



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN UNMIS

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(By Public Information Office)

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UN/ Agencies

UN rights team confident Sudan will allow Darfur visit

(*AP/ST*) Jody Williams, the U.S. anti-landmine campaigner and Nobel laureate appointed to lead a mission to investigate the reported rape and killing of civilians and the destruction of villages in the western Sudanese region, said she expected Khartoum to provide the necessary travel clearance in the coming days.

Williams added that the six-member team of human rights experts and diplomats was expecting to receive all documents from Sudan during a four-day stopover in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa. It will discuss the situation in Darfur with officials from the African Union, which has a peacekeeping force in the region.

Sudanese officials in Geneva declined to immediately comment on whether the mission would receive the visas.

While *AlSudani* reports that the government has officially informed the rights council of its opposition to the visit of the 5-member fact-finding committee because of what the government has described as “imbalance in the membership of the committee”, the same paper says however that state minister for foreign affairs AlSamani AlWaseela has denied that the government rejects the visit on those grounds.

Click on the link below for more on this AP story

[UN rights team confident Sudan will allow Darfur visit](#)

Eliasson and Salim expected in Khartoum tomorrow

(*AlAyaam*) UN and AU envoys Eliasson and Salim are expected in Khartoum tomorrow on a joint mission in a bid to unify the political initiatives for a solution to the Darfur crisis.

The envoys will be in the country for five days during which they will meet some government officials and representatives of DPA signatory and non-signatory groups.

UNHCR: meningitis halts refugee repatriation to Sudan

(*Sudan Tribune*) The repatriation of Sudanese refugees from north-western Uganda, which was suspended in January after a meningitis outbreak in the region, cannot resume until the disease is contained, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said on Wednesday.

“We halted the repatriation exercise on 19January because of meningitis,” Roberta Russo, UNHCR spokesperson in Kampala, said “the situation has not changed so we do not know when we shall resume.”

Sudan child soldiers struggle to give up guns - UN

(Reuters/ST) Former child soldiers in southern Sudan are failing to settle back into their communities and instead are picking up guns to fight again, a U.N. official said on Thursday.

Radhika Coomaraswamy of Sri Lanka, the special envoy for children and armed conflict, visited Sudan late last month.

UNICEF, the U.N. children's agency, had helped demobilize several thousand child soldiers in southern Sudan since 2001.

She said the agency would conduct a study in the southern Sudanese capital Juba on child soldiers and the services needed in the region, devastated by decades of civil war, to help them reintegrate.

"Unless you build the community in Juba, unless you actually have education, sport, recreation for the community in Juba, these children are not going to go back," Coomaraswamy said.

Click on the link below for more on this Reuters story

[Sudan child soldiers struggle to give up guns - UN](#)

Gunmen raid camp for aid workers in North Darfur — UN

(UN News) Four armed gunmen raided the compound of an NGO at a camp for internally displaced persons in the war-torn Darfur region, the UNMIS reported on 8 February.

The gunmen were also armed with grenades when they broke into the compound yesterday at the IDP camp in Zamzam, a town in North Darfur, commandeered a vehicle and then drove off.

No staff were injured during the raid, but four vehicle or hand-held radios inside the vehicle were also taken by the gunmen.

The wing of the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) headed by Minni Minawi, which signed the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) with the Government in May last year, has informed the UN that NGOs should not return to the Zamzam camp for three days while it introduces new security measures.

On Monday, a drunken Sudanese Government soldier shot into the area at the marketplace in Tawila, also in North Darfur, causing shops to close and widespread panic in the area.

The latest incidents occurred as negotiations continue between the Minawi wing of the SLA and the aid community on improving access to the areas controlled by the former rebels in South Darfur.

UNMIS reported that humanitarian activities have not yet been able to resume in Gereida because of a lack of safety guarantees, but that operations have re-started in other areas, including in Khor Abeche in South Darfur and the eastern Jebel Marra in North Darfur.

The Transition Debate

Contributing nations hesitant on U.N. Darfur peace mission

(AP) With Sudan and the United Nations in a standoff over sending peacekeepers to Darfur, officials cited Thursday another hurdle for the embryonic mission: No country seems eager to send troops to the highly volatile region.

The diplomatic push for a peacekeeping mission has coincided with mixed signals from the Sudanese government on whether it is truly committed to a compromise deal that would enable U.N. peacekeepers to join African Union troops in a hybrid operation in Darfur.

"Whether African or otherwise, contributing nations know that Darfur has the potential of turning very violent on peacekeepers," an AU official said.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue, pointed to the 12 soldiers killed and dozens wounded since the AU deployed in June 2004.

To help stop the spiraling violence in Darfur, the U.N. is meant to be currently providing the AU with a "light support" and then a "heavy support" package ahead of the hybrid mission.

These reinforcements are already behind schedule and all parties are shy about committing to a timeframe for the full force.

Lulled by its friendships with China and Russia — veto yielding powers at the Security Council — Sudan has so far managed to avoid any U.N. resolution to send troops to Darfur without its consent.

Khartoum ambiguities and violence on the ground aren't the only reasons delaying the mission, officials say.

There is little legal framework for the new concept of a hybrid mission, funds are far from secured, and what little U.N. support was planned to reach the AU is already partially being obstructed.

A U.N. official in Sudan blamed most of these delays on the government, saying that despite commitments to the support package, Khartoum is blocking the clearance of some goods or delivery of visas for personnel, the official said. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he did not want to be singled out by the government.

CPA

Sudan names head of non-Muslims rights body in Khartoum

(*ST*) President Omar al-Bashir with approval of the First Vice-President Salva Kiir Mayardit appointed today Joshua Dao as chairman of the commission on the rights of non-Muslims in the national capital.

In his famous speech during the celebration of the second anniversary of the CPA in Juba, Salva Kiir expressed concern over the rights of the non-Muslim in Khartoum. "We have sought at Naivasha to protect those rights and succeeded in agreeing on a legal framework for such protection." He said.

Salva Kiir mentioned an attack against the All Saints Cathedral in Khartoum by the police at the end of last year. "Khartoum's law-enforcement agencies gave themselves the right to enter that Cathedral, purportedly in pursuit of certain trouble makers and threw tear gas canisters at worshipers who were going through their rites on a day celebrated by Christians all over the world."

The First Vice President accused some circles in the government to be behind that accident. He said "But if there are elements who are unable to live with democratic transformation, they should either reform, or they too, be taken away from the road to peace."

GoNU

Relations with Cairo and Tripoli

(*The Citizen; ST*) Sudan Ministry of Foreign affairs yesterday reassured that relations between Khartoum and Tripoli are very good. This comes in the wake of reports that Libyan officials have given Sudanese diplomats one week to leave the country.

Last month Tripoli has suspended the transfer of 50 million US dollars to finance the African Union peacekeeping forces operating in the troubled Darfur region and blamed the Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir, for his negative attitude towards it, and to some of its neighbours recently.

The expulsion of the Sudanese diplomats is the latest in a series of setbacks in the relationship between the two countries. Libya has opposed Sudan's African Union presidency in the summit held in Adis Abbaba last month which apparently angered Khartoum. It is believed that Sudanese presidential adviser Nafie Ali Nafie was referring to Libya when he warned neighbouring countries not be a "gate to colonial powers".

Meanwhile the *SudanTribune.com* reports that the the fifth meeting of the joint Egyptian-Sudanese committee's that was scheduled to be held in Khartoum mid-February was unexpectedly postponed until March, a London based newspaper has reported.

The daily Al-Hayat was quoting an unidentified senior diplomat as saying that there is a "silent diplomatic crisis evolving between the two countries".

Minister of Justice: Mohamed Taha's murder case ready for prosecution

(The Citizen) Justice minister el-Mardi yesterday announced to the press at the Friendship Hall that the prosecution's case in the Mohamed Taha's murder trial had already been submitted to the appropriate court.

He added that his Ministry had set its statement about the objection raised by the Defence Lawyer.

According to the Minister, the prosecution's case is ready now to be presented in court. He noted that the judiciary would decide which court was going to preside over the case.

Finance minister says US seeks to separate the south before referendum

(AlSahafa) The Minister of Finance has accused the USA of seeking to separate the south before the referendum through double-standards in its interactions with the Sudanese economy.

He pointed out that the Sudan has been under the brunt of unilateral economic sanctions from the US and that this has negatively affected development in the country. He adds that the US has however exempted southern Sudan from these sanctions.

He also pointed out that the US government bars Sudan from importing materials from the US but buys gum-arabic from Sudan.

Sudanese president, ex-US president discuss peace accord, situation in Darfur

(STV via BBC Monitoring, 10 Feb.) President Bashir, during a meeting today at the Guest House, discussed progress in the implementation of the CPA with the former US President Jimmy Carter.

President Al-Bashir stressed that the implementation of the CPA is going on smoothly, saying that the government is committed to resolve the various pending issues.

On Darfur crisis, President Al-Bashir affirmed that the first of agreement with the UN on Darfur has been implemented and that consultation is continuing on the details of the second phase.

He added that a joint committee will be established with the movements signatory to the Abuja Peace Agreement within the next six months.

Sudan to conduct population census next November

(SMC via BBC Monitoring, 10 Feb.) Minister of Presidential affairs Gen Bakri Hassan Salih, affirmed that conducting the population census scheduled to take place next November would help decision makers take the right decision as regards development at national and state levels.

He said census gives researchers the right inductions for making researches on scientific basis.

Other Headlines:

- National Press & Publications Council to issue ban on reporting of rape cases (*AlAdhwa*)

Southern Sudan/ GoSS/ SPLM

Justice Minister disqualifies Southern States' Constitutions

(*AlSahafa*) The Minister of Justice stated that any State constitution that fails to procure the Ministry's conformity will be considered as breaching the National Constitution.

Minister el-Mardi said that all the constitutions of the Southern States, with the exception of the Constitution of Eastern Equatoria State, do not conform to the Interim Constitution.

Kiir receives Carter in Juba

(*Khartoum Monitor*) First Vice President Salva Kiir cut short the SPLM's Interim National Council meeting in Yei to receive former US President Jimmy Carter who arrived in Juba on a one day visit yesterday.

Kiir expressed gratitude for the great concern President Carter has shown on the problems facing southern Sudanese and hailed the role of the Carter Centre in the establishment of Carter Centre for eradication of Guinea Worm which is prevalent in some parts of southern Sudan.

The First V.P urged the visiting ex-American President to utilize his contacts with the US Administration to doubly pressurize the signatories to the CPA to quicken implementation of the agreement.

Kiir also asked Carter for assistance cooperation in combating diseases like HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, river blindness and meningitis.

Meetings of the SPLM politburo and executive

(*The Citizen*) The SPLM Political Bureau yesterday continued its discussion of the party's agenda and has formed itself into 3 specialized groups.

The first group was assigned to evaluate the accomplishments of the CPA, the second to review the relationship between SPLA and NCP, while the third group's assignment was to evaluate the SPLM strategy as an organized political party preparing for the coming elections, both at the national and southern regional levels.

The Political Bureau will wind up its meeting today, Sunday, with recommendations.

South Sudan's E. Equatoria deploys army to prevent LRA attacks

(ST) The Governor of Eastern Equatoria State announced today that he deployed the army to protect the local population from attacks by the LRA.

He pointed out that the LRA has broken out of their designated assembling camp at Owiny Ki-bul and are now killing, terrorizing, and robbing southern citizens of food stuff and properties. And that the Ugandan rebels LRA refused even a humanitarian food given to them by government of southern Sudan on allegation that it has been poisoned.

In another development, Ugandan FM Radio Mega broadcast monitored yesterday stated that the District Commissioner (DC) of Gulu, Mr. Walter Ochora is to lead Acholi elders delegation to meet and plead to Governor of Eastern Equatoria not to chase the LRA from southern Sudan. The radio further reported that Ugandan government would compensate people of Magwi County whose properties were looted by LRA.

Responding to the report, the state minister of Agriculture and rural development, Mr. Francis Okeny angrily said the Gulu DC must first convince the LRA not to kill innocent people and to also refrain from attacking people of Magwi County, then he and the elders delegations could be given audience with the Governor and Council of ministers.

Uganda, DRC, Sudan agree to fight rebels

(Sunday Vision) Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan have resolved to jointly fight rebels operating along their common borders, the Sunday Vision reported.

They have agreed to exchange information, have joint military teams to verify the location of rebels and set up joint verification missions in the respective countries.

This was during a one-day security meeting at Hotel Margherita in Kasese, Uganda, last week chaired by the Ugandan people's Defence Forces (UPDF) second Division commander, Brig. Hudson Mukasa who also led the UPDF delegation.

Brig. Gen. Bahuma Ambamba led the DRC army side while Col. Adoor Deng headed the Sudanese People's Liberation Army delegation. The UN peace keeping force in the Congo (MONUC) delegation was led by Brig. Gen. Duma Mdutyana.

Other Headlines:

- Lord's Resistance Army resorts to highway robbery in W. Equatoria (AIAdhwaa)

Darfur/ DPA

HRW requests immediate blocking of Sudan's oil payments

(*HRW*) Human Rights Watch has requested an immediate implementation of a proposal by the US Treasury Department to block oil transfer by US commercial banks to the Sudanese government.

In a letter sent today to the US Secretary of the Treasury, Henry M. Paulson, Human Rights Watch welcomed the Treasury Department's proposed use of its regulatory authority to block transfers by US commercial banks of oil payments to the government of Sudan.

To read the letter, please visit:

<http://hrw.org/english/docs/2007/02/08/darfur15291.htm>

Other Developments

Campus violence

(*ST, AlAyaam et al*) One Islamist student was killed and ten injured during clashes between students from the ruling party and the SPLM; the two groups traded accusations over the responsibility of the unrest.

A student was knifed to death on 9 February and 10 other colleagues were wounded in bloody acts of violence which occurred between student members of the ruling National Congress Party (NCP) and others belonging to Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) at Al-Nilayn University in Khartoum. Leaders of both parties exchanged accusations over responsibility for the incident.

The National Movement of Islamic Students (NMIS), pro-ruling NCP, accused students loyal to the African National Front (ANF), pro-SPLM, of killing the student Abdelmuiz Hassan Mohamed Ahmad Kunnah. Kunnah was a student at the Faculty of Law and was an NCP activist. However, SPLM students denied responsibility for the incident.

Yesterday also saw a repeat of campus violence, but this time at the Imam el-Azhari University campus where clashes left four people seriously injured.

The Minister of Interior has, on the other hand, condemned campus violence and has called for cooperation between students' bodies and the ministry.

Speaking at a press conference yesterday, SPLM Cultural and Information Secretary Mr. Deng Agoc, said that SPLM students had nothing to do with the clashes at Nilein University.

Authorities arrest *AlWatan* senior reporters

(*AlWatan*) Authorities on Friday arrested two senior staff from *AlWatan* daily's editorial team.

Adil Sid-Ahmed (deputy editor-in-chief) and Ahmed el-Shareif (editor) were taken to Kobar Prison and are expected to be brought before the prosecutor today.

The paper does not say why the two have been arrested but does say that "the masked man has also been arrested and is currently being interrogated".

It is worth noting that the paper published late last week in a front page article an interview the two held with two masked men who claimed their group was responsible for sending the bomb threat to the UNMIS and the US Embassy.