



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN UNMIS

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(By Public Information Office)

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HIGHLIGHTS :

UN/ Agencies

UN, African Union envoys to visit Darfur Monday

(*UN News/ST; AlSahafa et al*) The Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Darfur and his African Union (AU) counterpart will conduct a joint mission to Sudan next week as part of their efforts to revive the stalled peace process in the war-torn region.

The AU's Salim Ahmed Salim will travel on Monday to the capital, Khartoum, and to Darfur itself for talks with the Government and with representatives of those rebel groups that did not sign the Darfur Peace Agreement in May last year.

UNMIS announced the six-day mission today as Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon told the Security Council that obtaining a cessation of hostilities is urgent because unacceptable delays are preventing humanitarian help from reaching millions of victims.

In an address to a closed-door meeting following his recent trip to Africa, where he discussed Darfur with AU leaders at their summit in Addis Ababa, Ban warned Council members that slow progress on this issue cannot be tolerated.

"No more time can be lost. The people of Darfur have waited for far too long," said UN spokesperson Michele Montas, quoting from Ban's remarks.

Speaking later to reporters, the Secretary-General said he discussed with the Council his "very useful and constructive" recent meeting with Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir, when they talked about plans for a hybrid UN-AU peacekeeping force in Darfur.

Ban said he expects a "positive and clear" response soon from Bashir to a letter he sent last month outlining the details of the hybrid force, its command structure and funding.

Meanwhile, UNMIS reports that a fresh round of fighting between two Arab tribes in four villages in North Darfur appears to have ended, with no information on casualties from the weekend clashes.

On Saturday, armed men ambushed two trucks carrying UN supplies from Nyala, the provincial capital of South Darfur, to the West Darfur town of Garsilla. The drivers were robbed of cash and personal belongings but otherwise unharmed.

Restriction on movement of UN staff in eastern Sudan

(*AlAyaam*) The paper highlights an article from the UNMIS Bulletin (6 Feb. '07) that reported that Sudanese security stopped on 3 and 4 February several UN agencies' vehicles at checkpoints in Kassala and refused to allow them to proceed to their respective destinations arguing that they did not have travel permits.

One UN agency team was heading to Gedarif and another 5- vehicle convoy was heading to Hamesh Koreib.

UNHRC delegation expected in Sudan on Saturday

(*AlRai AlAam*) Diplomatic sources in Geneva expect a delegation from the UNHRC to arrive Khartoum next Saturday.

Judy Williams, winner of the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize has been chosen to lead the group which also includes Human Rights Rapporteur for Sudan, Sima Samar.

The composition of the delegation has however raised some questions amidst western diplomats who have expressed concerns over impartiality.

Group of masked men walk into *AlWatan* office claiming to have sent the bomb threat

(*AlWatan*) The paper's lead story is of two masked men coming into its offices yesterday claiming they were among those who sent the security threat to the UNMIS and the US embassy in Khartoum. The two have warned of a military confrontation with both and showed photographs of members of their group engaged in military drills.

The leader of the two people called himself "Aba-el-Baseer" and said he is the Coordinator-General of Islamist groups operating underground in Sudan and opposed to foreign intervention in Sudan.

He pointed out that they are being pursued by the government but feel they have a noble cause and religious obligation to fight foreign intervention.

Asked on numbers, he said these are "military secrets" but did add that they are of a considerable number. He said that the government has signed international treaties to combat terrorism and that is why their group is operating underground.

On training grounds, they said that their main training grounds are in Darfur because "the area is the target of foreigners" but said also that they do have other cells elsewhere.

On funds, he said that they are funded through contributions and buy arms from "neighbouring African countries".

On links with AlQaeda, they denied any links with the organisation and said that what links them is a unity of purpose.

The Transition Debate

Security Council frustrated by Darfur deadlock - US

(Reuters) The U.N. Security Council is frustrated by a lack of action to halt violence in Darfur, the United States said on Tuesday after Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon briefed the group on his talks with Sudan's president.

"I think on one level I sensed a general sense of frustration across the council and maybe — I don't want to speak for everyone obviously — that general sense permeated the room," U.S. Ambassador Alejandro Wolff told reporters.

"We continue to find ourselves stymied by questions and stalling tactics on the part of the Sudan government."

Click on the link below for more on this Reuters story from the SudanTribune.com
[Security Council frustrated by Darfur deadlock - US](#)

China told Sudan to adopt UN's Darfur plan - envoy

(Bloomberg) China's President Hu Jintao broke with his government's traditional policy of non-interference in a nation's internal affairs by telling Sudan last week to accept a joint United Nations-African Union peacekeeping mission to Darfur, China's ambassador said.

"Usually China doesn't send messages, but this time they did," Chinese Ambassador Wang Guangya said. "It was a clear strong message that the proposal from Kofi Annan is a good one and Sudan has to accept it."

On his second trip to Sudan in less than a year, Hu signed a series of aid agreements with Sudan and visited the 100,000 barrel-a-day Khartoum oil refinery in which the China National Petroleum Corp. has a 50 percent stake. Chinese investment in Sudanese oil production and pipelines has accelerated the country's crude output to more than 500,000 barrels a day in six years. Sudan now supplies China with about 8 percent of its oil, and its output is rising.

Hu didn't use those trade relations to pressure Sudan, according to Wang, who said China "never twists arms." Still, Wang said Sudan "got the message" and Chinese envoy Li Junhua said that, while Bashir didn't unambiguously accept the AU-UN force, he was "very forthcoming" in his private talks with Hu.

Click on the link below for more on this Bloomberg news story sourced from the SudanTribune.com
[China told Sudan to adopt UN's Darfur plan - envoy](#)

No military action planned for Darfur - US

(VOA) Senior U.S. defence officials say they are not planning any military intervention to end the killing and suffering in Sudan's Darfur region. The comments came at a U.S. Senate committee hearing Tuesday, and in a VOA interview. VOA's Al Pessin reports from the Pentagon.

The Assistant Secretary of Defense for African Affairs, Theresa Whelan, told VOA the United States is pressing for progress on the Darfur crisis, but is focusing on diplomacy. "We are not considering doing something militarily. I guess, in a case like Sudan, there are always things that are being considered. But I think the focus of the special envoy, [Andrew] Natsios' efforts right now is on getting the parties back to the table," she said.

Assistant Secretary Whelan says the efforts of President Bush's special envoy for Darfur, Andrew Natsios, are focused on convincing the Khartoum government it cannot achieve its goals in Darfur militarily. "They have not resolved the problem militarily, and they probably will not, never, resolve the problem militarily, just like they never resolved the North-South issue militarily. That was resolved at the negotiating table," she said.

Whelan says there are numerous agreements that the Khartoum government must implement, and that both the government and the rebels must 'act responsibly' and negotiate a revised peace accord. That would pave the way for the United Nations to take over the under-manned and under-funded African Union peacekeeping effort in Darfur.

Assistant Secretary Whelan says the Khartoum government is only postponing inevitable negotiations. And she praised the effort by Chinese President Hu Jintao in Khartoum this week to convince leaders there to resume the talks.

Click on the link below for more on this VOA news story sourced from the SudanTribune.com

[No military action planned for Darfur - US](#)

CPA

Border demarcation committee starts work

(AlAyaam et al) The Presidency was briefed at its meeting yesterday to reports on border demarcation, the JAM and currency change.

The Minister of Finance said Government of National Unity has performed 84% of its projects and added that donors have delayed in meeting their pledges. He also outlined the development projects to be carried out by the government that include major roads linking the west of the country to the capital and so on.

The minister further said that the GoNU will disburse \$400 million for the GoSS to implement infrastructure projects.

On his part, the Chairman of the Boundaries Demarcation Commission said a team from the commission which was scheduled to travel abroad has adjourned its trip and would instead head for Upper Nile, Blue Nile, White Nile and Sennar Sectors.

According to the Chairman, the Commission will submit its field reports, with the final report to the Presidency in October 2008.

First batch of Khartoum displaced reach South Kordofan

(UN News) Three days after leaving the Sudanese capital Khartoum, the first batch of internally displaced persons (IDPs) to return to their homes in the country's south as part of a major joint operation involving the United Nations are expected to reach their destinations today.

The convoy of 5,000 IDPs, organized by the UN in conjunction with the International Organization on Migration (IOM), the Government of National Unity and the Government of South Sudan, is due to arrive in the state of Southern Kordofan, the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) reported.

A second convoy was slated to leave Khartoum today, with another nine separate convoys expected to depart before the end of the month as part of an ambitious programme in which up to 150,000 IDPs will be helped to return home before the annual rainy season strikes in the middle of the year.

UNMIS said priority is being given to IDPs heading for communities most conducive to accepting returns as southern Sudan tries to rebuild itself with international assistance in the wake of the 2005 peace deal ending the brutal 21-year civil war that divided the vast country.

Not all communities in the remote south have the necessary infrastructure, health and education facilities, food, water resources and safety conditions in place yet to absorb large numbers of returnees.

As the convoys head south, the UN and its partners are registering other IDPs who want to return home as well.

Click on the link below for more on this UN News story sourced from the SudanTribune.com

[First batch of Khartoum displaced reach South Sudan](#)

Malik Agar doubts statistics of SAF redeployment from the south

(AlSudani) Speaking at the conference of the Northern Sector of the SPLM yesterday, prominent SPLM figure Malik Agar expressed doubts over the SAF claims that they have completed redeployment of 80% of their troops from southern Sudan.

He said that the SAF is still on the ground in the south as are its militias that number up to 120,000. He wondered where the money comes from for these militias.

He pointed out that the CPA is at a crossroads and both partners are to blame for not implementing the agreement.

Pagan Amum says SPLA being geared to face “threat from the north”

(AlRai AlAam) SPLM Secretary-General Pagan Amum said that 40% of the GoSS budget is being used on the SPLA to prepare it to face a “threat from the north” on stability in the south and to defend the CPA.

He said that a Sudanese group being backed by the SAF and currently in Khartoum will be seeking to destabilise the south probably, he adds, with a goal to “re-occupy” southern Sudan.

He conceded that there is some level of corruption in the south but assured that the SPLM was capable of curbing it.

GoNU

President Bashir addresses Arab Workers’ Unions

(Lead story in most major dailies) Addressing the conference of the International Union of Arab Workers in Khartoum yesterday, President Bashir renewed his full rejection to the deployment of international forces to Sudan.

He said that the Sudan government’s rejection to foreign troops a final decision and that the Sudan fears no sanctions or threats. He also blamed Zionist agents in the region for fuelling conflicts in Sudan.

On Darfur, President Bashir said that the crisis can only be solved through negotiations and the provisions of more services in the region. He expressed confidence that the Sudan can reach its goals despite difficulties.

He said that the country was still looking forward towards donors meeting their pledges for development and reconstruction in Darfur.

On elections, the President confirmed that the elections will be free and fair and held within the timeframe agreed upon and in line with the country’s laws which, he said, would block the way for those who want to interfere in the internal affairs of the country.

The workers’ union confirmed their rejection to foreign intervention in Sudan and reaffirmed for Sudan's sovereignty.

Southern Sudan/ GoSS/ SPLM

GoSS minister slams World Bank

(Khartoum Monitor) The Health Minister at the GoSS told journalists in a press conference held in Juba yesterday, that his 200 day Action Plan matrix was frustrated by lack of money due to GoSS dependence on a single source of revenue, that being oil.

The Minister further said his ministry had wanted to affect normal distribution of drugs worth \$20 million but that the World Bank delayed the shipment of the drugs up until February 20, 2007 without giving reasons.

“As far as I know, the world Bank is a money lending institution. It is never an implementing institution. Why is Southern Sudan an exception?” the GoSS Health Minister questioned.

He said while the GoSS Health Minister thinks the drug delivery is a priority, the world Bank thinks money should remain in the Bank for as long as possible.

“The World Bank is bogging us down. Politically the World Bank is instigating the citizens against us. This is one of the weaknesses of the CPA.” He stated.

South Sudan parliament urges govt to settle tax system

(SRS) The head of the economic panel at the Southern Sudan parliament said government should settle its tax system because it is crucial to finance public services in the region.

The chairperson of the economic committee in the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly, Professor Barri Wanji, said that the Government of Southern Sudan should finalize and implement its taxation policies to improve how its revenue generation.

He explained that the region cannot rely on oil revenue and donor funds alone to provide services.

He said that the SSLA economic committee, in conjunction with the Finance Ministry, is working on a standardized tax system which will soon be implemented in southern Sudan. Wanji said the government will also put in place a process for how taxes will be collected.

Bakhita Radio goes on the air in Juba

(Khartoum Monitor) The Catholic Archdiocese of Juba will, this Thursday, officially open Bakhita radio, the voice of the Church, transmitting on 91 FM from its premises.

The Radio station is located in the compound of the Catholic Printing Press and Diocesan Communication Centre. It went on air during Christmas Eve for signal testing and on Christmas Day transmitted live the high mass at Saint Theresa’s Cathedral, Kator.

It has since been on air daily from 5:00 p.m to 7:00 p.m. After the official inauguration, Bakhita Radio will be on air everyday from 5:00 p.m.

The Catholic radio station aims at contributing in the dissemination of information, enlightenment, educating the population on social, religious and political issues, with particular emphasis on peace building, healing and reconciliation.

SPLM establishes leadership council to lead its Northern Sector

(Khartoum Monitor) The first Congress of the SPLM's Northern Sector concluded yesterday with the formation of its leadership Council to which the secretaries of the ten Northern States were nominated.

The spokesperson for the Northern Sector, Deng Goj, said the Council is to function as a political leadership for the SPLM's Northern Sector with the duties of planning and charting political and organisational programmes and is chaired by Deputy Sector General of the SPLM for the Northern Sector.

Goj disclosed that the Council has 23 members, 10 of which are elected Secretaries of the Northern States in addition to 3 Secretaries from the Darfur states and 9 from the Secretaries of the Northern Sector, beside the Secretary General.

The SPLM also deplored human rights violations in Darfur and announced it will be holding the second conference of its Northern Sector in Darfur.

The SPLM voiced support for VP Kiir's calls for tribal reconciliation but strongly called for a reconstruction of the structures of the police force and for the freedom of the press.

The conference also called for the implementation of the CPA, the Darfur Peace Agreement and the ESPA and that agreements reached by the people affected by the construction of the dam at Meroe, northern Sudan.

SPLM leaders also criticised those calling for the expulsion of southern Sudanese from the national capital.

The conference concluded with a press conference.

SPLM leadership council to convene in Yei

(Khartoum Monitor) The Minister in the GoSS President's Office, Dr. Luka Biong Deng, said yesterday that the SPLM Leadership Council meeting will convene in Yei on Thursday to discuss issues arising and the Party's strategies for the next period.

On the establishing of the Abyei Administration, North-South Border and Services Commissions, and the issue of armed groups in southern Sudan, the Minister said that President Al Bashir and his deputies discussed these yesterday.

He also said the first Vice President of the Republic and President of GoSS General Salva Kiir, has urged the Chinese Government boost investment in South Sudan`s oil industry.

LRA declares war on Uganda; LRA attacks Nabanga in W. Equatoria

(Khartoum Monitor) Reports from Yambio in Western Equatoria State say on Sunday the Ugandan Lord`s Resistance Army attacked Nabanga, abducting some people and looting property. A relief source in Yambio confirmed that two girls were reported missing.

According to news reports, the LRA is being pursued by the security forces in Yambio.

Some LRA soldiers were spotted at Nanguti at the Sudan Central African Republic boarder.

Meanwhile on Monday, the Western Equatoria State Government security Committee drew up security measures following the Nabanga attack and has resolved that the Ombororo nomads currently in Ibba must leave immediately.

Central Equatoria State`s minister for social development orders cancelling of all contracts with Islamic organisations

(Khartoum Monitor) The Minister of Social Development in Central Equatoria State, George Lugala Benjamin Paipai, issued an order cancelling all previous contracts which relating to rent of houses and shops that belonged to the Islamic Endowment Organisation [*Deiwan el-Zakkat*] with immediate effect.

It also stipulated that the Director of Islamic Affairs in Central Equatoria State should execute the order accordingly and that those affected by the order should see the Director of Islamic Affairs.

Darfur/ DPA

Darfur NRF to discuss political structure in Chad

(ST) A Darfur holdout rebel group is expected to meet next week in the Chadian capital to strengthen political structure of the movement.

Leaders of the rebel National Redemption Front (NRF) will meet next Monday 12 February in Chad to discuss a number of issues most importantly the NRF`s structure and political and military coordination.

The meeting will be attended by Dr Khalil Ibrahim, Sharif Harir, Ahmad Ibrahim Dirayj and Khamis Abdallah Abakar. The meeting aims to study the restructuring of the NRF to create an entity and set up offices and to discuss political and military coordination between NRF factions.

The question of the leadership of the NRF seems would be avoided as Ahmed Dirij and Khalil Ibrahim both are pretending of the chairmanship of the group.

Click on the link below for more on this story sourced from the SudanTribune.com
[Darfur NRF to discuss political structure in Chad](#)

Other Developments

Eastern Sudan rebels to demobilise

(AFP) Former rebels operating in eastern Sudan are to demobilise “within days” following the group’s official registration as a political party, officials said Wednesday.

Rejecting reports that the movement has split along ethnic lines, Eastern Front deputy chairwoman Amna Dirar said a peace deal signed last October was on track and that ex-fighters have gathered at two camps, one inside Sudan and another west of Eritrea.

“The Eastern Front has now registered as a political party with the administration in Khartoum,” Dirar told AFP in Asmara. “The soldiers will start to move within days.”

The rebels had similar aims to its better-known counterparts in Darfur fighting for greater autonomy and control of natural resources.

The accord with the eastern rebels is part of efforts to pacify the whole of Sudan, African’s largest country, by building on peace pacts which the Arab regime in Khartoum has already reached with other rebel groups.

Click on the link below for more on this AFP story sourced from the SudanTribune.com
[Eastern Sudan rebels to demobilise](#)