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UNMIS
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(By Public Information Office)

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HIGHLIGHTS:

UN

UN Refrained from denying Embezzlement Scandal

(*Sudan Vision* – 2nd Feb. **Khartoum**) UNMIS refrained from denying UN Sudan and Haiti Peacekeeping operations staff complicity in an embezzlement as reported by Sudan Vision of Wednesday Feb. 1st 2006. The statement said:

According to statement by UNMIS yesterday: “Two staff members of UNMIS have been asked to report to the UN H.Q. in New York for administrative reasons, in order to assist in preparing answers by the UN H.Q. management to finalize a draft internal report on procurement. The Mission has not received any report so far. There are no disciplinary measures taken so far against the two staff members who have been put on leave from UNMIS with full pay.” UNMIS Spokesperson, Ms. Radhia Achouri informed Sudan Vision that neither the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General Jan Pronk nor UNMIS have received up to now a copy of the said report. Ms. Achouri said that as soon as copy of the said report is received it will be made available to the public through the media; stressing that the whole issue is with the UN H.D. in New York. Meanwhile, Sudan Vision have obtained more information about the scandal from the press conference convened by Christopher Burnham, UN Under-Secretary for management in New York on 23rd January 2005. Mr. Burnham has informed the media that a recently completed report from the UN office of International Oversight Services (IOS) had raised “ a number of serious allegations and concerns”. When asked to specify “concerns and allegations” raised by the IOS, Mr. Burnham said its report had noted “substantial evidence of abuse in procurement for peacekeeping operations, leading to financial losses”. He had also stated that “design and maintenance of the controls needed to ensure that the United Nations procurement complied with the financial rules and regulations were insufficient,” and that “important controls were lacking, while existing ones were often bypassed.” Peacekeepers, for example spent \$10.4 million to lease a helicopter for use in East Timor that could have been secured for \$1.6 million, and paid \$2.4 million to buy seven aircraft hangars in Congo that were never used, the IOS report said. The additional \$65 million or more was spent for fuel that was not needed for missions in Sudan and Haiti, said the report, calling for an investigation into whether UN staff members improperly “colluded to award” one UN supplier on \$85.9 million fuel contract for the Sudan. The failure of the UN managers to enforce standards has led to impunity” in UN spending, according to the report. The report further added that there are “strong” indications of fraud involving contracts whose value totaled about \$193 million, nearly 20 percent of the \$1 billion in UN business examined by the auditors. In improving its procurement practices, Burnham said the organization had switched procurement reporting to the controller, Waren Sach, and had put in a new interim head of procurement services, Jayantial Karia. It has also increased IOS resources to expand its investigations, secured full cooperation with host nation law enforcement authorities, and directed the H.Q. Committee on contacts to report to his office, with IOS acting as ex-offices. Meanwhile, US prosecutors according to The Washington Post, are conducting their own investigation into criminal wrongdoing in UN contracting. John Bolton, the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, said the procurement scandal would not prompt a retreat from UN peacekeeping. However, he said it underscored the need for far-reaching administrative changes in the world body. “It is very disturbing. It shows the sad record of mismanagement that we are trying to deal with through the reform process,” he said. The report did not name individuals or companies suspected of breaking UN procurement rules. But an earlier draft made available to the Washington Post, included some names of companies and UN staffers. For

instance, according to the Washington Post (24 Jan. 2006), it identified Skylink Aviation Inc. a Canadian firm, as the company that supplied fuel to the UN Mission in Sudan. A Spokesperson for the Skylink, Jan Otten, confirmed that his company had that contract and he denied any wrongdoings saying Skylink actually lost “bundles” of money from the fuel contract. Otten said the problem was that the UN overestimated the amount of oil it would need because it anticipated the deployment of tens of thousands of peacekeepers that never arrived. He also said auditors failed to note that his company billed the UN only for the oil that was used, representing about half of the cost envisioned by the fuel contract. He said his company, meanwhile, had to absorb the cost of setting up the infrastructure for delivering far greater quantities of oil than the United Nations eventually bought. “We were misled by the United Nations”, he said. “We are very unhappy with that fuel contract”. On the other hand, in response to a query about overspending on procurement contracts, Mr. Burnham said potential abuse could reach tens of millions of dollars or more, taking into consideration the number of abuse cases. The investigation was currently underway, however and more concrete figures are awaiting finalization.

UN silent over disappearance of 194 million dollars from its peacekeeping budget for Sudan

(*AlHayat* – 2nd Feb. **Khartoum**) UNMIS Spokesperson Radhia Achouri says 8 staff members of UN peacekeeping operations in Haiti and Sudan have been summoned to headquarters in connection to suspicions of fraud involving 194 million dollars (an amount equal to about 20% of the total budget of its peacekeeping operations for Haiti and the Sudan.

She says she has not yet seen the financial report that raised those suspicions but said that no disciplinary measures have been brought against the 8 and all have been granted leave with pay pending investigations.

On funding, Achouri pointed out that there is a problem in that area with the donors not meeting their pledges. She underlined the need for Sudanese to invest in development of the south and the other regions.

On Darfur and the Abuja talks, the Spokesperson said the situation continues to deteriorate and that there is nothing else for them to do but to impose pressures on the parties to the Abuja talks to minimise the chances for their withdrawal from the talks or to request the international community to implement the UN Security Council sanctions on the perpetrators of crimes in Darfur.

UN force deployment in South Sudan at 60 percent

(*ST, Allintibaha* – 2nd Feb. **Cairo, Khartoum**) Only 60 percent of UN peacekeepers in southern Sudan have been deployed nine months after the world body’s mission to bolster the north-south peace deal began, a UN spokesperson said Wednesday.

"The deployment of military observers and force protection elements in southern Sudan is in progress and as of now, the total military personnel stands at 5,902," said Radhia Achouri.

Achouri says UNMOs are now fully deployed in the Hamishkoreib area alongside GoS and SPLA counterparts. She denied reports of the presence of Beja militias in the area.

Six months after the start of the deployment of the 10,000-strong UN mission in Sudan (UNMIS), officials had said they were on target to complete it by the end of 2005.

The United Nations is pushing for a deployment of its own troops to replace embattled African Union peacekeepers in the troubled western region of Darfur, where fighting still rages despite peace negotiations.

In Khartoum, The spokesperson for the United Nations Mission in the Sudan, Radhia Achouri, said in a press conference that Pronk was not satisfied with the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), and especially with performance of the key institutions such as Oil Commission.

Radhia said the two parties discussed also the question of the presence of Ugandan rebel LRA, and the insecurity in the region.

Achouri said UN Secretary General Kofi Annan's special representative in Sudan Jan Pronk would travel to Abuja for three days on February 10 to discuss ongoing AU-sponsored peace talks between Khartoum and the rebels.

CJMC to hold meeting today

(*AlHayat* – 2nd Feb. **Khartoum**) The Force Commander of UNMIS said in a press briefing yesterday that the CJMC will meet today. He expressed hopes that the meeting will hear today figures for redeployment of government and SPLA forces (the armed forces to the north and the SPLA to the north).

He said that verifications are still being carried out of the figures given in the last meeting.

US hopes UN Darfur force this month

(*AFP/ST* – 1st Feb. **Washington**) The United States hopes to finalize plans this month for a UN peacekeeping mission to replace a beleaguered African Union contingent in Sudan's Darfur region, Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick said.

Zoellick said Washington would use its month-long presidency of the UN Security Council to push proposals for the world body to take over security in an area beset by violence and one of the world's worst humanitarian crises.

"What we hope to accomplish in February is the decision by the UN Security Council, which would include the nature of the mission and issues of the size of the mission, implementation," Zoellick said.

"February is a short month, as you know, so we're trying to push forward on this," he told reporters after talks here with Rebecca Garang, Sudan's minister of roads and transport and the widow of rebel leader John Garang.

The international community has become alarmed by renewed bloodshed and the risk of war breaking out with Chad after three years of conflict in Darfur that has left up to 300,000 people dead and some 2.4 million homeless.

The United States, which has accused the Sudan government and its militia allies of genocide in their battle against rebels in Darfur, has backed the creation of a more-robust UN force for the region.

Zoellick said AMIS could form the core of the new mission but suggested it might take some time to send international reinforcements to Darfur with UN troops already monitoring a peace accord between Khartoum and southern rebels.

"So we are following up with the African Union, the European Union and others to try to see whether we can give additional support to the AMIS mission now but also to transition it to a UN peacekeeping mission," he said.

Zoellick said Washington was also in discussion with NATO countries to boost the trans-Atlantic alliance's planning and logistics assistance to peacekeeping efforts in Darfur.

Sudan: UN to repatriate 680,000 refugees from neighbouring countries

(*SRS/BBC Monitoring* – 1st Feb. **Khartoum**) The UN says it will repatriate about 680,000 internally displaced persons and refugees from neighbouring countries by the end of this year.

The director of the Returns, Reintegration, and Recovery unit of the United Nations Mission in Sudan [UNMIS], Mr Robert Turner, and the advocacy officer of the Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Elizabeth Blalock, said in a press conference in Khartoum this week that their offices and the governments of national unity and Southern Sudan will work together to repatriate the refugees.

Mr. Turner said the process will start this week. He adds that the UNHCR will repatriate about 6000 refugees from CAR to Tambura in Western Equatoria [State].

He also said the displaced Dinka Bor, who moved out of Western Equatoria to Juba will also be repatriated to their homes in Jonglei State.

CPA

Ministry of Defence instructed to assist SPLA redeployment

(*AlRai AlAam* – 2nd Feb. **Khartoum**) Dr. Mustafa Osman Ismail has revealed that the National Congress party has issued instructions to the relevant executive organs to prepare detailed reports on the outstanding issues concerning the implementation of the CPA and has instructed the Ministry of Defence to avail the required assistance to facilitate a redeployment of the SPLA from eastern Sudan to the south.

Ismail who is the official in charge of political contacts at the National Congress party told a press conference at party headquarters yesterday that the move was an attempt on their part to respond through action to the recent criticism by Vice-president Salva Kiir. He pointed out that the party has also ordered a detailed report on oil revenue for southern Sudan.

Ismail, the immediate former foreign minister of Sudan, underlined the need for the joint NCP/SPLM committee to work in harmony.

On the petroleum commission and the reasons why it has not met, Ismail said the commission has not met because the SPLM is yet to complete its nomination of members to the commission as some of those nominated by the SPLM withdrew.

He further pointed out that the Vice-president's statements were informative and warned them of the need to allow for participation of the people of Sudan in monitoring implementation of the CPA.

Government of National Unity

Sudanese ruling party calls for boycott of Danish, Norwegian products

(*Sudan TV/BBC Monitoring* – 1st Feb. **Omdurman**) The social affairs secretariat of the [governing] National Congress has issued a statement condemning what was published by rogue Danish and Norwegian newspapers and their insults on the personality of the noble prophet, peace be upon him.

The statement said the secretariat, while condemning this disgraceful racist conduct, was organizing a boycott of all food and non-food products by them.

The party called on Sudanese society and the Islamic community in general to confront this shameful attack and save God's religion.

Meanwhile, the students' union of Nilein University has also condemned the insults on the noble prophet, peace be upon him. It called on Muslims and students in particular to defend against such conduct and to adopt a firm stand in defence of the beliefs of the Islamic nation and its prophet, peace be upon him.

Sudanese official denies differences exist with south over oil revenues

(*AlRai AlAam* – 1st Feb. **Khartoum**) A source at the Federal Finance Ministry has announced that the southern government has received 702m dollars, this being part of its share of the oil revenue for last year. This means there is nothing outstanding except a balance of 42m dollars which will be transferred to it once last month's export revenues are received.

The source told Al-Ra'y al-Am that the share of the southern government in the period January-December 2005 totalled 744m dollars. Of this amount, 544m dollars is from oil export revenues while 190m dollars is from the returns on local produce.

The source expressed surprise at the comments by the first vice-president of the republic and president of the southern government, Salva Kiir Mayardit, that the National Congress and the people's movement [Sudan People's Liberation Movement, SPLM] had differences over oil revenues.

The source said the southern government had not yet spent the money transferred to its bank accounts.

The source said the movement had permission to verify the oil accounts and pointed out that the state minister for finance, Lwal Deng, was responsible for coordinating with the south on foreign cooperation and financial matters. The source also reminded that there was a committee to supervise the oil accounts.

The source further noted that the southern government lacked capacity and experience in the field of accountancy, banking and monetary processes. He added that as a result of this, it has not been able to draw up a budget for the south and was dependent on foreign expertise in this regard.

Sudanese foreign minister to meet British counterpart 2 February

(*Sudan Radio/BBC Monitoring* – 2nd Feb. **Omdurman**) The minister of foreign affairs, Dr Lam Akol, will today begin a three day visit to Britain following an invitation from the British foreign secretary, Jack Straw.

In a statement to SUNA, the head of the Europe Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Muhammad Salah-al-Din, said the minister would hold talks with his British counterpart and a number of officials on ways of strengthening bilateral ties.

They will also discuss Britain's role in helping the cancellation of Sudan's foreign debts as well as capacity building and training.

He added that talks would touch on the implementation of the peace agreement during the first year, the role expected from partners and donors in this regard and the commitments made during the Oslo donor conference.

Abuja talks

Sudan formally calls on AU to transfer Darfur cease-fire commission from Chad

(*SUNA/BBC Monitoring* – 1st Feb. **Khartoum**) The government negotiation team at the Abuja talks [on Darfur] has formally called on the AU to transfer the HQ of the Joint Cease-fire Commission, led by a Chadian representative, from N'djamena to Al-Fashir [western Sudan].

An official source within the committee on security and military arrangements told Suna [Sudanese news agency] that the demand comes in the context of Chad's recent stance towards Sudan, its declaration of war against Sudan; its sponsorship of and support for armed groups - all factors that make it incapable of having the necessary neutrality to play this role [of overseeing the cease-fire].

Sudan's JEM rebels expelled from Darfur talks for assault (*see AU statement in separate attachment*)

(*AFP/ST* – 1st Feb. **Lagos**) Three members of a Darfur rebel delegation to the peace talks in Abuja, brokered by the African Union (AU), have been expelled for assaulting two colleagues, the AU said Wednesday.

On Saturday two members of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), Ibrahim Sideeq and his wife Amani Basheer, "were brutally attacked by three members of the same movement, after some unfortunate developments, that were internal to the movement," the AU said in a statement sent to AFP.

Sideeq told AFP that they were attacked because he resigned from the JEM to join the rival Sudan Liberation Movement. "They really deliberately wanted to kill me," he alleged.

Sideeq said his wife was injured in her left eye and had difficulty seeing, while he was hit on the back and the neck and "I now walk with the support of a stick."

He said the matter had been reported to the AU, representatives of the international community as well as the Nigerian police.

The pan-African body's report said that after investigations conducted by the AU mediators, international partners and other participants as well as the JEM leadership, the assailants were identified as Mohamed Mansour Kitir, Mohamed Bushara Yahia and Salih Basheer Tiyya.

"Deeply appalled by this brutal attack perpetrated by a few misguided members of the JEM, against their fellow members," the AU and the international partners "condemn in the strongest possible terms and without any reservation whatsoever, such a blatant and unwarranted attack and deplore its barbaric nature as totally unacceptable and unjustified under any pretext."

"Mohamed Mansour Kitir, Mohamed Bushara Yahia and Salih Basheer Tiyya, will be expelled from the talks and repatriated to Darfur by the AU as a matter of top priority," it said.

They would not be replaced during the current seventh round of talks.

The AU said the JEM leadership should consider "other administrative and disciplinary measures" to be taken against the three and inform the AU and the international partners of such action within the shortest possible time and in any case, before the end of the seventh round, it said.

"In consultation with the host authorities, security within the venue of the talks will be enhanced with appropriate instructions to security personnel to deal 'firmly and decisively' with any future breach or threats to parties, the safety and security of participants at the talks", it added.

"Henceforth, heads of delegations of participating parties will be held personally accountable for the conduct of their members, within the venue of the talks," the statement said.

Darfur

Diplomatic battle shapes up over NATO presence in Darfur

(AFP/ST- 1st Feb. Cairo) The internationalisation of the peacekeeping force in Sudan's troubled Darfur region is unavoidable but the prospect of a NATO deployment could herald a new tug-of-war between the West and Khartoum, analysts say.

Three years after the conflict in the western Sudanese region erupted, dozens of people still die every day and the risk of a new war breaking out with Chad is growing, prompting the international community to change strategies.

"When I visited Darfur last May, I felt hopeful. Today, I am pessimistic, unless a major new international effort is mustered in the coming weeks," UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said in a letter published by the Washington Post last week.

The war broke out in February 2003, when black ethnic groups launched a rebellion against Khartoum, which was brutally repressed by the Arab Islamist regime of President Omar al-Beshir.

The combined effect of the war and one of the world's worst humanitarian crises has left up to 300,000 people dead and an estimated 2.4 million displaced.

African Union troops, on the body's first ever peacekeeping assignment, were deployed in Darfur in 2004. But the 7,000-strong contingent has been dogged by insufficient funds and has struggled to prevent the bloodshed.

"The transition from the AU force to a UN operation in Darfur is now inevitable," Annan said. The AU peacekeepers' mandate was renewed in January until March 31.

Beshir has fiercely opposed a UN deployment in Darfur, stressing that only an African effort would bring an end to the conflict.

AU-sponsored negotiations between Khartoum and the rebel groups in Nigeria have resumed but the previous rounds of talks have failed to yield any breakthroughs.

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has already said she favoured a UN deployment in Darfur and a proposal to that purpose could be drafted with Washington's takeover of UN Security Council chair this month.

But Annan's envoy in Sudan, Jan Pronk, has warned that such a deployment would take time to overcome all the political obstacles likely to arise on its path and would most likely not materialise until late 2006 or early 2007.

"In the meantime, the AU mission must be maintained and strengthened. We cannot afford any gaps or any weakening of the force in place," Annan said. This was perceived as a thinly veiled reference to a scenario involving NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation).

"Countries that have the required military assets must be ready to deploy them," he said, stressing that the next peacekeeping force should be "larger, more mobile and much better equipped."

After painting a bleak picture of the situation in Darfur to the UN Security Council, Pronk headed straight to NATO headquarters in Brussels, diplomatic sources told AFP.

"The involvement of NATO would certainly raise a few problems and Sudan will do everything it can to prevent it," a European diplomat in Khartoum said. But Sudan expert Suliman Baldo, from the International Crisis Group think-tank, whilst admitting that Khartoum would fiercely oppose such a move, said NATO's involvement was almost inevitable.

"There is no alternative to bridge the gap between the AU and UN forces," he told AFP.

He said, however, that a proposal for Western armies to be deployed in Darfur would trigger a diplomatic battle, with the Sudanese government seeking the support of China in the Security Council and of Arab countries during the March 28-29 Arab summit in Khartoum.

US-based Sudan expert Eric Reeves concurred: "I am afraid that if the United Nations is our conduit for a peace making force into Darfur, we are talking about many months. In those months, we could see wholesale catastrophe," he said in a recent interview to a Sudanese newspaper.

"I would argue that NATO needs to provide a bridging force for an eventual United Nations deployment," he added.

Putin hails Slovene president's Darfur initiative

(*Slovene News Agency* – 1st Feb. **Ljubljana**) Russian President Vladimir Putin has welcomed Slovenian President Janez Drnovsek's appeal for the western Sudanese province of Darfur.

Russian Ambassador to Slovenia Mikhail Vanin conveyed Putin's views on Drnovsek's appeal during a meeting with Drnovsek in Ljubljana on Wednesday, the president's office said. Russia is ready to support any international efforts to end the crisis in Darfur, Putin said in the message to Drnovsek.

Following the meeting, Drnovsek held a conference via video link with a group of experts on Sudan from the US State Department. The conference was organized in association with the US embassy in Ljubljana.

Drnovsek and the interlocutors exchanged information on Slovenian and US activities for ending the humanitarian disaster in Darfur. The US officials outlined a draft peace agreement for Darfur that was presented to Sudan and the rebel groups involved in the Darfur conflict by a special US envoy.

Sudan: Opposition parties, Darfur rebels to form new alliance

(*Al-Watan* – 1st Feb. **Khartoum**) The secretary-general of the opposition [eastern Sudan rebel group] Beja Congress [BC], Abdallah Musa, has revealed that contacts are underway between the BC, the rebel movements in Darfur and some other unnamed opposition forces to announce a new opposition alliance primarily dealing with problems of marginalization.

He said this alliance would replace the [opposition] National [Democratic] Alliance whose role, Musa considered, had ended when it signed the agreement with the government.

His statements were made at the meeting organized yesterday on the anniversary of the Port Sudan incidents in January 2005.

GoSS/ Southern Sudan

Egypt invites senior South Sudan officials to discuss issue of refugees

(*SUNA* – 1st Feb. **Khartoum**) At the invitation of the Egyptian minister of foreign affairs, Ahmad Abu-al-Ghayt, a delegation of the government of South Sudan is due to leave for Cairo in the coming two days. The minister of international cooperation, Nhial Deng, will head the delegation.

An informed source at the Egyptian embassy in Khartoum told Suna that the visit will enable the delegation of South Sudan government to discuss means of consolidating the bilateral relations and to discuss the situation of the Sudanese refugees in Egypt.

The delegation would also meet the citizens of South Sudan who are residing in Egypt to convince them return to their home areas voluntarily.

The delegation is due to meet in Cairo with officials at the office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to get acquainted with the situation of the Sudanese refugees in Egypt.

During a meeting with the Egyptian ambassador to Sudan, Abd-al-Mun'im al-Shazali, members of South Sudan government delegation expressed their appreciation of the role being played by Egypt in supporting the nationals of both north and South Sudan, hoping that more meetings and consultations are to be held between Egypt and the southern officials for the interest of both parties.

Meanwhile, the Egyptian ambassador to Sudan welcomed the delegation's visit to Egypt, affirming that the delegation will find every possible aid and support to accomplish its mission in Cairo.

Other developments

SSDF forms leadership Council

(*AIRai Alaam* – 2nd Feb. **Khartoum**) The South Sudan Defence Forces formed yesterday its new Leadership Council.

The SSDF also sent a message to Vice-president and President of the GoSS Salva Kiir Mayardit assuring him that they were ready to heed to his call whenever required in order to help implement the CPA.

Meanwhile the chief of Military Intelligence told a group of military recruits yesterday to deal “in a normal manner” with Paulino’s SSDF.

“We do not want their joining the SPLM to be a gateway to conflict within the capital”, he said. He pointed out however that the armed forces will not compromise security in the capital and will intervene whenever need be.

“Our objective is to achieve peace and stability and even if there is secession, we want to be good neighbours,” he adds.

Sudan, DR Congo, UN in refugee repatriation pact

(*IRIN* – 1st Feb. **Kinshasa**) Thousands of Sudanese refugees living in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Congolese refugees living in Sudan could soon be repatriated following the signing of corresponding tripartite agreements between the two governments and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), a spokesman for the agency said.

"The first repatriations could take place in March, mainly of Congolese who want to return home," Jens Hessemann said. "The repatriation of Congolese will mainly be made by plane, due to difficult access and in order to circumvent zones where insecurity prevails because of the activities of rebel armies."

Some 6,010 Congolese refugees are registered in Sudan and about 13,300 Sudanese are registered in the DRC. The agreements guarantee that the repatriations will be entirely voluntary.

The majority of the Congolese refugees fled from villages and towns in the provinces of Equateur and Orientale. Roads leading to these areas pass through areas inhabited by the Ugandan rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and Congolese militia groups.

Just one week ago, LRA rebels killed eight Guatemalan peacekeepers from the UN Mission in the DRC (MONUC) in the northeastern Garamba National Park.

The majority of the Congolese refugees left their country during its last two wars - which raged from 1996 to 1997 and from 1998 to 2002 - and claimed an estimated four million lives. Some Congolese have been in exile in Sudan since the DRC gained independence from Belgium in 1960.

UNHCR believes that the repatriation of the Sudanese refugees will only be possible once the security situation improves in their places of origin.

"All depends on the conditions in south Sudan, but we will be able to voluntarily repatriate to zones with pockets of security," Hesemann said.

The two agreements were signed by Patrick Mayombe, Congolese vice-minister of the interior, decentralization and security; by Aleu Ayieni Aleu, the Sudanese minister of state; and by Jean-Marie Fakhouri, director of UNHCR operations in Chad and the Sudan.

Sudanese opposition leader returns from exile

(*AlRai AlAam* – 1st Feb. **Khartoum**) A Democratic Unionist Party leader, Muhammad al-Mu'tasim Hakim, is expected in Khartoum this evening. He returns to the country after 16 years of leading opposition activities abroad.