crawshaw, head of U.N. advocacy at Human Rights Watch. "What will it take to make the Security Council act on Darfur?"

Rights groups have also criticised the international community — mainly Western nations — for refusing to provide 24 helicopters, which Agwai said were vital for the mission to function effectively.

"It's inexcusable that the international community continues to stubbornly refuse to provide the helicopters UNAMID so desperately needs," said Amjad Atallah from the Save Darfur Coalition.

(Reuters)

#### **Egypt offers relief aid to Darfur (ST)**

December 30, 2007 (CAIRO) — Egyptian government has decided to extend relief aid to the western Sudan region of Darfur, the official MENA news agency reported on Sunday.

Nevine Ashmawi, Secretary General of the Egyptian Fund for Technical Cooperation with Africa, said Sunday the fund offered a shipment of foodstuffs and other materials to be sent to El-Fashir, the capital of North Darfur state.

The shipment of 145 tons of rice, oil, tents and blankets was being sent to Sudan as Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Aboul Gheit gave the directive to promote relief efforts in Darfur where violence has left many people homeless, said Ashmawi.

(ST)

#### **Solana welcomes successful end of EU support to African force in Darfur (ST)**

December 30, 2007 (BRUSSELS) — EU foreign policy chief, Javier Solana, hailed the successful end of the EU civilian – military action in support of the African Union Mission in Sudan.

"I thank and congratulate all the personnel, civilian and military, who over two and a half years have taken part in the EU action in support of AMIS" Solana said.

EU action completes on 31 December 2007 in the context of the handover from African Union peacekeeping mission to the hybrid force.

At the request of the African Union and in full respect of "its ownership", the EU has provided AMIS with key military and civilian assistance, financial and logistic support, as well as support for its civilian policing capacity.

The head of the European diplomacy hailed the action of the AU mission in Sudan. He said that in a difficult context, AMIS has contributed significantly to the protection of the civilian population and to efforts aimed at improving the security and humanitarian situation in Darfur.

The EU supporting action to AMIS was a concrete example of the ever closer relations that are developing between the EU and the AU and that were highlighted by the recent EU-Africa summit in Lisbon, Solana said.

He reiterated that the European Union will continue to remain engaged and help UNAMID in its efforts to solve the crisis in Darfur."

(ST)

### **Chad denies aggression against Sudan's Darfur (ST)**

December 30, 2007 (KHARTOUM) — Chad has denied Sudanese accusation of repeated incursions in its territory saying its operations against rebels never crossed the border.

Relations between the two neighbouring countries have been touchy in recent years as both try to quell insurgencies close to their long and porous border. They accuse each other of backing rebels trying to overthrow their respective governments.

The Chadian ministry of foreign affairs said today in a press statement broadcasted N'Djamena that its ground and air forces had attacked rebel targets along the border, but had not crossed into Sudan.

"The security forces have taken every measure to cleanse the national frontiers of hostile forces." The Official radio reported on Saturday.

"In this context the plane undertook several strictly limited operations along the border against mercenaries who were trying to cross from Sudan. Contrary to the Sudanese allegations, the Chadian army never crossed the border to carry out ground operations on Sudanese territory," it said.

Humanitarian workers are being evacuated from towns along the Sudan-Chad border, two sources in the aid community said, following an escalation of hostilities.

Last Wednesday Chad accused Sudan of re-arming Chadian rebels after fierce battles last month in preparation for a fresh offensive, aiming to further delay deployment of international peacekeeping forces in Darfur and eastern Chad.

Sudan has rejected Chad's accusations, and retorted by accusing Chad of supporting the Darfur rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) in a recent meeting on Chadian territory in the area of Bahai.

(ST)

*Some information for this report provided by Reuters.*

### **Editorial: The Judicial Scandal (Sudan Vision)**

Chad's hand-over to France of those convicted of attempted child trafficking is yet another blow to the families of the children involved and international justice. From the beginning, the case has been dealt with in a manner opposed to the right cause of justice.

We will recall how some defendants were released uninvestigated when the French President pleaded with the Chadian authorities. It goes without saying a defendant should be investigated to decide whether she-he is guilty or not. Despite the criticism that aroused, again the Chadian authorities handed over those convicted to France. It is believed that the convicted would be released before serving the jail sentence issued by the Chadian court. That would not only deal justice a blow, but it would also deprive families of the children the right of appeal which is guaranteed by all judiciary systems world-wide. It remains to be said that the Chadian authorities connived with the French organization accused of the attempt. Or else, why did the Chadian authorities refuse to involve the Sudanese authorities in the investigation? That exclusion of Sudanese judicial organs simply implies that it was deliberately intended to block their access to the circumstances that surrounded the case. We believe that the Chadian judicial system can no longer be trusted by the Chadian themselves.

Finally, the Sudanese judicial authorities should keep following up the case to ensure that the traffickers got the penalty they deserve.