



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN
UNMIS

UNMIS Media Monitoring Report, 9th February, 2006
(By Public Information Office)

NOTE: Reproduction here does not mean that the UNMIS PIO can vouch for the accuracy or veracity of the contents, nor does this report reflect the views of the United Nations Mission in Sudan. Furthermore, international copyright exists on some materials and this summary should not be disseminated beyond the intended list of recipients.

IN THE NEWS TODAY:

- **UN**
 - UN calls on parties to present deployment plans
 - UN to discuss Darfur peacekeepers next month
 - Chinese peacekeepers to deploy by late February
 - UN panel calls for sanctions against Sudan's neighbors

- **CPA**
 - LRA obstructs demining process in Equatoria
 - SPLM, NDA parliamentarians discuss obstacles to the implementation of the CPA

- **Government of National Unity**
 - President of the Republic to hold talks on Monday with his two deputies
 - Army Spokesperson slams Matip on statements

- **Darfur/ Chad**
 - Government, rebels agree to map areas of control
 - Sudan, Chad strike peace deal in Tripoli
 - AU urges Sudanese negotiators to conclude Darfur talks
 - Darfur rebels back Slovene president's peace plan

- **Other developments**
 - Manaseer stage mass resignation from the National Congress party
 - Hamas delegation to visit Sudan, Saudi Arabia after Qatar

HIGHLIGHTS:

UN

UN calls on parties to present deployment plans

(*AlAyaam* – 9th Feb. **Khartoum**) UN Spokesperson Radhia Achouri has underlined the need for the parties to present a redeployment plan and list of their forces on the ground in Hamishkoreib in order to help defuse the security tensions in the area.

She also said that the SPLA is supposed to have withdrawn yesterday and called for their redeployment from eastern Sudan to areas south of the 1/1'56 line.

She said that the CJMC has deployed a number of military observers in the Hamishkoreib region but the situation is tense due to the presence of a number of armed militias in that area.

On Darfur, the Spokesperson said that the humanitarian situation remains bad due to militia attacks and SLA abductions of humanitarian workers

On the situation in Jonglei, she said that the UN is exerting efforts to cool the situation through joint mechanisms. She pointed out that the UN can not lay down regulations on which armed group should join which army and that the CPA gives them the right to choose. She pointed out however that the casualty figures are somewhat exaggerated.

UN to discuss Darfur peacekeepers next month

(*Xinhua/ST, AlRai AlAam* – 9th Feb. **Khartoum**) The UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) announced here Wednesday that the UN Security Council (the AU Peace and Security Council according to the *AlRai AlAam* version) would hold a ministerial meeting next month in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa on UN takeover of peacekeeping operations in Darfur.

Speaking at a press conference, UNMIS spokesperson Radia Achouri said that the UN Security Council reaffirmed the importance of backing the African Union mission in Sudan (AMIS) ahead of the transition to a UN operation.

She said however that such a transition to a UN operation will depend on the consent of the donor states that support UN peacekeeping forces. She also conveyed SRSG Pronk's assurances that the UN would not come in in Darfur against the wishes of the Sudanese and without consultations with all parties.

Achouri further said that the situation in Darfur is heading toward more deterioration as a result of the border clashes and the increase in banditry. This, she said, has caused the UN to withdraw its staff from some areas of West Darfur and has raised the security alert to a level V. She also relayed Koffi Annan's concerns that a year of talks has gone back without any tangible results. She said that Annan has threatened to invoke Chapter VII of the UN charter that talks of sanctions against those who hamper the peace process.

She said that the UNMIS chief Jan Pronk predicted the transition would need great logistical resources and called for every possible efforts to sustain the current AU task on the ground.

On the other hand, Achouri says the UN has not requested to take charge of the dossier on eastern Sudan. She said that the events in the east have its implications on the overall situation in the country. She disclosed that the Eastern Front had requested the UN to take charge of the issue. The UN however did turn down the request.

The UN Security Council authorized last week planning for replacing the African Union (AU) peacekeeping forces in Darfur with the UN forces, which was agreed in principle by the AU but strongly opposed by Sudan.

Sudan's vice foreign minister Samani Al-Wasila said on Tuesday that money for such a force would be better spent bolstering an AU mission already in Sudan's troubled western region of Darfur.

"If there is a possibility of sending new forces to Darfur by the United Nations and the international community, forces that would cost double the costs of the African Union troops, then why shouldn't this money be used for boosting the African Union forces?" Al-Wasila was quoted by the state-run Sudan Media Center as saying.

"Government consent is an essential precondition for taking any such a move by the world organization," he added.

AU has said it can no longer sustain a 7,000-strong peacekeeping force in Darfur due to shortage of fund, staff and equipment.

Chinese peacekeepers to deploy by late February

(*Khartoum Monitor* – 9th Feb. **Khartoum**) UNMIS Spokesperson Radhia Achouri disclosed in a press briefing yesterday that a Chinese contingent of the peacekeeping troops will join the mission by the end of February and will be deployed to Wau.

Except for the Russian and Chinese contingents, all other troops have joined the mission and are well established on the ground, Achouri said.

Radhia further noted that the last CJMC meeting was held on 2nd February in Juba where important decisions were made among which the CJMC's have been directed to draw up a timetable for the movement of SAF and SPLA troops into assembly areas. The CJMC asked for an early convening of Other Armed Groups Collaborative committees to help resolve their problems.

UN panel calls for sanctions against Sudan's neighbors

(*IRIN* – 8th Feb. **Nairobi**) A panel of United Nations experts has urged Sudan's neighbors to crack down on unofficial shipments of arms into the war-torn east African country. The group also recommended that the UN Security Council extend and strengthen its embargo and consider naming individuals against whom sanctions should be imposed.

"It is clear that arms, especially small arms and ammunition, continue to enter [the western Sudanese region of] Darfur from a number of countries and from other regions of the Sudan," said the report, which was quoted in UN News on Wednesday.

The panel said the rebel Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A) and Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) "have continued to receive arms, ammunition and/or equipment from Chad, Eritrea, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, non-governmental groups and other

unknown sources", even after the Security Council imposed an arms embargo on all nongovernmental groups in 2004. The opposition groups received financial, political and other material support from neighbouring countries, the experts said.

They were unable to determine whether the support from the three countries was official or "the independent actions of government officials".

"The panel judges that the government of Eritrea has provided, and probably continues to provide, arms, logistical support, military training and political support to both JEM and the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA). Training of JEM and SLA has reportedly occurred at a number of camps in Eritrea on the Eritrea-Sudan border," the report said.

The governments and people named in the report were not immediately available for comment.

The panel also said government troops were being shuffled from one part of the country to another. "Troops with their weapons being withdrawn from southern Sudan in fulfilment of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement are being transferred to Darfur," it said.

The experts added that the African Union (AU) had reported suspicious, unannounced aircraft landings and departures at Al-Fashir and Nyala airports at night, when they are officially closed and inaccessible to AU monitors, and at the airstrip of Tine as well.

CPA

LRA obstructs demining process in Equatoria

(*Khartoum Monitor* – 9th Feb. **Khartoum**) The Governor of Bahr-el-Jebel State discussed with the UN Principal Advisor on Security ways and means of finding solutions to end LRA activities in Equatoria.

Governor Clement Wani told Ibrahim Ndiaye that LRA activities in Equatoria obstruct the demining process and returns and is therefore a setback to the implementation of the CPA. The governor also underlined the need for a negotiated settlement between the LRA and the Uganda government.

On his part, the UN official informed the governor of the refusal by Uganda's president to negotiate with the LRA.

SPLM, NDA parliamentarians discuss obstacles to the implementation of the CPA

(*AlRai AlAam* – 9th Feb. **Khartoum**) Parliamentarians from the SPLM and the NDA hold an important meeting in parliament tomorrow to discuss the obstacles facing implementation of the CPA and to seek a means for coordination in parliamentary and other issues.

Spokesperson Suliman Hamid of the NDA parliamentary bloc says that the NDA is committed to the implementation of the CPA as per the schedule but the National Congress party is always dragging its feet in the implementation process.

He further pointed out that the international partners to the CPA are now withdrawing from their positions of support after the considerable shortfalls in the implementation of the CPA and now doubt viability of the bilateral agreement.

He also noted that they are committed to the implementation of the CPA and are working in close coordination with the SPLM bloc as a result of which the National Congress party was forced to withdraw some interim decrees tabled before parliament for deliberation and refer others to the Council of Ministers.

Government of National Unity

President of the Republic to hold talks on Monday with his two deputies

(*AlAyaam/SUNA* – 9th Feb. **Khartoum**) President Bashir discusses with Vice-presidents Kiir and Taha next Monday the report on the implementation of the CPA.

Vice-presidents Kiir and Taha exchanged notes yesterday on the implementation of the CPA and on political, legislative and executive arrangements to activate the commissions and institutions of the CPA formed so far and the schedules for the implementation of the CPA.

The two Vice-presidents also discussed current arrangements for Sudan's participation at the forthcoming Donors' Conference in March.

Army Spokesperson slams Matip on statements

(*AlAyaam* – 9th Feb. **Khartoum**) Army Spokesperson el-Abas AbdelRahman Khalifa has slammed Paulino Matip over his recent statements at a press conference in which he criticised, among other things, the manner in which Military Intelligence carries out its functions.

The Spokesperson pointed out that there may be flaws but Paulino as a member of the SPLM which is now a partner in government should have sought remedy through the institutions of the state and not through the media as he did. He described this action as a violation of the CPA.

Darfur/ Chad

Government, rebels agree to map areas of control

(*AlAyaam* – 9th Feb. **Khartoum, Abuja**) The government and the rebel forces agreed at talks in Abuja yesterday that each side map should make known its area of control and relief routes passing through their respective areas of control.

The government delegation also presented a proposal to strengthen the local administration in the IDP camps and proposed the establishment of local committees made up of IDPs.

The rebel delegations disclosed that the government has acknowledged the existence of *Janjaweed* militias and confirmed its responsibility to disarm them.

On power sharing, the government rejected the 26% in the executive and civil service that had been requested by the rebel delegation.

Sudan, Chad strike peace deal in Tripoli

(*Sudan Radio/BBC* – 9th Feb. **Omdurman**) Sudan and Chad last night signed a peace agreement at the end of the mini-summit held in the Libyan capital, Tripoli. The agreement, which was signed by the Sudanese president, Omar al-Bashir, and his Chadian counterpart Idriss Deby, provides for the re-establishment of the bilateral relations and the opening of consulates. It

also calls for ending media campaigns against one another and to stop using their territories to back hostile activity against one another, as well as supporting rebels of the two countries.

The agreement provided for the establishment of an African ministerial committee presided over by Libya to oversee the implementation of the agreement.

After the signing of the Tripoli Agreement, President A-Bashir expressed Sudan's appreciation for the consistent efforts and pledged to implement the agreement on the ground.

For his part, Chadian President Idriss Deby said this agreement will allow the two countries to normalize their bilateral ties.

Libya's Gadhaffi who hosted the talks said on his part that his country offers to the AU its resources, notably 1,000 tanks, 1,000 aircraft and 100,000 soldiers to be deployed at the borders between the two countries to prevent rebels from one side from crossing over to another.

Gadhaffi reiterated his rejection to any foreign military intervention in Darfur unless through the express consent of the Sudanese government. He called upon the UN and all other international parties that wish to provide assistance to Africa to do so without any preconditions. He further noted that Africa will be full of UN or NATO forces if Africans allow such forces to come in whenever conflict breaks out in any part of the continent.

AU urges Sudanese negotiators to conclude Darfur talks

(Sudan Tribune – 8th Feb. Abuja) The African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security, Saïd Djinnit yesterday 7 February arrived to Abuja from AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa, to exhort Darfur peace negotiators to redouble their efforts to speedily conclude the Talks.

Ambassador Djinnit, while stressing that “time is not on our side”, called upon the Sudanese Parties to work speedily to achieve a breakthrough before the end of this month, said the AU spokesperson Nouredine Mezni in a press statement.

Ambassador Djinnit who has since held several working sessions with the AU Special Envoy Salim Ahmed Salim and the Mediation Team, today attended a Plenary Session of the Power Sharing Commission.

Taking the floor before the end of the meeting, Ambassador Djinnit commended the AU Special Envoy, the Sudanese Parties and the other stakeholders for the efforts being deployed to move the Peace Process forward.

He however voiced the disappointment of African leaders and the International Community at the slow pace of the Talks and the “very modest progress” achieved, including the fact that the Sudanese Parties had failed to keep their pledge to reach a comprehensive peace agreement by the end of December 2005.

Nonetheless, he observed that some progress had been made in the Power Sharing Commission as well as in the Wealth Sharing and Security Arrangements Commissions.

The AU Commissioner for Peace and Security urged the Parties to approach the negotiations with an enhanced spirit of give and take, be more forthcoming and show greater understanding in addressing the concerns of the other Side, with a view to bridging the existing gaps.

The AU Commissioner for Peace and Security will on Thursday, 9 February hold separate meetings with the representatives of the Movements, the Government of the Sudan and the International Partners.

Darfur rebels back Slovene president's peace plan

(*Slovene News Agency/BBC* – 8th Feb. **Ljubljana**) The two main rebel factions in Darfur expressed their support for Slovene President Janez Drnovsek's recently published peace plan, the president's office said on Wednesday.

The Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) said that Drnovsek's plan presents a good basis for concluding a peace deal. Both groups are ready to enter peace talks with the Sudanese government.

SLA and JEM are the two main armed groups fighting the Sudanese government and the government-supported *Janjaweed* militias.

Earlier in the day Sudan's president Omar al-Bashir also expressed his support for Drnovsek's peace plan, labelling the initiative a friendly gesture stemming from a sincere and heartfelt desire to help in finding a lasting solution for the region.

The plan, outlined by Drnovsek in early February, includes a political solution that is similar to the one used to resolve the crisis in southern Sudan several years ago.

The plan also includes provisions for ensuring security and special provisions that deal with the involvement of the international community in the peace process.

Other developments

Manaseer stage mass resignation from the National Congress party

(*AlAyaam* – 9th Feb. **Khartoum**) Elements from the Manaseer at the National Congress party have staged a mass resignation *en masse* following what they see as government's failure to expedite solutions to the problems caused by the construction of the Meroe Dam in northern Sudan and failure from government to recognise the committee formed representing those people.

The head of the Manaseer committee said they will stick to what he described as their traditional lands around the area of the lake to be formed by the construction of the Meroe Dam. He said they do not have any political agenda nor are they connected to any armed group in any part of Sudan but only want their traditional lands.

He said they will not welcome any government official who does not carry along with him solutions to their problems.

Hamas delegation to visit Sudan, Saudi Arabia after Qatar

(*Palestinian Ramattan News Agency/BBC* – 8th Feb. **Cairo**) Hamas sources said on Wednesday [8 February] that the movement's delegation will leave the Egyptian capital today and head to Doha, the capital of Qatar in a visit that will last several days.

After Qatar, the delegation is slated to visit Sudan, Saudi Arabia and other Arab and Islamic nations. Sources close to Hamas's arrangements told Ramattan that Isma'il Haniyah and Sa'id Siyam, two leading Hamas figures from Gaza, are making their way home.

