

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS****Media Monitoring Report, 07 February 08**

(By Public Information Office)

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### **UN/ Agencies**

#### **CPA workshop concludes its sessions**

**Akhir Lahaza**-- A workshop on the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) was concluded yesterday at the Sudan Academy for Communication Sciences. The workshop which was organized by the Academy and UNMIS Public Information Office aimed at training the Academy's students on the how to sensitize Sudanese people on the CPA and [Role of UNMIS].

UNMIS's Head of Special Campaigns, Mr. Jordan Dakamseh, stated that the UN Mission in Sudan is disseminating the Peace Agreement among all sectors of society through workshops and is coordinating with local and state governments to hold similar workshops to their official, civil society leaders as to teachers and tribal chiefs.

#### **12,000 refugees flee Darfur for Chad - UN (ST)**

February 10, 2008 (GENEVA) —Some 12,000 people from Sudan's Darfur region have crossed the border into neighbouring Chad after heavy bombardments and armed

attacks by Sudanese forces and the Janjaweed militia, the UN refugee agency said on Sunday.

The refugees have fled to the Birak region of southeastern Chad after attacks on Friday and Saturday by the Sudanese army and the Janjaweed militia, UN High Commissioner for Refugees spokeswoman Helene Caux told AFP.

The UNHCR is sending an assessment team to the region and hopes to move people by truck to existing camps for Darfur refugees on Monday, she said.

The Sudanese army on Saturday confirmed its troops had carried out military operations in western Darfur and regained control of three communities, pushing out rebels to Chad.

"Army forces carried out large-scale operations combing the areas of Abu Suruj, Serba and Salia," army spokesman Othman Mohammed al-Agbash told the official news agency SUNA, referring to areas in western Darfur.

The Justice and Equality Movement rebels said that Sudanese troops backed by Janjaweed militia had attacked the three communities north of Geneina, the capital of West Darfur, killing dozens of civilians on Friday.

JEM commander Abdel Aziz Nur al-Asher told AFP by telephone then that soldiers with 65 vehicles, backed by air support, launched the first attack alongside 600 Janjaweed fighters on camels.

He later said Sirba and Salia, also north of Geneina, had also come under attack, with Antonov fixed wing aircraft and combat helicopters taking part.

(AFP)

### **UN wasted \$10 mln in Sudan peace mission - audit (ST, AlAhDath, AlSudani)**

February 10, 2008 (UNITED NATIONS) — The United Nations has wasted tens of millions of dollars in its peacekeeping operations in Sudan over the past three years, according to the findings of U.N. auditors examining the financial practices of the global body's overseas missions.

U.N. officers in Sudan have squandered millions by renting warehouses that were never used, booking blocks of hotel rooms that were never filled, and losing thousands of food rations to theft and spoilage, according to several internal audits by the U.N. Office for International Oversight Services. One U.N. purchasing agent has been accused of steering a \$589,000 contract for airport runway lights to a company that helped his wife obtain a student visa, while two senior procurement officials from the United States and New Zealand have been charged by a U.N. panel with misconduct for not complying with rules designed to prevent corruption.

The U.N. procurement division "did not have the necessary capacity and expertise to handle the large magnitude of procurement actions" in Sudan, particularly during the early phases of the mission, according to a confidential October 2006 audit obtained

by The Washington Post. Investigators also detected "a number of potential fraud indicators and cases of mismanagement and waste."

The internal United Nations audits provide a rare glimpse into the messy business of assembling a massive multinational expeditionary force in a war-torn nation. They also highlight the Bush administration's struggles to make progress on its top Africa initiative: ending a decades-long civil war between Sudan's Islamic government and southern rebels, and halting the mass killing of civilians in the country's southern region of Darfur.

U.N. peacekeeping officials maintain that the auditors' allegations are overblown, and that they neglect the difficulties of launching a major operation in a nation with few roads and a government hostile to foreigners. "This is seen as a witch hunt that is not warranted given the fluidity and complexity of that mission," said one U.N. official who served in Sudan, who was not authorized to speak publicly about the investigations.

A U.N. task force is examining the United Nations' handling of nearly \$300 million in contracts for food, transportation and fuel for Sudan, including a \$200 million contract with Eurest Support Services, a Cyprus-based subsidiary of the Compass Group, a British catering company. ESS also has been charged with rigging bids in Liberia, Congo, Ethiopia and Eritrea.

There is no excuse for having poor internal control mechanisms and for tolerating mismanagement," Inga-Britt Ahlenius, the undersecretary general of the oversight office, told reporters last month. "We are handling public money and considerable funds and should care about that as if it were our own money."

The Security Council established the U.N. mission in Sudan in March 2005, sending more than 10,000 peacekeepers to oversee a settlement ending a bloody, 22-year civil war that left more than 2 million dead in southern Sudan. The council has since authorized an African Union-United Nations mission to halt the killing of civilians in Darfur, a force that is expected to reach 26,000 troops by the end of 2008.

U.N. auditors have identified dozens of irregularities, including an "exorbitant" rate on a contract to supply gravel for peacekeeping barracks and \$1.2 million in "unnecessary expenditures" for block bookings of hotel rooms that the United Nations was unable to fill, according to the audits.

U.N. officials also spent more than \$9 million in unnecessary fees to a Canadian company, Skylink Aviation, by releasing it from its obligation to renew a nine-month contract to supply fuel for the mission, the auditors allege. Skylink then renegotiated a second nine-month contract at a much higher cost. "They clearly made it easier for us to negotiate," said Jan Ottens, a senior executive at Skylink. Ottens said the terms of the initial contract were unfair because the slow deployment of troops reduced the amount of fuel that was needed. "We were losing money big time."

U.N. peacekeeping officials acknowledge problems in Sudan. But they contend that the two procurement officials were perhaps in over their heads, but not corrupt.

Understaffing, a shifting troop-deployment schedule, and Sudanese obstruction often upended U.N. plans and led to higher costs.

These officials cite a case in which the auditors accused the mission of wasting \$9 million by hiring a local company to clear U.N. goods through customs, rather than relying on U.N. staff. Peacekeeping officials agree the costs are high but say that the government has prohibited the United Nations from doing the job, and that the U.N. secretary general and the Security Council have been unable to convince Khartoum to back down.

They also defended a contract for a New Zealand firm, Radiola Aerospace, to install solar-powered runway lights at the Kadugli airport, southwest of Khartoum, despite evidence that the bidding process was manipulated. Investigators found that the company improperly helped a U.N. procurement official draft the specifications of a contract that the company later won. It also sponsored a New Zealand visa application for the official's wife and pledged to cover any financial liabilities she might incur while in the country.

At the same time, the official pressed the United Nations to approve Radiola's contract after U.N. headquarters had ordered the contract terminated because the lights "failed to meet the safety specifications of the United Nations and the International Civil Aviation Organization," according to an October report by U.N. investigators.

Radiola acknowledged that it violated U.N. rules by sponsoring the visa, but the company said it fairly won the bid for the contract. "In hindsight it was inappropriate we should not have done it," said Brent Albiston, Radiola's managing director. "But absolutely no money passed hands."

Albiston said that his company informed the United Nations that solar power lights did not meet international standards, but that they made sense in a remote location where power supplies were unreliable, a position that senior U.N. peacekeeping officials backed. "The quality of the lights at Kadugli are better than they are at the international airport in Khartoum," Albiston said.

(Washington Post)

### **Chad rebels flee south, UN warns aid being hampered (AFP)**

NDJAMENA, Feb 10, 2008 (AFP) - Chadian rebels fled south Sunday pursued by government forces, the military said, as the UN refugee agency warned that recent fighting in the country had put aid agencies in danger.

Although a calm returned to the capital Ndjamenana a week after a bloody assault on the city which left more than 160 people dead, the rebel forces said they were heading south in order to stretch government supply lines.

The rebels, who were attempting to overthrow President Idriss Deby Itno, abandoned their fallback position in central Chad over the weekend and headed south with the army in pursuit, military officials said.

"About 150 to 200 rebel vehicles left Mongo on Saturday and were heading in the direction of Am Timan, in the southern zone of the three borders," said one source.

The rebels were heading to this lawless area where the porous borders of Chad, **Sudan** and the Central African Republic meet, leading some to speculate that they will look to slip back to the safety of their **Sudanese** bases.

**AIWattan publishes complaint by Sudanese UNMIS staff to UN SECRETARY-GENERAL, Tagreed: my contract terminated on personal conflict, commentary by editor-in-chief: you Sudanese: listen, be aware,, new colonialism is back through the window, read with pain Tagreed's message to UN SECRETARY-GENERAL (AIWattan)**

### **1. Commentary by editor-in-chief:**

*It pains me when I read the message of Ms Tagreed to the Secretary General*

*Twenty-seven thousands colonialist troops are back to Sudan from the window*

It is a message sent by a Sudanese woman to the United Nations Secretary General, Mr. Ban-Ki Moon, complaining of being ill-treated by her reporting officer. She was staff member of UNMIS and was fired after allegedly being subjected to a great deal of humiliations and abuses. Other Sudanese nationals working with the neocolonialism in the garb of UN are also facing the same treatment. It is a coalition of old colonialism. Who said that the old colonialism has no African and Asian soldiers?

When you listen to the story of this lady and how she was treated and the treatment being meted out to the Sudanese national working with the 'neocolonialist coalition, you will know that your dignity, feelings and patriotism as a Sudanese national, are passing through their most painful moments.

Ms Tagreed has sent a letter to the UNSG and copied the SRSG. We will publish her message when we complete its translation into Arabic so that those who call themselves Sudan liberation movements, bodies or groups should know that they have helped the return of colonialism to their motherland. It is back from the window. They should know that they have replaced Anglo-Egyptian colonialism, which had only 7000 troops with neocolonialism in the form of 'American-Western coalition' with 27000 soldiers. GoS is also to blame for paving the way for the return of neocolonialism even if they are called 'hybrid troops' or whatever names given.

Some or most of those working with the neocolonialism – civil and military – including the SRSG do not understand the nature of the Sudan. They mistake their hospitality for 'foolishness', their silence and shyness for 'fear' and they also mistake Sudanese's civilized style of communication with foreigners – whether they are hybrid or devils, sane or insane, ignorant or literate – for submissiveness, fear, or servility.

The Government and those abroad who are responsible for sending these foreigners should have taught these troops – military and management – on how to deal with Sudanese to avert a deluge that will spare no party if limits are crossed.

**2. Message of dismissed staff member to UN Secretary-General:**

From: Tagreed Abdul Magid Osman (UNMIS staff member arbitrarily dismissed)  
To: Mr. Ban Ki-moon, UN SG  
Tagreed: my dismissal was arbitrary

**Sub: Termination of my contract due to personal differences**

I am sending this message to the press after five months of suffering during which I have approached different Sections, but to no avail. My case was met with procrastination and conspiracy. I decided to send you this message through the press to ensure it reaches you.

*Dear Sir,*

We, UNMIS national staff, are suffering from ill-treatment from a large number of reporting officers – international staff members. They misuse the authority they command and take advantage of the hospitality and kindness of the Sudanese people and their need for jobs. This state helplessness encourages some reporting officers to dismiss staff members on grounds of poor performance without regard to Mission's rules and regulations. There are numerous similar cases, which necessitated the formation of a committee to look into them.

There are other sensitive details, which I decided not to make public. I will send them to you in New York, supported by documents and names. We expect Your Excellency to take action to guarantee the protection of the rights of the national staff members.

Kind Regards

**Tagreed Abdel-Magid Osman (signed)**

**UNAMID not substitute for GoS, official (Sudan Vision)**

**By: Mona Al-Bashir - Al Sammani Awadallah**, UNAMID presence is not a substitute for the Sudanese government and army, Sudan's permanent envoy to the UN, Abdelmahmoud Abdelhalim, told Sudan Vision, explaining that the mandate conferred by the State of Forces Agreement (SOFA)

was based on Resolution 1769 to assist Sudanese parties in implementation of the military and security aspects of Abuja agreement. He reiterated that SOFA provides for close coordination between the armed forces and UNAMID on daily basis. Meanwhile, the chief of the joint hybrid mission, Rudolphe Adada, warned that UNAMID will not remain passive with regard to the attacks of the government forces on civilians in West Darfur, considering protection of civilians as a core task of the Mission.

For his part, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Mutrif Siddig, told BBC radio that the government will not object to UNAMID disarming the Janjaweed since disarming of factions is stipulated under the Abuja agreement. On the other hand, the official spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Ali Al-Sadig, considered that SOFA does not have a provision that admits UNAMID to track down and disarm the Janjaweed, though he acceded that Sudan has no objection to cooperating with UNAMID in disarming the Janjaweed. Ambassador Abdelhalim further underlined that those who consider SOFA as vested with the right of tracking down the Janjaweed are willfully wishing to create a state within a state. The State of Forces Agreement (SOFA) was signed last Friday between the Sudanese government and UNAMID.

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

#### **Government expresses astonishment over UN stance toward Sudanese Army's move to carry out its duty of defending the homeland (SUNA)**

Khartoum, Feb. 10 (SUNA) - The government has expressed its astonishment over the double standard method of the UN Secretary General, the Joint Envoy and some countries by their condemnation to the Sudanese national Army while it was shouldering up its original role in defending sovereignty of the homeland in west Darfur, while they kept silent when rebel movements occupied some villages at the region through armed acts that claimed the lives of a number of innocent citizens. This came in a statement issued Sunday by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs following statements of the UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, after the Sudanese Army evacuated the Justice and Equality Movement out of the villages of Sirba, Sillayah and Um-Sirouj in west Darfur. The statement pointed out that the said areas are part of the Sudanese territories, on which the Justice and Equality Movement committed aggressions and drove out the Sudanese police from them and the local authorities and forced the civilians to leave them, adding that the Sudanese Armed Forces moved to restore the three villages in the context of the state's national responsibility to provide security, peace and stability all over the country and to protect the civilian citizens from declared and repeated aggressions of the Justice and Equality Movement. The statement affirmed the commitment of Sudan government and its army to the original charters for the protection of the homeland and its territories and citizens from any threats in the context of its sovereign and legitimate rights. MO/MO

#### **Chiefs paid \$ 1 million to help free slaves, says MP (The Citizen)**

The GoSS gave US\$ 1 million to Dinka chiefs to buy the freedom of enslaved southern Sudanese children abducted by Arab tribes in western Sudan, an MP



yesterday said. The slave traders are still abducting our children and enslave them, said Alier Alic a member of the National Assembly (SPLM).

One million dollar will buy 1,200 children.

He added that they already identified the abductors and soon they will go western Sudan and bring the children and reunite them with the relatives. Alic is a member of the Dinka Chiefs in the Committee of Eradication of Abduction of Women and Children (CEWAC)

### **Abyei Liberation Front: A new Miseriya organization in South Kordofan (AIWattan)**

Information from South Kordofan revealed that a new Miseriya organization under the name Abyei Liberation Front has been established under the leadership of Eisa Abdelmoula Dhaia, one of the Miseriya Amirs (Chiefs). The Information Officer of the new Front, Ali Kanji, said in a statement to AIWattan yesterday said the first meeting which was held at the offices of the NCP in al Muglad was attended by a big number of the Miseriya leaders. He said the new organization represents all clans of the Miseriya tribe. It has no political affiliation; it is for the liberation of land only. He added that the key leaders of the organization are Mohamed Bashir Adam, Thabit Musa, Musa Hadak and Abdelrahman Musa al Girain. He said the new organization has been established under the supervision of al Nazir Mukhtar Babo Nimir (The Humur Nazir) who welcomed the idea. Kanji explained the Front launched its work by sending information teams to brief the Miseriya on developments of the situation. He said the organization has been established in reaction to recent statements by Dinka Ngok leaders against the Miseriya.

### **Joint Defence Board to meet on Saturday (AlAhdath)**

The Joint Defence Board (JDB) will be briefed in its meeting on this Saturday on a report on the implementation of decisions it had taken earlier on redeploying troops from disputed areas, removing check points at the roads, assisting security authorities and defusing tensions.

The JDB Spokesperson Maj-Gen. Abdelrahman Mohamed Zain said the decisions also include protection of oilfields and supporting the work of the border demarcation commission.

### **Security committee in Abyei discusses ways and means for defusing tensions, opening of roads (AlAhdath)**

The Security Committee in Abyei has held a meeting yesterday in which it discussed ways and means for defusing tensions and opening of roads following the recent clashes between the SPLA and the Miseriya which resulted in the killing of some people. The SPLM Secretary in Abyei said to AlAhdath yesterday that the situation is dangerous especially after the Miseriya had blocked the roads, banditry and attacks by the Miseriya against unarmed people.

### **Presidency asks NCP-SPLM six-member committee to continue its work to resolve pending issues (AlAhdath)**

The Presidency which was chaired by President al Basshir has achieved a breakthrough in differences between the two CPA partners over the elections law. The meeting reached a compromise on the law and endorsed the outcome of the Juba meeting between FVP Kiir and VP Taha. The meeting instructed the NCP-SPLM six-member political committee to continue its work on pending issues such as elections law, Darfur peace, foreign relations and information.

### **Sudan holds "fundamentalists" over US killing (ST)**

February 10, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — Sudan has arrested two Muslim "fundamentalists" in connection with the killings of a U.S. aid official and his driver in the capital Khartoum, security sources said on Sunday.

The two men, aged 25 and 30, were members of a group that was also behind a plot to bomb Western embassies in Khartoum that was uncovered in August, the security source told Reuters.

It was the first official confirmation that a militant group may have been behind the double shooting. Some official sources in Sudan originally claimed that the killing was an "isolated incident".

The suspects opened fire when they were cornered on Saturday in a suburb of Omdurman, a city adjacent to the Sudanese capital, the SUNA state news agency reported. Security officers returned the fire.

Two policemen, a passing woman and the two suspects were wounded, none seriously, said the security source.

"They are from the same group who tried to do the explosions ... they are fundamentalists," the source added, referring to the reported August bomb plot.

A spokesman for the U.S. embassy in Khartoum declined to comment on the reports of the arrests.

SUNA said security forces had tracked the two suspects down to the suburb of Al-Fitaihab in Omdurman after a tip-off.

Quoting the police press department, SUNA reported that the two suspects had opening fire on security forces who had come to arrest them, injuring some members and one civilian.

"...the suspects were arrested, the injured were given medical treatment and put under arrest".

(Reuters)

### **South Sudan Vice President warns communities to disarm (ST)**

By James Gatdet Dak, February 9, 2008 (JUBA) – Addressing a public rally on Friday in Terekeka County headquarters in Central Equatoria state, the Vice President of the Government of Southern Sudan and Vice Chairman of the Southern Sudan Security Committee, Dr. Riek Machar Teny, re-iterated his government’s policy to disarm the civil population so that law enforcement organs take effective charge to maintain security in Southern Sudan.

Machar urged the Mundari community of Terekeka County to voluntarily handover their guns to the relevant authorities in the state, or else the SPLA forces may be asked to take the guns.

He explained that the proliferation of light weapons in the hands of unauthorized population is the source of insecurity in the communities. He pleaded to the Mundari community to reconcile and live peacefully with the other neighbouring communities to the north-east such as Dinka Aliab, Dinka Bor and Murle and to maintain good relations with Bari and Moro neighboring communities to the south-western part of the community.

Machar further explained that the recent increasing conflicts, accusations and counter-accusations between the Mundari, Dinka Bor and Murle over killings, cattle-raiding and abduction of children have been encouraged by the fact that these three communities have not yet been disarmed. He said the gun culture, unlike the culture of traditional spears and bows, has increased chances to fight and result in unbelievable deaths among communities.

The GOSS Vice President said the Dinka Bor and Murle communities are also to be disarmed soon. He said a full brigade of the Sudan People’s Liberation Army (SPLA) has already been deployed in the Murle areas to monitor the success of the disarmament process. “If the Murle do not voluntarily disarm, the SPLA is there to take their arms,” he warned.

“Without peace and security, development would not be realized in Southern Sudan because no body would want to invest in an insecure environment,” he pointed out.

He also urged the Mundari community to engage in cattle and fish trade between Juba and Terekeka. “Most of the meat and fish we consume in Juba come from Uganda while the Mundari have plenty of both here,” he wondered, and encouraged the Mundari community to benefit from Juba trade and urbanize development in Terekeka and Tali Counties.

(ST)

### **Sudan bans female circumcision (Sudan Vision)**

**By: Hafiya Elyas**, Minister of Social Welfare, Samia Ahmed Mohamed stated that female circumcision in Sudan has decreased to 30% in less than 10 years. In the celebration of international day of female circumcision organized yesterday in Alsharqa hall,

she put forward that article 32 of Sudan transitional constitution stipulates that it is the

duty of the government to combat bad customs and traditions that affect badly the dignity of women and should also protect rights of children as specified in international conventions.

Of his part, undersecretary of ministry of health, Dr. Kamal Obeid has appreciated the initiative of the Children Welfare National Council which put a national strategy to eradicate female circumcision in its programme of 2008-2018. He affirmed his ministry adherence to the strategy and its implementation before 2018.

Dr. Ayabod Ulosani from UNICEF, Sudan Office has declared UNICEF stance to eradicate female circumcision. She added that a national enlightenment campaign should be launched.

She further stated that UNICEF is proud to be part of this movement and that it is supporting eradication of female circumcision in six states. Dr. Ulosani put forward that UNICEF is exerting efforts to enlighten people especially youth, religious leaders, women organization, health workers, decision makers and teachers.

She concluded that these joint efforts have reached at least 2 million people and communities and that the desire to root out this bad habit has increased.

## **GoSS**

### **Three Ugandan rebels killed during shootout in Sudan's Central Equatoria (ST)**

By Isaac Vuni, February 10, 2008 (JUBA) — A Sudanese student, who was abducted by the Ugandan rebels, has revealed that three LRA plus a civilian were gun down by Southern Sudan Wildlife forces at Kanchu payam of Central Equatoria State during their shoot out.

According to ailing student Lado Moses, many LRA were also injured during their simultaneous attack on Kala Boma at 4 am and Lainya Dongoro Boma at 5pm but that LRA who were seriously wounded during the attack are instantly finished by LRA themselves.

Student Lado Moses, eleven year old primary student of Nyepo payam in Kajo-keji County, further revealed that those who were abducted by LRA are expected not to complaint of any sickness, otherwise, their penalty is immediate killing by a directed teenager soldier who does the assassination in front of those who are abducted.

When asked of how many LRA are there, Lado Moses revealed that LRA are moving in three groups and estimated their total to be about one thousand who are now involved in terrorizing Kajo-kaji county and that they speaks Acholi language.

Lado Moses, who fluently articulates himself in English, reiterated that it was the LRA who attacked, looted food stuff and abducted three of them during the night of

January 28th this year from Nyepo payam later to joint other 35 people who were already abducted from other three payams of Kojo-keji County, adding that his fourteen days under LRA captivity was disturbing as they were being threatened with death at any time and at the sometime being minimally fed on roasted meat.

"I have not seen killing of a human being in my life until I was abducted by LRA where I saw children of my age are given order to kill a human being as we watch and there action have terrified my life;" said Lodo Moses.

He explained that after LRA killing of people who are accused of attempting to escape, they, the abductees, are warned that if any one of them attempted to escape will face the same penalty.

(ST)

### **Uganda officials investigate killings in south Sudan (ST)**

February 10, 2008 (KAMPALA) — Officials at the Uganda peace talks in southern Sudan are investigating a report that Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels killed dozens of people in recent attacks in the region, the Ugandan military said on Sunday.

Uganda's army spokesman, Captain Paddy Ankunda, said a senior official from south Sudan's Western Equatorial state, Joseph Ngere, complained to Uganda's government about the raids.

"The deputy governor has protested to Uganda that the LRA has killed dozens of people in his province," Ankunda said.

"We had earlier got the same information that the LRA has killed people. The Cessation of Hostilities team is investigating these claims and if true, that will be a violation of the truce agreement," he told Reuters in Kampala.

(Reuters)

### **Juba Archbishop appeals Sudanese to embrace justice and reconciliation (ST)**

By Isaac Vuni, February 10, 2008 (JUBA) — The Catholic Archbishop Archdiocese of Juba, His Grace Paulino Lukudu Loro has, today appeals to all Christians in Sudan to embrace justice and reconciliation process as the best way of forgiving each other especially during this year period of Lent that commands all faithful Christians to forgive and opening a new life in Jesus Christ with all people of God one might have offended in one way or the other.

His grace announced to the congregation that the Papal Ambassador to Sudan, His grace Leo Roccoardi will officially visits the Archdiocese of Juba for six days as from February 12th and will on the coming Sunday ordain three seminarians from St. Paul Seminary to the Order of Diaconate.

The Papal Ambassador will also visit some selected parishes and government of Southern Sudan in order to acquaint himself with the present system of governance during the CPA era.

(ST)

## **Darfur**

### **Darfur rebel group reiterate full cooperation with peacekeeping force (ST)**

February 10, 2008 (AL-FASHER) — A Darfur rebel group reaffirmed their commitment to facilitating the work of UN-AU (UNAMID) peacekeeping force.

“We have been a leading supporter of the force and as such we will do everything in our power to assist it” Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) spokesperson, Ahmed Hussein Adam told Sudan Tribune.

Earlier today the leader of JEM Khalil Ibrahim was quoted by Reuters as saying that any troops from the United Nations African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) sent into a war zone area faced being attacked.

However Khalil later softened his stance and said that U.N.-African Union peacekeepers could investigate attacks by the government on three West Darfur towns but warned against stationing international troops in the region.

"If they want to come for an investigation they are welcome but they cannot stay - these are my areas and I am coming back to take them," Rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) leader Khalil Ibrahim told Reuters by telephone from Darfur.

JEM spokesperson also urged humanitarian organizations to enter the area and help civilians affected by the fighting.

(ST)

*(Some information for this report provided by Reuters)*

### **Darfur rebel leader says priority to civilians' security not talks venue (ST)**

February 10, 2008 (PARIS) — Darfur rebel leader has rejected Netherlands suggestion to host Darfur peace talks, saying the priority should be given to the creation of a conducive environment particularly through the observation of the ceasefire and the deployment of an active peacekeeping force.

The Dutch government would seriously consider hosting peace talks for Darfur if the request came from the African Union or the United Nations, Dutch Development minister Bert Koenders said on February 5 after meeting with a representative of one of the SLM groups in southern Sudan.

Abdel Wahid AL-Nur, the founder of the Sudan Liberation Movement told, Sudan Tribune, that Darfur crisis does not need more confusion because efforts should be focused at this stage on the deployment of the peacekeeping force and the establishment of conditions that can make possible the hold of successful negotiations.

"But at this stage we will not participate in any talks even if they decide to hold it in Jabel Marra" the rebel leader said.

Jebel Marra is the heartland of Sudan's Fur people.

(ST)

### **Miscellaneous**

#### **Chad's rebels claim controlling new position after fighting against Sudanese rebels (ST)**

February 10, 2008 (N'DJAMENA) — Chad's rebels said on Sunday they had occupied an eastern town after clashes with the national army and Sudanese rebels supporting Chadian president and reiterated they were still in control of the centre of the landlocked country.

Ali Ordjo Hemchi, a spokesman for the coalition of three rebel groups which launched a failed assault on N'Djamena a week ago, said the rebels had taken the town of Am Timan after a brief battle.

Am Timan, some 600 km (373 miles) east of the Chadian capital, is located at the junction of Sudan, Chad and Central African Republic borders.

"One of our columns has liberated Am Timan in the southeast of Chad. We have taken a significant quantity of arms and ammunition," Hemchi told Reuters by satellite phone.

"There was not much resistance," he said, adding the fighting did not last more than half an hour.

Hemchi said "Sudanese mercenaries" had been fighting alongside Chadian soldiers and said French warplanes flew over the rebel positions after Am Timan had fallen, but did not open fire.

Hemchi said there were a total of seven rebel columns. He said the rebels were now surrounding the central towns of Mongo and Bitkine, which they claimed to have taken on Saturday, but that there had been no fresh fighting in either location.

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*(Information for this report provided by AFP and Reuters)*

