



## UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN

## UNMIS

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(By Public Information Office)

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## Highlights

### UN/ Agencies

#### **UN chief urges Chad and Sudan to show restraint (Reuters)**

January 31, 2008 (ADDIS ABABA) — U.N. chief Ban Ki-moon urged the leaders of Sudan and Chad to exercise maximum restraint on Thursday as the Chadian government said Sudanese-backed rebels were advancing on its capital N'Djamena.

"It is crucial, and in view of the present incursions into eastern Chad, that both Chad and Sudan exercise maximum restraint, refrain from cross-border incursions and military activities," Ban told reporters at an African summit in Ethiopia. "These developments are extremely dangerous and could lead to an escalation of the conflict in the region."

Both Sudan and Chad accuse each other of supporting rebels in their respective territories, though each denies the charge.

The rising tensions came as European Union peacekeepers prepared to deploy in eastern Chad in the coming weeks. They will protect hundreds of thousands of refugees from violence spilling over the border with Sudan's Darfur region.

A 26,000-strong joint U.N.-African Union peacekeeping mission is due to deploy in Darfur, but only 9,000 members of the proposed force are on the ground so far.

U.N. officials are in talks with Khartoum about conditions it has set on the mission — including disabling its communications during security operations and banning night flights — that have raised concerns about its effectiveness.

Ban said he and Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir held a "good and constructive" meeting on the sidelines of the AU summit in Addis Ababa.

"Now we are in almost the final stage of agreeing a status of forces agreement which will facilitate the legal clarity for the peacekeepers," Ban said.

"We have made some good understandings on the composition of forces. We must expedite the deployment of forces to the full strength of 26,000 mandated by the Security Council."

International experts say some 200,000 have died in Darfur and 2.5 million have been uprooted in nearly five years of fighting.

(Reuters)

### **Adada says SOFA will be signed during this week (Sudan Vision)**

**By: Staff Writer,** The AU/UN Joint Special Representative for Darfur, Rodolphe Adada has announced that the Status of Forces Agreement for hybrid operation in Darfur will be signed this week in Khartoum after the agreement has been finalized. UNAMID Spokesman Nouredine Mezni told Sudan Vision that Adada conducted successful meetings.

with the Sudanese government officials in this regard following his return from participating in the AU Summit in Addis Ababa. Mezni referred to Adada's lengthy meeting with the Sudanese Foreign Affairs Minister Deng Alor which was attended by the UN Undersecretary for Peace Keeping Operations, Jan Marien Guenneho in addition to his participation in the meeting between UNSG Ban Ki-moon and the Sudanese President Al Bashir that took place on the sidelines of the Summit. According to the Spokesman the Joint Special Representative described these meetings as were constructive, stressing on dialogue, mutual confidence and transparency importance for making UNAMID Mission a success. Apart from these meetings, Mezni said Adada participated on the sidelines of the Summit in consultation on Darfur conducted by African Heads of State and Ministerial delegations.

Mezni said they are looking at the Chadian scene with deep concern, referring to the demographic and geographical factors prevailing in the region. He called on Chadian warring parties to spare the Continent new wounds.

### **Senior UN official says situation in Chad "very serious" (BBC)**

The advance of rebel forces in Chad is "very serious", the head of UN peacekeeping operations said on 1 February as clashes between the rebels and government forces were reported 50 km from the capital, N'djamena.

"This is a very serious event because we know about the complexity of Darfur, we must not add regional tensions to the complexity of Darfur," the UN under-secretary-general for peacekeeping operations, Jean-Marie Guehenno, told Radio France Internationale.

He added: "And so there are basic principles enshrined in international law: respect for borders, respect for the sovereignty of states, so there must not be any incursions from Sudan to Chad, no incursions from Chad to Sudan, either. Both countries need to make sure that their territories cannot serve as a base for actions on the neighbour's territory."

According to Guehenno, "good relations between Chad and Sudan are possible. Now a big political effort needs to be made at the highest level on both sides to overcome this spiral of violence, which is extremely dangerous across the region."

Earlier the French news agency AFP quoted rebel and military sources as saying that clashes between Chadian government forces and rebels had broken out 50 km northeast of the capital. According to AFP, the rebels had come from Sudan.

One of the leaders of an alliance comprising the three main Chadian armed groups, Timan Erdimi, told AFP: "I'm in the middle of fighting. The government forces attacked us at Massaguet. We are driving them back, we are following them in the direction of N'djamena." He added that "the fighting is very heavy and the air force is bombing us". AFP specified that Massaguet is 50 km northeast of the Chadian capital in a direct line but 80 km by road.

France has sent a company of 126 soldiers from Gabon to N'djamena to strengthen its military presence there, and the same number are on alert, a French military source in Libreville told AFP.

*Source: Radio France Internationale, Paris, in French 0930 gmt 1 Feb 08; French news agency AFP, Paris, in French 0908 gmt, 0934 gmt 1 Feb 08*

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

### **Ministry of Foreign Affairs issues statement on situations in Chad (SUNA)**

Khartoum, Feb. 2 (SUNA) - The Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued Saturday a statement on the situations in Chad. The statement pointed out that Sudan is following up with great concern developments in neighboring sisterly Chad and news reports on the entry of opposition troops to the capital, N'djamena, and the subsequent street fighting to control power in the country. The statement said Sudan regards these developments as an internal affairs, however Sudan, considering the brotherhood, neighborliness and the historical relations between the Sudanese and Chadian peoples, calls on all parties to exercise utmost self-restraint and patience and to resort to dialogue as well as giving care to the civilians and protect their lives and properties and ensure their rights in security, peace and decent living, especially the Sudanese refugees, adding that Sudan urges all parties to the conflict in Chad to give consideration to the international laws and norms applied in such situations. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs affirmed in its statement that all the members of the Sudanese community and the staff of the embassy in N'djamena are well and safe, adding that the Ministry would continue to follow up closely the developments of the political and security situations in Chad and their reflections, hoping that security and stability would prevail all over sisterly Chad soon. BT/BT

### **President Al-Bashir Meets Kenyan President on Sidelines of African Summit (SUNA)**

Addis Ababa, Feb. 1 (SUNA)- President of the Republic, Field Marshal Omer Al-Bashir, met Friday with the Kenyan President, Mwai Kibaki, on the sidelines of the 10th African Union summit, in the presence of the Presidential Advisor, Dr. Mustafa Osman Ismail. Presidents Al-Bashir and Kibaki discussed the developments in Kenya following the elections there. President Kibaki thanked the African leaders who contacted him lately and expressed their concern over the tension and violence in Kenya. Kibaki said that the efforts and good offices being sponsored by the former UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan, are achieving progress. He said that the sharing of power would lead to surpassing the tension and the problem in Kenya, despite his confidence that the elections there were fair and held in a healthy atmosphere. The Presidential Advisor, Dr. Mustafa Ismail, said in a press statement that President Al-Bashir conveyed to President Kibaki Sudan concern with the stability and security in neighbour Kenya which sponsored and hosted the Sudanese peace negotiations that culminated in the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). President Al-Bashir also referred to the outstanding role Kenya at the African and regional levels, wishing that a settlement will soon be achieved by the dispute parties for the problem in Kenya. Dr. Ismail referred to the decision of IGAD member states to dispatch their Foreign Minister to Nairobi to help solving the problem in Kenya. MO/MO

### **Kordofan, Unity officials quarrel over forests (The Citizen)**

Reports reaching us from Western Upper Nile tell of tensions over forest resources. The conflict between the local authorities of Southern Kordofan and Unity States.

This is according to a Unity official who contacted the Citizen from Kharassana and Kilo. The local Payam administrator in Kharassana Dhal Riek said they introduced measures to regulate cutting of trees in the areas by asking the merchants involved in charcoal business to apply licenses under the supervision of his Payam. He said this administrative measure is being resisted by the authorities in Southern Kordofan.

Southern Kordofan has issued licenses for cutting trees, but Unity officials have refused, saying they are ready to fight the tree cutters.

### **Indications of possible clashes between SPLA and Silaim tribe in White Nile (Rai AlShaab)**

(Rai AlShaab)-Leaderships of Salim tribe, in White Nile State threatened Saturday to resort to military option, if the SPLA continues detaining seven of its members at Ghabat camp, Upper Nile State.

The leaderships informed (Rayalshaab daily) that a force from SPLA detained seven of its people and seized an estimated 1,400 of their cattle at Al-Kiwaik area following the assassination of one of SPLA's soldiers.

They denied any connection with the incident, explaining that the defendant surrendered to the authorities of White Nile State.

(We have demanded Upper Nile authorities to release its detained members, but the authority linked their release with handing over the defendant), they stressed.

Gibril, brother of one of the detainees had a message to the President of the SPLM Silva Kiir urging him to interfere for releasing the detainees, warning that if the detention continues, his tribe would bitterly retaliate.

### **[Sudan constitutional body starts discussion on elections law \(ST\)](#)**

February 2, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — The committee of elections law in the National Constitutional Review Commission (NCRC) started activities today by adopting initial provisions of the law including the name of the law and the date of the entry into force of Law.

Majid Yousef, the NCRC Secretary General said that the Committee passed articles on the composition of the National Elections Commission (NEC). The draft is providing to establish the NEC within one month since the issuance the law. The draft of law also enables the NEC to set up high level committees in the northern and southern parts of the country.

According to the draft, the NEC will be based in Khartoum.

The provisions of the draft stipulate that the NEC is composed of nine members selected by the President of the republic and his first deputy and should be approved by two-thirds of the members of the National Assembly.

Further, the members of the NEC are invested by the law to elect the NEC president and his deputy.

Abdullah Idris Chairperson of the committee asked the representatives of the National Congress Party and the SPLM to agree on the articles of the electoral law in two weeks.

He said the committee adopted articles on the functions and powers of the NEC and its budget. Also it adopted articles on the management of elections and the electoral register in terms of voter eligibility, and the referendum.

The committee will continue its discussion of the articles of the law next week

(ST)

### **[Sudan: North-south border demarcation commission says commission in progress \(BBC\)](#)**

*Text of report in English by UN sponsored Radio Miraya FM, Juba on 31 January*

Head of north-south border demarcation commission Prof Abdallah Sidiq says that the commission is making progress in carrying out its mandate to demarcate the south-north borders.

Sidiq told Miraya FM that the commission calls on governors and citizens in south-north border to maintain security in order to ensure success of the commission. "We conduct several meetings with governors of the border states, police forces and all security organs asking them to help us in the awareness of people at both sides of the line and securing the surveying team, and they agreed upon that."

### **[Chad accuses Sudan of backing 'mercenaries', rebels advance towards capital \(BBC\)](#)**

*Text of report by Saudi-owned leading pan-Arab daily Al-Sharq al-Awsat website on 1 February*

*[Report by Mustafa Sirri in London: "Chad: Sudan-backed Opposition Forces Advancing Towards Capital and Army Is Ready. Schools Closed, Foreigners Warned, President Deby Heads to the Battle Front, and Opposition Says it Is Waiting for Moment of Confrontation"]* N'djamena, 01 February: The Chadian government said yesterday that the Sudan-backed opposition forces, which it calls "mercenaries", have advanced a long way west on the main road towards the capital N'djamena and that the army has taken up defensive positions around the city where normal life continues. Informed sources in the capital asserted that President Idriss Deby has left for the front as the signal was given for the deployment of the European force (Eufor) in the region and the opposition said it was waiting for the moment of confrontation.

Muhammad Sharif Jaku, rapporteur of the media committee of the Union of Forces for Democracy and Development, told "Al-Sharq al-Awsat" that the opposition forces were 200 km away from the capital and noted that the French forces reiterated their commitment not to intervene in the ongoing conflict considering it an internal affair.

Jibril Muhammad Adam, the media official at the presidential palace in N'djamena, confirmed the reports to "Al-Sharq al-Awsat" and said "the rebels have advanced and are now 200 km from the capital." He added that the "government troops commanded by Chadian President Deby have left to confront the insurgency forces. This is a decisive battle and will be the most violent, the like of which our country had not witnessed in its modern history." He said the "rebels will not be able to enter N'djamena", denied that the opposition forces had seized the town of Umm Hajar east of the country, and pointed out that there are no large forces in the outlining towns and villages other than the national gendarmes forces.

Adam accused the Sudanese government of being behind the imminent attack on N'djamena and said the "mercenaries entered the country with 300 vehicles and they came from the Hajil camp southeast of Al-Junaynah in western Darfur." He added that the Chadian Foreign Minister Ahmad Allami who is representing his head of government at the African Union [AU] summit in Addis Ababa lodged a complaint with the African organization's leaders yesterday. He said: "We call on the AU to intervene and stop the Sudanese attacks on our country." Adam backed his accusations against Khartoum with intelligence information from his government saying the rebels received support from the Sudanese Army's Popular Defence Forces and said: "Elements from the Popular Defence and mercenaries infiltrated inside Chadian borders to Umm Hajar town east of the country." He added: "We hold [Sudanese President] Al-Bashir and his government fully responsible for the battles taking place inside our territories! ."

On the other hand, the visit by Mani Arkoi Minawi, the senior aide to the Sudanese president, to N'djamena was postponed because of the security situations in Chad's eastern borders. Adam said "President Deby is at the battle front and will not be able to receive Minawi", adding that no new dates have been set for the visit. [Passage omitted citing Reuters, AFP, and French radio reports on mobilization of Chadian army and background to conflict]

**Chad rebels seize capital after heavy fighting: military source (Sudan Vision)**

**NDJAMENA – AFP**, Chadian rebels seized the country's capital on Saturday after intense fighting with government forces, while President Idriss Deby Itno remained holed up in the presidential palace, a military source said.

"The whole of the city is in the hands of the rebels. It's down to mopping-up operations," according to the military source. France sent an extra 150 troops to the central African country and prepared to evacuate its citizens, while French Defence Minister Herve Morin said rebels were battling government forces as they closed in on the presidential palace. Despite the reports, Chad's foreign minister told AFP that Deby was at the presidency and the situation was under control in the city. "I spoke with the presidency 10 minutes ago and they assured me that the situation (was under) control," Amad Allam-Mi said in Addis Ababa, where he was attending an African Union summit, shortly before 1030 GMT. Heavy fighting between some 2,000 rebels opposed to Deby and government forces had raged in the capital on Saturday, a French army source said. The rebels had entered the capital in trucks armed with machine guns, rocket launchers and Kalashnikov assault rifles. Intense firing during the morning had died down by midday (1100 GMT), but a column of black smoke was seen rising from near the presidential palace. The rebels, in olive-green battledress and white armbands, were roaring around in camouflaged pick-up trucks, witnesses said, and had been welcomed with joy in some districts.

Witnesses also said the main prison in N'djamena had been stormed and inmates released, while security sources reported some looting had taken place. The French chief of staff announced that a combat unit of 150 extra troops had arrived in Chad, bringing to 1,450 the number permanently posted there. French forces have been assisting the government with logistics and intelligence but have not been allowed to intervene militarily in the fighting. A spokesman for French President Nicolas Sarkozy said he had had a "long conversation" with Deby, and held an emergency meeting on the situation. France also warned its nationals located there to remain indoors and prepared to evacuate them. The country has 1,500 citizens in Chad, a former French colony, with 85 percent of them in the capital. A rebel convoy of 300 pick-ups had been advancing on Ndjamenena since Monday, when they left rear bases across the border in western Sudan's Darfur. The offensive -- the biggest since April 2006 -- comes after rebel leaders Timan Erdimi, Mahamat Nouri and Adbelwahid Aboud Makaye joined forces in mid-December after a peace pact with Deby fell apart. Fighting broke out just north of the capital Saturday morning, and witnesses later said rebels had entered the east and southern part of the city. Deby was reportedly at the battlefield on Friday afternoon. He returned to Ndjamenena after his forces failed to turn back the rebels in fighting at Massaguet around 50 kilometres (31 miles) north of the capital. He spent the night in the presidential palace, sources close to the presidency said. Rebel spokesman Abakar Tollimi said earlier by satellite telephone that government troops were "scattering", adding of Deby: "He will fall today, it's sure." Asked late Friday whether rebels could take the capital, Allam-Mi told AFP: "Everything is possible. We cannot rule out anything; the rebels are well armed and equipped." He blamed Sudan for supporting the rebels.



African Union leaders meeting in Addis Ababa said the body "strongly condemns" the rebel attacks and "demands that an immediate end be put to these attacks and resulting bloodshed".

The AU stressed it would reject any "unconstitutional change" of regime in Chad. UN chief Ban Ki-moon has expressed his concern at the fighting, and the world body has evacuated around 160 non-essential staff from Ndjamena. The rebel offensive began the week an EU peacekeeping force was due to start deploying advance troops in Chad and neighbouring Central African Republic to protect civilians and refugees from the Darfur conflict.

The mission announced Friday a temporary delay in troop flights to Ndjamena, and an EU military spokesman said Saturday there were no plans to send members to Chad over the weekend as it was "still very unstable" on the ground.

### **Russian peacekeepers complete rotation in Sudan (BBC)**

*Text of report by corporate-owned Russian news agency Interfax*

Moscow, 2 February: The Russian aviation group in Sudan completed a planned rotation today, Col Aleksandr Drobyshevskiy, chief of the Russian Air Force's press and public relations service and aide to the commander-in-chief of the Russian Air Force, has told Interfax news agency.

"Il-18 and Il-76 aircraft have brought 120 peacekeepers and over 10 t of technical cargo to Sudan. The same aircraft took [home] 120 peacekeepers who have been acting as UN peacekeepers since July 2007," Drobyshevskiy said.

The Russian aviation group was deployed in Sudan in April 2006. It consists of 120 servicemen and four Mi-8 helicopters. The personnel of the group rotates every six months. Their task is to transport UN military observers, transport and convoy cargoes, and carry out search and rescue operations, among other duties.

"Our pilots do not take part in military actions, and the helicopters do not carry weaponry," he added.

### **In a delicate balancing act, Chinese peacekeepers begin work in Darfur (AP)**

ALFRED de MONTESQUIOU, Associated Press Writer, Source: English General News Date: February 01, 2008, DUREIJ, Sudan\_ Their clocks are set on Beijing time, they use state-of-the-art new equipment and \_ most of all \_ they are welcome by the Sudanese government. In just about everything, the small Chinese peacekeeping contingent in Darfur makes a striking difference with the rest of the U.N. mission here.

Though only 140, the Chinese engineers and troops deployed in Darfur are among the first reinforcements sent by the United Nations, which took over peacekeeping in the wartorn western Sudanese region in January.

But the Chinese deployment comes amid accusations by human rights activists that China is partly responsible for Darfur's chaos because of its staunch diplomatic backing of Khartoum.

Five years of fighting between the Sudan's Arab-dominated government and Darfur's ethnic African rebels has killed over 200,000 people and chased 2.5 million to refugee camps, largely Black African civilians.

Energy-hungry China is Khartoum's key political and economic ally, massively investing in Sudan and importing over two-thirds of the country's oil output, estimated at about 500,000 barrels per day. Since fighting broke-out in Darfur in 2003, it repeatedly used its veto status at the U.N. Security Council to prevent tough measures against Sudan. And activists say it is also ignoring a U.N. arms embargo on Darfur by continuing to deliver weapons to Khartoum, which can then freely ship them to its wartorn province.

China says this criticism is unfair and that economic cooperation does more to pacify Sudan than trade sanctions \_ such as those inflicted by the United States.

"The Darfur problem is not caused by China," Li-Cheng wen, the Chinese ambassador to Sudan, told The Associated Press as he inspected the Chinese troops at a U.N. base near Nyala, South Darfur's capital. "We have strongly invested in Sudan and this benefits the prosperity and stability of the country."

A few miles away at Nyala airport, the Sudanese military has parked for years several Chinese-made fighter jets. An AP reporter has repeatedly seen them operate in Darfur despite a U.N. ban on military flights over the region.

A permanent member of the Security Council, China sent troops to Darfur at the U.N.'s request and has deployed peacekeepers in several other missions around the world.

Beijing trumpets this as evidence it is growing into a larger international role in a constructive way, although it remains generally uncomfortable with such interventions. It insists it will only participate in missions approved by local governments \_ hence Beijing's original objections to the Darfur operation.

Politically cautious, China prefers to send medical and engineering troops rather than soldiers who might find themselves in the line of fire.

Actress Mia Farrow, who is spearheading a campaign for China to push its Sudanese ally to stop obstructing the U.N. deployment, believes the small Chinese unit is a "smoke screen to hide what's not happening in Darfur" \_ a reference to the stumbling U.N. operation so far.

Rights activists hope China will budge because it wants to smoothen its image ahead of the summer Olympic Games in Beijing. They say some recent comments by Liu Guijin, China's special envoy for Darfur, who has called on Sudan to cooperate with the international community, are positive.

"But China could do much more," Farrow said on the telephone, such as using its influence facilitate the deployment of all necessary U.N. equipment and troops.

At the U.N. base, sparkling white Chinese bulldozers, shovels and armed personnel carriers are among the largest U.N. gear that Sudanese customs allowed into Darfur so far.

The mission, known as UNAMID, counts some 9,000 troops and police. This is half the 26,000 planned to pacify a region nearly the size of France. Most are under-equipped units formally with the African Union, and U.N. peacekeeping chief Jean-Marie Guehenno warns it could take much of 2008 for an effective force to deploy.

U.N. officials say wealthy Western nations have so far failed to send UNAMID some of the strategic equipment it needs, such as helicopters. But they blame Khartoum for most of the delays, saying the government is stalling on issuing visas to some U.N. staff and still not agreeing on a Status of Forces Agreement that allows peacekeepers to operate. Khartoum has also vetoed the entry of some readily available troops that were meant to deploy, because they were not predominantly African, a key Khartoum condition for the U.N. mission.

The Chinese peacekeepers insist they haven't come to Darfur to fight. At the moment, they are building a large new base where the U.N. mission plans to house some of the troops still to come.

"The work here should take us many months before reinforcements arrive," said Major Chen, who was supervising the construction. He said the contingent is due to reach a total of 315 Chinese in coming months.

Nearby, his troops could be seen building bulletproof barriers around the compound, as Chinese armored personnel carriers were scattered across the arid landscape providing protection.

Another engineering corps from Scandinavia was due to deploy, but Sudan vetoed its presence, leaving the Chinese alone for engineering work in Darfur so far.

"We have very good relations with Sudan, so our troops came here also with the agreement of the Sudanese government," said Li-Cheng, the ambassador.

Because of those ties, some Darfur rebel groups don't view the Chinese as neutral peacekeepers and have called against their deployment. There have also been rebel attacks on Chinese-owned oil fields near Darfur.

A rebel in Nyala said his group was also weary of the Egyptian contingent due to deploy next month, because the central government in Khartoum says they are Arabs and "friendly."

"We'll be watching all of them very closely," the rebel said, speaking anonymously because he operates in a government-held town.

Inspecting the Chinese troops, ambassador Li-Cheng rejected the rebel threats, adding: "We hope these groups won't misunderstand the role and the neutrality of the Chinese."

The peacekeepers, settling down to a Chinese meal in their section of the U.N. compound, declined to speak to a reporter about their mission because they said they first needed clearance from Beijing. Many spoke fluent English and were friendly with the Nigerian peacekeepers sharing their base, who said they were impressed by the Chinese daily Karate routines.

## **GoSS**

### **South Sudan says it has not received funds for population census (AlAyam)**

The Speaker of Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly James Wani has emphasized the importance of conducting the national census before the running of the democratic general elections, saying that Southern Sudan has not yet received the required financing for the census.

Wani added that it was very difficult to resolve that the census would proceed forward, indicating to the postponement of the census twice. (Little amount of fund was provided, but this is not sufficient money. This might delay the census, if it is not possible to purchase vehicles and appoint team works), he said.

He indicated that the NCP agreed to list questions in the census forms pertinent to the issues of race and religion, issues, he added had refueled the war in the past.

He called on the international community not to neglect the CPA, which put an end to longest civil war between the South and North.

## **Darfur**

### **Darfur Arab rebel group disband and joins JEM (ST)**

February 1, 2008 (AL-FASHER) – A Darfur Arab rebel group has merged with rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), a press statement said today.

"The Sudanese Revolutionary Front (SRF) has decided to join JEM, inclusive of its political and military structures." Said a statement signed by the Secretary General of the SRF, Babikir Abaker Hasan Hamadain, and nine other leading commanders.

The SRF took up arms against the government in 2006 and "a member of the Mahamid tribe —Awlad Zeid section— from which most of Musa Hilal's forces are drawn," wrote Julie Flint in a paper published by Sudan Tribune last January.

The Arab group said they took this decision because JEM "has spearheaded the cause of Darfur people, stood for the rights of the marginalised people in Sudan."

The alliance of the Arab tribes with rebel movements in Darfur has been seeing as positive by some observers because it prevents Khartoum from waging its war by proxy and help to preserve the social fabric in the war-torn region.

"JEM has also affirmed its commitment to justice and equality within a national unity that reflects aspirations of all Sudanese people, irrespective of religious, ethnic, linguistic, geographical or regional affiliations." The rebel statement said.

(ST)

### **Armed group attacks Kalamando town, inflicts severe losses in lives and properties (Sudan Vision)**

**By: Al-Fasher- SUNA,** An armed group Thursday evening staged a treacherous attack on Kalamando town, North Darfur State, and inflicted severe losses in lives and properties. Two policemen and three citizens were killed in the assault, and six persons were wounded and taken to Al-Fasher city for treatment.

The same attacking group destroyed and burned a number of establishments and houses in Kalamando town, and looted four vehicles, a truck, shops and a pharmacy belonging to citizens. The national unity government in North Darfur State strongly denounced the heinous attack which was based on treachery and targeting to the citizens' lives, security and properties and the establishments in the town. The state's national unity government affirmed its adherence to the peace option as well as its keenness to protect the citizens' lives and properties and the state's establishments

### **Miscellaneous**

#### **African Union summit winds up session (SUNA)**

Addis Ababa, Feb. 2 (SUNA) - The 10th summit conference of the African Union concluded session in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa Saturday. Libyan Leader Moammer Al-Gaddafi, addressing the closing session, appreciated former Commissioner Prof. Alpha Oumer Konare, saying he has shouldered up the task and gained respect of international community to Africa. The Libyan leader has called for promoting African women's role and giving her senior posts. He pointed that the current stage is the stage of uniting Africa. Speaking to the final session, new Chairperson of the AU Commission Jean Ping has hailed Africans for choosing him, appreciating the efforts exerted by former commissioner, Prof. Konare for boosting the African role in the international arena. He called for achieving good governance and economic integration. The newly elected commissioners were sworn in. AH/BT