



## UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN

### UNMIS

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(By Public Information Office)

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### **IN THE NEWS TODAY:**

#### ➤ **UN/ Agencies**

- Sudan and UNAMID sign status of forces agreement (SUNA)
- Parties to SOFA agree on consulting over non-African troops (Sudan Vision)
- UN envoy urges ceasefire to create conducive environment in Darfur (ST)
- Head of Darfur ceasefire body urges restraint (ST)
- Sudan-Chad proxy war may destabilize the region - UN (ST)
- UN prefers Ethiopia to Bangladesh helicopters (ST)

#### ➤ **GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)**

- President Al-Bashir chairs first meeting of National Security Council (SUNA)
- Sudan's census kick-off awaits presidential green light - official (ST)
- Constitutional body reviews Sudan's election law, waits political compromise (ST)
- Sudan's Salva Kiir shows satisfaction with CPA implementation (ST)
- Miseriya kill three, raid 8,000 cattle, says official (The Citizen) – SPLM: Miseriya are guests, have no rights in Abyei (Rai AlShaab), Clashes between SAF and SPLA on Friday, Miseriya bloc road to Abyei (AlSahafa), Miseriya bloc roads leading to south Sudan (AlIntibaha), MP: SPLM creates new crisis in Abyei, hinders peace (Rai AlShaab)
- Leading Sudanese columnist accuse government of backing Chadian rebels (ST)
- Sudan's Ahmad Harun will face justice; it is his destiny - ICC (ST)

#### ➤ **GoSS**

- Salva Kiir in Egypt Sunday to discuss south Sudan development (ST)
- 45 prisoners released from jail in Rumbek (ST)

- South Sudan bank stops dollar payments to fight black market trade (ST)
- Sudan's Jonglei Governor strengthens disarming force for peace (ST)

### ➤ Darfur

- HRW urges to end attacks on Darfur civilians (ST)
- 27 killed in Darfur attack - families (ST)
- 200 killed during Sudan attack on rebels in West Darfur (ST)
- Darfur leader slams Sudan's foiled coup to topple Chad leader (ST)
- Chinese peacekeepers in Sudan awarded medal (ST)

### ➤ Miscellaneous

- Maj. Gen. Al-Tahir: Police and security organs worked with all their capabilities to unveil the circumstances of the incident of the killing of official of USAID (SUNA)
- Press Office of Police issues statement on arrest of suspects in the killing of the American official (SUNA,
- Chad rebels say want to lure army from capital (ST)
- French prop for Deby may backfire in Chad conflict (ST)
- US to crack down on violators of Sudan sanctions: Official (ST)
- Chad imposes curfew as rebels regroup (ST)

## Highlights

### UN/ Agencies

#### **Sudan and UNAMID sign status of forces agreement (SUNA)**

Khartoum, Feb. 9 (SUNA) - The status of forces agreement of the United Nations and African Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) was signed at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Saturday, where Minister of Foreign Affairs Deng Alor signed for the Government of Sudan, while AU-UN Joint Special Representative for Darfur, Rodolphe Adada, signed for UNAMID. Minister of Foreign Affairs Deng Alor affirmed in a joint press conference with Rodolphe Adada full cooperation of the government with UNAMID for the success of the hybrid operation in Darfur, pointing out that protection of the people of Darfur is the responsibility of the federal government and the efforts of the international community is support and help for effecting stability in the region, pointing out that the African nature would be the main force and the majority in the hybrid operation, explaining that the signing of the agreement represents the kick off in the process of cooperation between the government and the UNAMID. Rodolphe Adada, on his part, said by the signing of the agreement UNAMID starts its work with full legality. He called for collective efforts for the success of the hybrid operation in Darfur, indicating that the agreement legalized the presence and work of UNAMID besides its respect to the local and national laws. Meanwhile, Sudan Permanent Envoy

to the United Nations Ambassador Abdel-Mahmoud Abdel-Halim, said in a press statement following the signing ceremony of the agreement that the document is based on Security Council Resolution No. 1769 and the relevant resolutions of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, explaining that it has given consideration to the principle of the sovereignty and unity of Sudan besides the relations of the mission with the Sudan judiciary, privileges, immunities and the issues pertinent to telecommunications and information media of the mission. He added that the signing of the agreement is considered as an important step towards deployment of the hybrid operation, pointing out that the United Nations Secretary General explained in his last briefing to the Security Council on Thursday that priority should be given to boosting the peaceful process in Darfur. BT/BT

### **Parties to SOFA agree on consulting over non-African troops (Sudan Vision)**

**By: Al Sammani Awadallah,** The Sudanese government and the UN-AU Joint Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) yesterday signed the State of Forces Agreement (SOFA). The Sudanese Foreign Minister, Deng Alor, signed on behalf of the government while Rodolphe Adada, the AU Joint Special Representative, signed for UNAMID.

Following the signing ceremony, Adada stated that the agreement will be binding to both parties, noting that the agreement observes the sovereignty of the host country. He affirmed that the two parties to the agreement, UNAMID and the government, have agreed on all the issues embodied in the agreement.

For his part, the Sudanese Foreign Minister affirmed the government's commitment to facilitating the implementation of the agreement, indicating that the agreement also calls for the predominantly African character of the force and that non-African troops may be deployed after consultations among the parties concerned.

Meanwhile, Sudan's permanent representative to the UN, Ambassador Adelmahmoud Abdelhalim, described SOFA at a press conference he held yesterday in Khartoum as an important document that is based on Resolution 1769, adding that the agreement provisions respect the sovereignty, unity, territorial integrity and local norms of Sudan as well as regulate the Mission's relations with the Sudanese judiciary.

He further explained that SOFA has included the disciplinary measures to be taken in the event of violations by any of the Mission's personnel, affirming that the concession and matters relating to the Mission's contacts and its run media have also been addressed. He said the Mission has been mandated to reach a peaceful solution to the Darfur conflict and to help the warring parties to implement the Abuja agreement. He pointed out that the agreement has laid the legal frame deriving its terms of reference from AU Peace and Security Council resolutions.

Abdelhalim referred to UNSG briefing in which he stressed on giving priority to the peace process. He praised the agreement, adding that it has laid emphasis on the African character of the troops provided with international logistical support. He disclosed that the agreement has not addressed the time schedule for the arrival of the troops in Darfur, saying that this aspect is the concern of UN and AU. He further noted that the deployment of forces will last throughout the year.

He broke the news that the issue of providing helicopters and other logistical means is about to be resolved, calling on troops contributing countries to expedite their contribution to the force.

### **UN envoy urges ceasefire to create conducive environment in Darfur (ST)**

February 8, 2008 (UNITED NATIONS) — The UN special envoy for Darfur has told the Security Council that now more than ever, there is an urgent need to demand that the parties in Sudan stop fighting in order to create an environment conducive to peace talks.

Jan Eliasson told the Council "I just received this minute, reports from field about attacks on the villages by the Sudanese army entities and militia groups. [...] You have a dramatic reminder at this meeting that there is a clear need, urgently, to demand of the parties an immediate cessation of hostilities," said Eliasson.

He stressed that substantive peace talks between the government and rebel groups could not work unless the escalation of violence is reversed. He said, to demonstrate their commitment to the political process, the parties in Sudan should unilaterally declare and respect a cessation of hostilities.

However the Darfur envoy on Friday said that rebel groups in Sudan's western Darfur region are not yet ready for substantive peace talks to end Darfur's five-year conflict.

"The parties have no doubt made progress in their preparations (for peace negotiations). But they are still to a great degree not ready to engage in substantive talks," Jan Eliasson told the Security Council.

"The movements still lack consolidated positions and have not yet formed a joint team," he said in a progress report.

The United Nations has been pushing the rebels and Sudan's government to hold new negotiations after a first round in Libya last October made little headway.

Some rebel groups have signed a deal with the Sudanese government but the insurgents have split into many factions and others are still fighting for a renewed peace process.

"While the people of Darfur cannot wait for ever, we will have to accept that the steps toward an eventual peace agreement will be incremental and will take longer than we had initially hoped," Eliasson said.

The Dutch government has indicated that it would be willing to host a new round of talks.

(Some information in this report provided by VOA and Reuters)

### **Head of Darfur ceasefire body urges restraint (ST)**

February 8, 2008 (AL-FASHER) — The Chairman of Darfur Ceasefire commission, General Martin Luther Agwa, urged Sudanese government to stop attacks against rebel Justice and Equality Movement in West Darfur and to exercise restraint.

Sudanese troops backed by Janjaweed militia attacked three communities in the western region of Darfur on Friday, killing dozens of civilians. Also the rebel JEM said Sudan government had 200 civilian during aerial attack on three areas.

General Agwa, who is also the UNAMID Force Commander, expressed “great concern” over Sudanese army attack against villages to north of EL-Geneina, capital of West Darfur State. He further said that houses in Abu souruj have been burned and the army attacked also villages of Sirba and allegations of aerial bombing in Silea.

He urged Khartoum government to stop its military offensive saying it may provoke displacement of large numbers of villagers, a matter that can compound the critical humanitarian situation.

"It is important that all sides show full restraint at this time, and that space be allowed for immediate mediation." He said.

(ST)

#### **Sudan-Chad proxy war may destabilize the region - UN (ST)**

February 8, 2008 (UNITED NATIONS) — A senior UN official on Friday warned that a reported proxy war between Sudan and Chad through rebel groups on each side of their border threatened to destabilize the region and could lead to a wider conflict.

Jean-Marie Guehenno, the French head of UN peacekeeping operations, made the remarks to the Security Council as Sudanese troops attacked three communities in western Darfur, killing dozens of civilians, according to a Darfur rebel chief.

"At least 150 people from the village targeted, that is Abu Soruj, 55 kilometres (35 miles) north of Geneina (capital of West Darfur), have been killed or wounded," Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) commander Abdel Aziz Nur al-Asher said.

And Guehenno said the situation had been exacerbated by the violence in neighboring Chad over the past several days."

"The potentially destabilizing regional implications have been highlighted by numerous media reports of Chadian rebel movements receiving support in Sudan ... and Sudanese rebel movements that have acted in support of the Chadian government," he said.

"Continuing accusations by both governments of their support for rebel movements on each side of the border increase the climate of mistrust, fuel tensions between the two countries, and once again demonstrate the potential for a conflict of international dimensions in the area," he added.

Guehenno, who toured troops of the UN-African Union peacekeeping force (UNAMID) in Darfur during his January 21-31 visit, also complained that the force "is severely under-resourced for the tasks which it was mandated to perform."

When fully deployed, UNAMID is to become the UN's largest peacekeeping operation with 20,000 troops and 6,000 police and civilian personnel.

But only around 9,000 troops and police are currently in place.

Guehenno said the world body would give priority to deploying a contingent of Ethiopian troops as part of UNAMID, provided Khartoum quickly agreed to the simultaneous deployment of crack Nepalese and Thai units.

"If we are to deploy these units alongside the Ethiopian troops, we must inform Thailand and Nepal immediately so that urgent pre-deployment preparations can be finalized," he added.

Guehenno also bemoaned the fact that UNAMID was still lacking "critical military aviation and ground transportation assets," referring to 24 attack and transport helicopters.

"The Council must be aware that, should offers for these critical capabilities not be forthcoming, additional troops will not be a sufficient substitute," he said.

(AFP)

### **UN prefers Ethiopia to Bangladesh helicopters (ST)**

February 7, 2008 (UNITED NATIONS) — Helicopters offered by Bangladesh to fill a vital need of peacekeepers in Darfur do not meet United Nations requirements but those offered by Ethiopia do, U.N. officials said on Thursday.

Despite intensive lobbying by U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and other top officials, countries had been reluctant to offer the craft until Ethiopia and Bangladesh — both already supplying ground troops for the U.N./AU Mission in Darfur, or UNAMID — recently stepped forward.

On Thursday, a U.N. official said Ethiopia had offered six attack and transport helicopters and Bangladesh five transport helicopters. That would still fall short of the total U.N. request for six attack and 18 transport helicopters.

But the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said: "The Bangladeshi kit will not meet our requirements, but the Ethiopian stuff will and we will ask for more."

Problems with the Bangladeshi offer included inadequate range and inability to fly at night, he said.

Jane Holl Lute, a senior official in the U.N. peacekeeping department, told a news conference on Thursday, "dialogue with Bangladesh continues."

On Ethiopia, she said: "I think part of that offer is seen as suitable," but declined to say when any helicopters might arrive in Darfur.

(Reuters)

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

#### **President Al-Bashir chairs first meeting of National Security Council (SUNA)**

Khartoum, Feb. 9 (SUNA)- President of the Republic Field Marshal Omer Al-Bashir chaired the first meeting of the National Security Council in its new formation, in the presence of First Vice President of the Republic Salva Kiir Mayardit, Vice President Ali Osman Mohamed Taha, assistants of the president and members of the council in the Republican Palace Saturday night. Presidency Minister Gen. Bakri Hassan Salih said in a press statement that the meeting reviewed the tasks of the council, its formations and sessions and committees assisting it such as the high technical committee and the security committees in the states. He pointed out that a detailed report on the security situation in the country was presented where thorough discussion was made on it after which recommendations were reached that aim at boosting stability in the country. He added that the meeting lauded the efforts of the security organs and their continuous efforts for realizing stability and security in the country. The Minister affirmed that the item on the incidents in Chad obtained a great portion in the discussion as security in Chad affects stability in Darfur, indicating that the council came out with recommendations that would lessening the effects. He said the meeting also discussed the incidents in Kenya and their effects on southern Sudan. The meeting of the National Security Council was preceded by a meeting of the Presidency that discussed the issues that concern the country. BT/BT

#### **Sudan's census kick-off awaits presidential green light - official (ST)**

By Isaac Vuni, February 8, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — The fifth Sudan national population census scheduled for 15th April this year may be in dilemma unless a presidential degree issued by President Omer Hassan Al- Bashir for its conformation, the chairman of Southern Sudan Commission for Census, Statistic and Evaluation, Isiah Chol has said.

Speaking to a journalist from Khartoum International Airport today, after attending four days of consultative technical committee meeting on Census Commission, Chol explained that all arrangements for National Population Census to kick off have been accomplished.

He assured Sudanese communities that there is no way whatsoever for anyone to sabotage the programmed national population exercise. "What we are waiting for is a presidential decree to confirm commission's fixed date of 15th April 2008" Chol said.

Chol further disclosed that Government of National Unity in Khartoum has released partial money for training of enumerators in southern Sudan; adding that census

technical committee has planned to meet on Monday February 11th in Juba, and that he is optimistic that by then a presidential decree for confirmations would be out. Otherwise, the meeting of technical committee would have no bases and meaning.

(ST)

### **Constitutional body reviews Sudan's election law, waits political compromise (ST)**

February 9, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — In a meeting co-chaired by Abdallah Idris and Abel Alier, the National Constitutional Review Commission (NCRC) adopted the draft law of the general elections except the eleven disputed articles that left unresolved for a consensual solution by the peace partners before their discussion by the NCRC.

The disputed articles deal with proportional representation, women representation and the number of constituencies. The SPLM tries to persuade the National Congress Party (NCP) to accept a common position that it shares with rest of the political forces in the countries.

The meeting reviewed and passed articles related to the composition of the National Elections Commission its attributions, functions and the election campaign. Also the NCRC discussed articles on the election register and requirements for the voter and the candidate. It further tackled corrupt methods and practices and irregularities that occur during the electoral campaign.

Meeting discussed the electoral system without going in the disputed articles on the proportional representation, articles 29 to 40 of the draft law.

The Vice-President Ali Osman Mohamed Taha of the NCP went Friday to Juba to discuss the electoral law with the First Vice-President and the SPLM Chairman, Slava Kiir Mayadrit.

The meeting approved articles on the election of the President of the Republic and election of the President of the Government of Southern Sudan by absolute majority (50 percent + 1), while stressed the election of Governors by simple majority

The SPLM position — as it is agreed with the political forces – is to distribute the constituencies 50% elected by proportional representation system and 50% of the seats are elected by majority election system. Women are represented by 50% of the proportional representation lists.

The NCP wants 60% for the majority election system and 40% for the proportional representation system. Regarding women, it proposes to establish separate lists on the state level and the list that obtains the highest votes will have all the seats.

The NCRC set a two-week deadline that expires on 16 February for the two CPA partners to adopt a common position on the disputed articles. The two partners, the NCP and the SPLM are expected to hold two meetings on 11 and 14 February to find out a common ground of the draft law.



(ST)

### **Sudan's Salva Kiir shows satisfaction with CPA implementation (ST)**

February 8, 2008 (JUBA) — Sudan's First Vice President and President of southern Sudan government expressed today satisfaction of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) with the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA).

Following a meeting with the Sudanese vice-president Ali Osman Taha in Juba on Friday, Salva Kiir Mayadrit showed satisfaction over the CPA implementation. He asserted that the two peace partners are going in the right direction and determined to resolve the outstanding issues.

The First Vice-President further said that the meeting he held with Vice President in Juba discussed the electoral law and the issue of Abyei and the national census.

The two partners have diverged positions on the electoral law. The peace partners agreed to adopt a mixed system: proportional representation and geographical constituencies. SPLM, which is backed by the opposition parties, proposes to elect 50% of the legislators through the proportional and 50% through the constituencies but the NCP insists on 60% for the constituencies and 40% for the proportional.

Taha said in press statements after the meeting that he briefed Mayadrit on the outcome of the meetings of the political executive committee which were held last week in Khartoum and the issues to be discussed at the presidential meeting early next week.

Ali Osman added that the meeting also discussed preparations for the meeting of the presidential National Security Council, which would be held early next week in Khartoum indicating that the visit was an opportunity to review all the issues clearly and in full agreement and overcome all difficulties facing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

Ali Osman Taha who is the head of National Congress Party delegation in the committee had met earlier with the southern Sudan vice-president and head of SPLM delegation to discuss preparation of the next meeting of the committee.

Taha and Machar agreed to convene the next meeting of the Political Executive Committee in February next Monday February 11, to tackle the remaining issues in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and consultation on the enforcement of the outcome of the previous meeting of the joint body.

The vice president said his meeting with the vice-president of southern Sudan government covered the results of the last meeting but also the issues to be discussed on Monday meeting in Khartoum.

Riak Machar, said that the meeting dealt with issues of national census, and reviewed the positions of the two parties on the election law.

(ST)

**Miseriya kill three, raid 8,000 cattle, says official (The Citizen) – SPLM: Miseriya are guests, have no rights in Abyei (Rai AlShaab), Clashes between SAF and SPLA on Friday, Miseriya bloc road to Abyei (AlSahafa), Miseriya bloc roads leading to south Sudan (AlIntibaha), MP: SPLM creates new crisis in Abyei, hinders peace (Rai AlShaab)**

*Rai AlShaab, 909 Feb 08--* In Abyei, the new [SPLM] Commissioner of Abyei, Joseph Dot Fakwat, announced, at the funeral of the late James Ajeng who was a member of the National Assembly representing Abyei, the names of the Ministers of the County who were appointed on 7 February.

The Ministers are: Musa Magok Minister of Education, Nan Od Minister of Health, Kual Arop Kual Minister of Agriculture, Aber Achwin Minister of Housing, Majak Abwem Bagt Minister of Finance.

Dot said the Governor of the County Edward Lino, who has been appointed by Gen. Salva Kiir FVP and GoSS President, will arrive soon in Abyei. He told the public gathering from different parts of Abyei “this is your government which includes advisers, administrative officers, police officers and executive officers, if you don’t care for it, it would be your problem”. He urged the three tribal chiefs (Sultans): Kual Deng Majok, Nol Fakwat and Bagt Makwaj and their Omdas, and the administrative officers to go to their areas so as to shoulder their responsibilities there. He ordered the Abyei administrative officer to follow up instructions and provide reports.

Dot sent a clear message to the Miseriya Amirs, Sheikhs and Omdas through the Miseriya Omda in Abyei Kabashi al Tom, saying that “Abyei area is owned by Dinka Ngok, not the Miseriya who have no rights to land and elections”. He said they are against the occupation by the Miseriya of the lands of the Dinka Ngok Chiefdoms and carrying of arms by the Miseriya.

The public gathering was also addressed by the Commissioner of Fariang County, James Mol Balkoly, who said that Abyei is actually part of Fariang, a group of tribes who have same traditions in Western Nuer. He explained that Abyei has no relationship with Bahr Al Ghazal or Dinka Toj. He urged Dinka Ngok, if they want, to join their Nuer people who include Fariang, Bayn and Kin Akoj in addition to Ngok tribes.

The Adviser of Warap State Arop Deng (from Abyei), said “Abyei is owned by the Dinka Ngok, not by the Miseriya, it is a gift from God, the international community is a witness. We will die for the cause of Abyei”. He incited the Ngok youth to attack the Miseriya.

The Miseriya Omda in Abyei, Kabashi al Tom, who addressed the public gathering and commended the late James Ajeng, held a meeting on 8 February with the Miseriya leaders in al Muglad and briefed them on the message which the Commissioner of Abyei had asked him to pass to the Miseriya leaders.

***The Citizen, 10 February 08***--At least three people have been reported killed and 8,000 cattle raided when the Miseriya launched a fresh offensive Friday afternoon on the Unity State town of Bunki near Kharassana where oil is being exploited, an official said.

Dhol Riek Kuny, the Payam Administrator of Kharassana, said the attackers were riding on horses with 2-3 people on one, which is a traditional means of transport for the Miseriya.

He said troops have been deployed on the main road running from Unity State capital, Bentiu to Muglad, where the attackers were believed to have come from, in an effort to recover the stolen cattle.

He said the Government of Unity State would dialogue with the Government of Southern Kordofan in an attempt to cement ties to curb the rising raiding phenomenon for the interest of peace, which is increasingly eluding the area.

Eye witnesses said the Miseriya attack on Bunki was part of their plan to push southerners from their legitimate areas ahead of north-south border demarcation due in April this year.

The Payam Administrator yesterday said the owners of the cattle were preparing to retaliate in an attempt to recover their cattle.

Kharassana Payam is the area where remnants of SAF are still hiding after they were told to leave southern Sudan territories per provisions of the CPA.

***AlSahafa, 10 Feb 08***-- Tensions are back again to Abyei following clashes between SAF and SPLA in the northern part of the area. The clashes resulted in the killing of a number of people.

While, the Miseriya blocked the road to Abyei, the SPLA has stopped the movement of the Miseriya to Bahr Al Arab towards the south.

The NCP President in Abyei, John Zakaria Atim, warned of escalation of the situation in the area. Speaking to AlSahafa, he called on the presidency to intervene immediately. He said Abyei now is completely under siege, no one can enter Abyei as all roads leading to area are blocked by the Miseriya Arab in protest against the killing of one of their tribesmen by the SPLA.

The SPLM Spokesperson in Abyei, Wur Majak, said that seven of the SPLA personnel have been killed by SAF after a traffic accident involving one of the cars of the Commissioner of Timnem of the Unity State. Majak said the Miseriya have refused the UN intervention, mobilized their fighters and blocked the road leading to Abyei. He called for withdrawing the SAF force from the area in line with the Abyei Protocol.

However, John Zakaria said after the traffic accident involving SAF and the Commissioner of Timnem cars, the SPLA fired on SAF car before intentionally killing a Miseriya man, who was in one of the SAF cars that left Abyei. He explained

that this incident incited the Miseriya and encouraged them to mobilize their troops north of Abyei. He said the situation may deteriorate further as the Miseriya are insisting to bloc the road to the town and the SPLA is refusing to allow the Miseriya to head to Bahr al Arab. John believes that it is important that the Presidency sends immediately a committee to the area in order to contain the situation

***AllIntibaha, 10 Feb 08--*** The Miseriya have blocked the main road between al Muglad and Abyei at Balom area and are threatening to block all roads to south Sudan. A group of the Miseriya leaders told AllIntibaha that this move is meant to implement the statements by Amir Mukhtar Babo in which he asked the Presidency to immediately find a lasting solution for the Abyei crisis or alternatively the Miseriya will bloc all roads to stop transport of goods to areas in south Sudan. The Miseriya sources told the newspaper that the Hijlej-Mayom road will be blocked today. This would be followed, according to same sources, by blocking the main road from Dasosa to Bahr al Arab.

The Miseriya leader, Abdelrasoul al Nour, said to AllIntibaha that blocking of roads by the Miseriya is the result of SPLA insistence not to redeploy from areas north of 1956 north-south border as decided by the Joint Defence Board. He anticipated that this will lead to clashes similar to those of the last month between SPLA and the Miseriya. Abdelrasoul said the al Meram-Aweil road has been blocked, after it had been reopened, due establishing new SPLA camps in Bahr al Arab area.

### **Leading Sudanese columnist accuse government of backing Chadian rebels (ST)**

By Wasil Ali, February 07, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — A prominent Sudanese columnist pointed fingers to his government of masterminding the latest offensive by Chadian rebels against the Ndjamenia.

Osman Mirghani in his article published in Al-Sudani daily, questioned the fate of the money spent on “300 Toyota Land Cruiser and other equipments that were provided to the Chadian rebels”.

“What is the point of this costly investment in Chadian opposition who will desperately attempt to secure their eastern borders from a similar offensive, once they are in power?” Mirghani said.

Oil-rich Chad has accused Sudan of backing the rebels in an attempt to prevent deployment of a European force to protect refugees from the war-ravaged Darfur region that borders Chad. Sudan has long resisted such a force, but has denied involvement in Chad’s coup attempt.

The significance of Mirghani’s column stems from the fact that he was a member of Sudan’s Islamic movement that came to power following the 1989 coup led by President Omar Hassan Al-Bashir.

Many observers say that Mirghani is close to the Second Vice President Ali Osman Taha who has been sidelined in recent years as a result of a power struggle within the ruling National Congress Party (NCP).

However Mirghani, speaking to Sudan Tribune by phone firmly denied any links to Taha.

“I have lost contact with him [Taha] and have not met him in a very long time” he said.

Mirghani said he still stands by his article but acknowledged that he did not foresee the overwhelming response he received.

“The government did not refute what I wrote. They just made a general denial of involvement in the events that occurred in Chad” he added.

Salah Gosh, the head of Sudan’s National Security and Intelligence Service, lashed out at journalists in a press conference yesterday in what is believed to be an indirect response to Mirghani’s column.

The spy chief, who appeared shaken at the press conference, said that some journalists want to be “fake heroes” by accusing the government of supporting Chadian rebels describing that as “cheap”.

“We know that there are some journalists who are in contact with some embassies and receiving money from them” he added.

However Mirghani dismissed Gosh’s allegations and demanded that the names of those journalists be revealed.

Gosh also said that Sudan is working with Libya to mediate the current situation in Chad and disclosed that his government convinced Chadian rebels “to withdraw from the capital after they took control”.

But the Sudanese columnist said that Gosh’s statement is another proof of Khartoum’s involvement.

“If they convinced them to withdraw then that means the government has that degree of leverage on the Chadian rebels and in the same token they could have directed them to launch the attack to overthrow president Deby” Mirghani said.

He further said that Sudan’s defense minister Abdel-Rahim Mohamed Hussein must resign before noting that such a step would clearly implicate the government.

Asked about his opinion on the future of Sudanese-Chadian relations he said that President Idriss Deby will now be keen more than ever to mend fences with Khartoum and withdraw his support of Darfur rebels.

This is not the first time Mirghani got into trouble with the government. The newspaper was suspended in 2006 when he criticized the Sudanese president Omar Hassan al-Bashir for rejecting the deployment of UN peacekeepers.

Also last May he was arrested for accusing Sudan’s Justice Minister of lying about a money-laundering trial.

(ST)

**Sudan's Ahmad Harun will face justice; it is his destiny - ICC (ST) (attached)**

**GoSS**

**Salva Kiir in Egypt Sunday to discuss south Sudan development (ST)**

February 9, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — Salva Kiir Myardit, Sudan's First Vice President and President of southern Sudan government begins tomorrow, Sunday, an official visit to Cairo to discuss economic cooperation and particularly southern Sudan development.

In his third visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt, Salva Kiir will meet the Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and a number of Egyptian officials to tackle implementation of development projects agreed in his previous visits to Cairo.

Further he will meet Arab League Secretary General to speak about Arab world contribution in southern Sudan reconstruction.

Egypt supports the reconstruction and development of southern Sudan in various fields such as electricity, education, health, irrigation and water resources.

Within the framework of supporting education projects in Sudan, Egypt had offered 300 scholarships for students from southern Sudan; some 173 students have already arrived in Cairo.

Kiir last visit to Egypt was at the end of November 2006.

(ST)

**45 prisoners released from jail in Rumbek (ST)**

By Manyang Mayom, February 8, 2008 (RUMBEEK) - Forty-five (45) prisoners were released last Tuesday from Lakes State Central Prison by Judge Kurkur Patiya, from the Supreme Court of Greater Bhar-El-Gazal in Lakes state.

The release of the prisoners came in as the government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) established a special court last year in an effort to reduce the trend of rising crimes in Lakes State caused by persistent inter-tribal clashes and inter-clan clashes.

(ST)

**South Sudan bank stops dollar payments to fight black market trade (ST)**

February 8, 2008 (JUBA) — The southern branch of Sudan's central bank has said it will no longer provide commercial banks with U.S. dollars, seeking to reduce black market trade and avoid potential shortages.

The central bank was trying to stop landlords, businesses and non-governmental organizations from using dollars and to end black market trade in the greenback, Othom Rago Ajak, the bank's foreign exchange director, said late on Thursday.

Customers including foreign businesses and international non-governmental organisations will only be able to transfer out and withdraw dollars if they are travelling abroad, he said. Otherwise all customers could only be paid in Sudanese pounds.

"Now we have one currency circulated all over the Sudan. There is no reason to use dollars which can run out, that we are unable to supply," Ajak said.

The timing of the order was partly due to a growing shortage of dollars after Khartoum's decision last year to change dollar reserves to euro because of strengthened American sanctions over the continuing Darfur crisis, he said.

"It will reduce the black market (but) the dollar will still operate, but at a higher rate," he said.

(Reuters)

### **Sudan's Jonglei Governor strengthens disarming force for peace (ST)**

By Philip Thon Aleu, February 7 2008 (BOR, Jonglei) – To restore peace, primarily through disarmament, in the most volatile Southern Sudan State of Jonglei, the governor has increased the disarming forces already in task since December 2007.

Addressing the state Legislative Assembly today Thursday February 7, Governor Kuol Manyang Juk said Sudan's First Vice President and South Sudan government President Salva Kiir Mayardit has responded positively to his plead of speeding up disarmament in Jonglei.

"I'm given one battalion of SPLA strongmen," said Mr. Manyang stressing that a future increase is possible, "should any need arise."

(ST)

## **Darfur**

### **HRW urges to end attacks on Darfur civilians (ST)**

February 10, 2008 (NEW YORK) – Recent attacks on villages in West Darfur that have left more than 150 people dead highlight the urgent need for all sides to respect the rules of war and protect civilians, Human Rights Watch said today.

On February 8, Sudanese government forces and allied militia launched fresh attacks on villages in the northern corridor of West Darfur. Initial reports from sources in West Darfur indicate that at least 150 people were killed in the attacks, which also left thousands of villagers without food or shelter. The attacks were carried out by Janjaweed militia and Sudanese ground troops, supported by attack helicopters and aerial bombardments.

“The Sudanese government is once again showing its total disregard for the safety of civilians,” said Georgette Gagnon, Africa director at Human Rights Watch. “This return to large-scale attacks on villages will be catastrophic for Darfur’s civilians, because they’re completely unprotected.”

On January 22, government and allied forces attacked Saraf Jidad, a town of 15,000, killing more than 20 civilians, including three women. In the most recent attack on February 8, the Sudanese government forces and militia attacked the villages of Abu Suruj, Sirba, and Silea. Some civilians who had fled the earlier attack in Saraf Jidad had sought shelter in Abu Suruj, only to be attacked again.

Because of the fighting, humanitarian agencies have not been able to reach the area for the past month. As a result, about 160,000 civilians in northern West Darfur are not receiving essential humanitarian assistance, putting their lives at risk. Under international humanitarian law all parties to a conflict have an obligation to facilitate rapid and unimpeded passage of humanitarian relief to civilians.

The recent attacks underscore the urgent need for deployment of a robust international protection force. The hybrid United Nations African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) has faced numerous obstacles to deployment, including deliberate obstruction by the government of Sudan, and has yet to add significant additional troops or establish positions in northern West Darfur to provide protection to civilians.

“People in West Darfur are completely at the mercy of the armed groups,” Gagnon said. “The Sudanese government’s own police pulled out in December because of the fighting, and the UN force simply doesn’t have the capacity to protect them.”

Human Rights Watch called on all parties to the conflict to ensure that civilians are not placed at risk and to ensure the safety of humanitarian agencies seeking to provide assistance to those affected by the conflict. Human Rights Watch also called on Sudan to cease its obstructive policy towards further UNAMID deployment and for UNAMID’s capacity to be enhanced to allow better civilian protection.

(HRW)

### **27 killed in Darfur attack - families (ST)**

February 9, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — At least 27 people were killed in government attacks on three West Darfur villages, their families said on Saturday, as they called for an end to raids which were leaving their homes in flames.

The Sudanese army said it launched the assault on Abu Surouj, Sirba and Suleia on Friday to rid the area of rebels from Darfur’s Justice and Equality Movement (JEM).



An army spokesman said one soldier and many rebels were killed, while four soldiers were injured.

The head of the Erenga tribe which dominates Abu Surouj and Sirba, Ishaq Nasir, said they had confirmed 27 dead, but expected the actual death toll to exceed rebel reports of 200. An exact number was hard to confirm because attacks continued, he said.

"These dead — most of them are tribal leaders or teachers or people working for the state. Are these people rebels?" asked Yehia Mohamed Ulama, a tribal leader from Abu Surouj. He added that JEM had no troops in the area.

Ulama and other tribal elders had left their hometowns, now burnt to the ground, to come to Khartoum and complain about militia attacks last month. The visit saved their lives.

"If someone kills the leadership of the tribe they mean to wipe it out completely," said Bashir Ibrahim Yehia, a member of parliament for the area.

He said 90-year-old Erenga tribal leader Daoud Idriss was killed in his house with his entire family on Friday along with school teachers who were visiting them.

"Anyone who comes to power needs to rule with justice not with killing. These criminals need to be brought to justice," Yehia said, calling for a government investigation.

The Erenga have historically backed the Sudanese government and have not been part of Darfur's five-year-old revolt by rebels who say the region has been marginalized by the authorities in Khartoum.

### **200 killed during Sudan attack on rebels in West Darfur (ST)**

February 8, 2008 (UNITED NATIONS) – Sudanese army attacked rebel positions in three towns in West Darfur Friday killing some 200 people, saying the operation aimed at destroying rebel positions in the war-torn western region of the country.

Brigadier, Osman Mohamed al Aghbash, the spokesperson of the Sudan Armed Forces today said that the army carried out a wide operation, on the morning of Friday in the areas of Abu Suruj, Sirba and Sileia in West Darfur State.

He said that the army were able to repulse Darfur rebel who have retreated into Chadian territories leaving behind them huge number of dead, wounded and equipment that are currently being counted.

Al-Aghbash said the army suffered on killed and four wounded. But he did not comment on the number of casualties among rebels or residents in the towns. Nor did he comment on the type of aircraft used in the attack.

The Sudan Justice and Equality rebels said that the army killed some 200 people, in their attacks against the three villages but denied that rebel forces were holed up in the towns.

"The government attacked using aircraft bombardment, troops and Janjaweed," said Abdelaziz Ushar, a senior rebel commander in Darfur with the Justice and Equality Movement.

"The government attacked the town of Abu Surouj this morning ... a direct attack with cars and horses and bombardment," rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) commander Abdel Aziz el-Nur Ashr said from Darfur.

Ushar said the army used both helicopter gunships and fixed-wing aircraft in Friday's attacks, setting the towns ablaze and forcing tens of thousands to flee.

Both nations have accused each other of hosting hostile rebel groups, allegations that became even more sensitive over the past few days when rebels staged an assault on the Chadian capital of N'Djamena.

Abu Surouj resident Malik Mohamed said he had escaped during the attack early on Friday. "First of all I saw two helicopters and Janjaweed on horses and camels, after that I saw cars," he said.

"The helicopters hit us four times and around 20 bombs were dropped," he said by telephone.

His voice breaking, he said he had no idea where his family was. "I am outside the city and can see burning. They (the attackers) are still inside."

Residents of el-Geneina, the state capital, told Reuters they could hear Antonov planes and had seen helicopters. Darfur rebels said that until the attacks they controlled the area north of el-Geneina, where they have often fought army troops, and which aid workers have been forbidden from entering.

Ashr had said previously the rebels expected the attacks because Khartoum had again mobilized militia groups, known locally as Janjaweed, in the area.

Yehia Abakr, a resident of Sirba, told Reuters by telephone he fled the town centre when the forces attacked.

"They have killed many people," he said. "The armed forces attacked the areas where the rebels are and they have rid the areas of them totally," a spokesman said.

JEM's Ashr said the rebels had not stationed forces inside the towns since capturing them late last year.

"When we attacked and took Suleia, we attacked the army there but not one civilian was killed," he said.

(ST)

*Some information for this reported provided by the AP and Reuters*

**Darfur leader slams Sudan's foiled coup to topple Chad leader (ST)**

February 7, 2008 (PARIS) — Darfur rebel leader condemned “Sudan’s backed coup” to oust the Chadian president Idriss Deby and accused Khartoum of trying to spread genocide policy and political instability in the region.

Abdel-Wahid Al-Nur, the chairperson of the rebel Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) condemned the foiled military coup to topple the regime of the Chadian president Idriss Deby last week.

He accused Khartoum of trying to export genocide to the central African region and called on the international community to accelerate the deployment of peacekeeping troops in neighboring Chad and Central Africa Republic to prevent the repetition of genocide Darfur

He further underlined the need to speed up the deployment of the European force in eastern Chad where more than 300000 refugees from Darfur since 2004. "World would be morally accountable if any harm done to this civilian population." He said

The SLM leader said that statements by ruling Party officials on Sudan’s keenness to have good neighbourliness with Chad at a time when they send militia responsible of Darfur genocide to topple Deby are crocodile tears and a public relations campaign.

Al-Nur reminded the international community that the peace talks in Darfur could not begin without the deployment of international forces in the war-torn region since five years ago.

(ST)

### **Chinese peacekeepers in Sudan awarded medal (ST)**

February 7, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — Chinese peacekeepers in Sudan received United Nations Peace-keeping Medals on Thursday in honor of their great contributions to peace and the reconstruction of the country.

To celebrate China’s Spring Festival, the traditional Chinese New Year, UN officials made special arrangements to advance the medal-awarding day two months ahead of the return of the third contingent of Chinese peacekeeping troops to their homeland.

Ashraf Qazi, the UN chief’s special representative in Sudan, and Lt. Gen. Jasbir Singh Lidder, commander of the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS), awarded peace medals to the Chinese peacekeepers at a ceremony in the southwestern city of Wau.

Qazi said the Chinese peacekeepers are the most popular among the local people, praising Zhang Yong, political commissar with the Chinese contingent, and 19 other officers and soldiers as true men of peace.

In addition to the peace medals, the UN officials conferred honors to Chinese engineering, medical and transport units for their special contributions.

As part of the UNMIS, China joined the peacekeeping operation in the Wau region in May 2006. The third contingent arrived in September 2007.

(Xinhua)

### **Miscellaneous**

#### **Maj. Gen. Al-Tahir: Police and security organs worked with all their capabilities to unveil the circumstances of the incident of the killing of official of USAID (SUNA)**

Khartoum, Feb. 9 (SUNA) - Director of the Criminal Investigation Department Maj. Gen. (Police) Abdin Al-Tahir said in a statement to SUNA that the incident of the killing of official of USAID John Michael Granfield and his Sudanese driver Abdel-Rahman Abbas on the first of January 2008 constituted a challenge for the Sudanese police due to the mysterious circumstances that surrounded the incident, pointing out that the police and security organs have worked with all their capabilities to unveil the circumstances of the incident till these efforts were culminated with the arrest of the persons who committed the murder crime. He added that the stage of investigations with the arrested persons would start immediately prior to bringing them before trial. BT/BT

#### **Press Office of Police issues statement on arrest of suspects in the killing of the American official (SUNA, extreme religious group behind killing of US diplomat (AlWattan))**

Khartoum, Feb. 9 (SUNA) - The Press Office of Police issued Saturday a statement on arrest of suspects in the killing of the American official, John Michael Granfield, and his Sudanese driver Abdel-Rahman Abbas that happened on the first of January 2008. The statement said that the security organs has remained continuing their investigations in the incident since the beginning of 2008. It pointed out that lately information were available on movements of some suspects in the incident at Al-Fitaihab area, a suburb of Omdurman town, adding that on the morning of Saturday, February 9, 2008, the security organs carried out an arrest operation for two suspects, who started opening fire, leading to injury of some men of the security organs and a citizen. The statement went on to say that after a brief time from the exchange of fire, the suspects were arrested, where the injured of them were given medical treatment and put under arrest. The statement affirmed that police and security forces will remain alert for protection of the security of the homeland, citizens and the guests of the country. BT/BT

#### **French prop for Deby may backfire in Chad conflict (ST)**

February 8, 2008 (DAKAR) — France's rush to prop up Chad's president compromises the neutrality of a European peacekeeping force bound for the central African state and appears to offer no lasting political solutions to the civil war there.

Backed by French warplanes and troops offering logistics, intelligence and protection, the Chadian leader, himself an ex-rebel dubbed the "cowboy of the sands" by his former French instructors, beat back the latest rebel assault a week ago.

Battered but reported to be regrouping in the centre of the former French colony, the rebels have vowed to fight on, a warning they also directed against "neocolonialist" France.

De Waal and other analysts predicted that the rebel campaign to topple Deby would go on despite France's announcement — sanctioned by United Nations Security Council support for the Chadian leader — that it could intervene more directly in Chad. "Deby is intrinsically unsustainable," de Waal said.

(Reuters)

### **US to crack down on violators of Sudan sanctions: Official (ST)**

February 07, 2008 (WASHINGTON) — A senior US official today disclosed that Washington intends to clamp down on companies that have violated sanctions imposed on Sudan and said that hefty civil penalties will be forthcoming.

Adam Szubin, Director of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) told Reuters in an interview that his office came up with a list of companies who operate inside the US that failed to comply with Sudan sanctions.

The US official also said that OFAC will step up enforcement of existing sanctions on the Sudanese government.

"Sudan is at the top of our list, among our most serious concerns. We are investigating a number of significant Sudanese violations," Szubin told Reuters. However he declined to name the companies that will be impacted but suggested that they include both US and foreign based firms.

(ST)

*Some information for this report provided by Reuters.*

### **Chad imposes curfew as rebels regroup (ST)**

February 7, 2008 (NDJAMENA ) — Chad's government on Thursday slapped a night curfew on Ndjamen and southern provinces as rebels who almost ousted President Idriss Deby Itno regrouped and rearmed after battling for the capital.

Deby claims he controls the whole country, but a military source said the rebel alliance driven out of Ndjamen after a heavy weekend of fighting met up with reinforcements about 400 kilometres (250 miles) east of the city.

The 6:30pm to 6:00am (1730 to 0500 GMT) curfew will apply in Ndjamen and six southern and eastern provinces "for the time it takes to uncover ... enemies who are still hidden," Prime Minister Delwa Kassire Coumakoye told a cabinet meeting.

(AFP)