



## UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN UNMIS

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(By Public Information Office)

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### **HIGHLIGHTS:**

## **UN/ Agencies**

### **Special envoys hold talks with President Bashir**

Special envoys Jan Eliasson and Salim Ahmed Salim held discussions yesterday with the President of the Republic.

The talks received varied levels of coverage in the local press. Attached is a separate Special Media Monitoring Report that is a compilation of these press reports.

### **UN Secretary-General still waiting for response from the Sudan government**

(*AlSudani, 17 Feb.*) Asked on progress in the issue of the deployment of an international force in Darfur, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon said he was still waiting for a report from his envoy and for an official response from President Bashir on his letter of 24 January this year.

### **On the rights team**

(*AlHayat et al*) In a new development, two members of the UNHRC delegation denied entry visas to enter Sudan have tendered their resignations from the delegation before the delegation sets don to start gathering information from outside Sudan.

***Justice minister Mohamed el-Mardi*** says this shows that this is the fourth time the rights council has proved its failure with states refusing to allow their delegations into their countries.

He said that the Gabonese and Indonesian representatives resigned from the delegation due to “disharmony” among the members of the 5-member team.

*AlSahafa* also reports that SPLM member Yassir Arman says government should not have barred the visit. He said Sudan is more in need of cooperating with the international community to find political solutions to the Darfur problem. He said that the National Congress Party is unfortunately using its simple majority to pass decisions without consulting the other partners in government.

Another member of the SPLM who chose anonymity said that the parties had a gentleman’s agreement that they consult each other in decision making but then, “we have apparently made a deal with the devil”.

***Local newspapers on 17 February reported*** that the UN Secretary-General had expressed disappointment over Sudan's refusal to grant entry visas to the rights delegation.

He said that President Bashir had told him during their meeting on the fringes of the African Union summit meeting in Addis that there was no problem in granting the rights

team an entry visa. He said he had urged the Sudanese president to cooperate with the resolution the United Nations rights body had taken unanimously and added that if there was no problem, President Bashir should have been able to grant visas to the rights team.

The Greater Sudan Liberation Movement has also denounced the Sudanese government's position on the issue and described it as a renewed confirmation that the government was implicated in human rights violations and war crimes in the Darfur region.

The movement, according to *AlSudan AlHadith* (via *BBC Monitoring*, 16 Feb.), called upon the international community to condemn the Sudanese government for not abiding by international laws and international human rights conventions.

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- Eric Reeves, in his article, *Is Sudan interested in Darfur Peace Talks? The case of S. Jamous*, writes, "The regime's génocidaires are using UN personnel to imprison a man critical to success during the impending rebel commanders' conference". The full text of the article is in a separate supplement to this MMR.

## **CPA**

### **UNREST IN S. KORDOFAN: Popular Defence Forces take to the streets of Kadugli**

(*AlAyaam et al*, 17 Feb.) Kadugli town held its breath last Thursday evening when the Popular Defence Forces took to the streets in full combat gear and stationed themselves at the Freedom Square chanting anti-SPLM slogans.

*The state government had earlier issued orders* for authorities to seize government vehicles following a strike by civil servants. The governor says that the authorities then found someone driving a government vehicle and, when confronted, turned out to be a major in the Customs Police. That person refused to hand over his vehicle and this sparked fist fights between the two sides.

*Governor Ismail Jallab says all were surprised* when the PDF took to the streets in full combat gear chanting anti-SPLM slogans such as, "We will not be ruled by the SPLM". The governor accused parties he did not name of being behind this "show of power aimed at inciting the other party". He said that the PDF brandished new guns and drove around in cars as the town relieved the days of the war.

The state's security committee held a meeting yesterday strongly condemning the PDF for this act and called for an immediate investigation into the incident and a trial of the perpetrators. The meeting also underlined the need to instruct the competent military committees to disarm the civilians.

Governor Jallab says the incident has been reported to the Minister of Federal Government.

*AlSudani* reports that the person who sparked the incident was in fact neither a customs officer nor the director of the office of the Deputy Governor of the state as he claimed.

*But AlIntibaha (18 Feb.) reports that the South Kordofan chapter of the National Congress Party* has strongly criticised Governor Jallab and blamed him for what befell the SPLM in the state and for any security problems that may arise.

In a statement, the National Congress Party condemned the “random manner” in which the governor’s decision was being implemented.

The statement goes on to say that the National Congress Party has been exercising restraint over the continued harassment meted out by the SPLM on supporters of the National Congress Party within eye and earshot of the governor with impunity for the perpetrators.

*Rai AlShaab* daily reports on 18 Feb. that the SPLA and the PDF are facing each other across the building housing the offices of S. Kordofan State government.

The paper draws a bleak picture of what may happen and says the situation there is very tense and may explode into a full-scale confrontation between the two sides.

### **NCP and SPLM agree to turn a new leaf**

(*Alwan*) Yassir Arman said that a delegation of the SPLM Leadership Office met yesterday with Vice-President Taha and briefed him on the resolutions of their recent meeting in Yei.

He said that the meeting was conducted in a positive atmosphere and the parties agreed that their respective leaderships under President Bashir and Vice-President Kiir and 8 members from each side meet to discuss outstanding issues.

No date has been set for this meeting.

### **RETURNS: Internally displaced return to Sudan's Nuba Mountains**

(*SRS via BBC Monitoring, 16 Feb.*) At least 348 internally displaced persons or IDP's have recently returned to Southern Kordofan, also known as the Nuba Mountains region.

An official from the International Organization for Migration, Mario Tavolaj, said that he believes Southern Kordofan sees the most returnees to southern Sudan.

"Southern Kordofan is probably the priority area of return followed by Northern Bahr el-Ghazal. It seems to me that 30 percent of the people willing to return were indicating Southern Kordofan and almost 20 percent, something like that, was indicating Northern Bahr al-Ghazal and the rest have been distributed all over the country. There are also not just these are the main areas of return, there are other priority areas of return, these are the big numbers," says Mario Tavolaj, an IOM official speaking at a press conference in Khartoum on 14 February.

He said the exercise is being carried out by the Government of National Unity in conjunction with the Government of Southern Sudan and the United Nations Mission in Sudan.

## **GoNU**

### **Nafei says NCP succeeded in splitting the movements of Darfur**

(*Rai AlShaab*) Dr. Nafei Ali Nafei, the secretary for political organisation and Vice-Chairman of the National Congress Party, says that the ruling National Congress Party has not been affected by the peace agreements signed and has always maintained its simple majority of 52%. He said that the party will not let go of this majority even if other agreements are signed with the movements of Darfur.

In a briefing before the Kordofan Consultative Council chaired by Salman Suleiman el-Safi, Nafei said that the National Congress Party managed to split the armed movements in Darfur. He did however express concern over the movements mushrooming in Kordofan on the grounds that these movements have within their ranks some members of the National Congress Party. He said these movements are however driven from the grassroots by the Popular Congress and Umma parties.

The meeting had endorsed a report on the council's performance and acknowledged the weak performance of the governments of North and South Kordofan but attributed that to a weakness of the National Congress Party chapters in the respective states.

### **Iran ready to support Sudanese peace process**

(*SUNA via BBC Monitoring, 16 Feb.*) The Iranian ambassador in Sudan, H E Reza Ameri, affirmed Iran's support to the Sudanese stance in rejecting the deployment of international forces in Sudan, explaining that Iran will continue its support to the peace and stability of Sudan.

The Iranian ambassador said in an interview with the Sudan News Agency (*SUNA*) that Sudan and Iran are confronting common challenges as well as foreign enemies, saying that unity is the best option to overcome these challenges.

### **Police not to collect revenue**

(*AlKhartoum et al*) The Director-General of Police has ordered all police personnel to stop from the collection of revenue and leave revenue collection points.

This order follows protests from various sectors of the community on the many revenue collection points.

The chief of police said that the decision comes within the context of the commitments of the police forces to reduce the suffering of the people.

## **Southern Sudan/ GoSS/ SPLM**

### **Kiir meets with southern Sudan Peace Commissioner**

(*Khartoum Monitor*) A meeting took place yesterday between Vice-President Kiir and the Southern Sudan Peace Commissioner.

Following the meeting, Commissioner James Kok told the press that the three areas covered in the meeting were an envisaged second Conference of Chiefs, Kings and Queens from the 12 states and Abyei, the forthcoming reconciliation conference between the Misseriya, Rizeigat and Dinka of N. Bahr-el-Ghazal and the general issue of national reconciliation and healing.

### **Rebecca Garang: Linking south to its neighbours**

The *Khartoum Monitor* issues excerpts of a recent interview with GoSS roads minister Rebecca Garang who affirmed that roads linking southern Sudan with its neighbours will be completed by the end of this year.

She said that the ministry's US\$120 million budget for this year will also be used to construct other feeder roads in addition to 6 airports, including one international.

### **Divided visions as southern Sudan parties prepare for 2008 elections**

(*Juba Post via BBC Monitoring, 16 Feb.*) Southern Sudan political parties will start their campaigns for the 2008 general elections later this year, reported privately-owned Juba Post newspaper 15 February.

So far, there are two political parties in southern Sudan: the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), which is led by First Vice-President Salva Kiir Mayardit, and the United Democratic Front (UDF) led by Peter Sule.

The SPLM is now a proper national party advocating a unified Sudan. This is in accordance with the 2005 peace agreement. The party hopes to set up its main HQs in Khartoum and launch its campaign in November 2007. According to the SPLM, the party "is open to all Sudanese, including northerners".

However, the UDF remains strongly anti-north and advocates the secession of the south. One of the party's slogans is "South for Southerners." Party leader Sule told the privately-owned Sudan Radio Service on 24 January 2007 that "the right choice for southern Sudanese would be to vote for separation from the north so that the south can freely develop its own cultures and country without interference from the north".

### **GoSS clinches military deal with the Uganda government**

(*AlHayat et al*) A military cooperation deal signed between the GoSS and the Uganda government recently has drawn the ire of the government in Khartoum.

A high-rank official at the Sudan embassy in Kampala said that the security and military deal signed recently between the two parties totally violates the CPA. He said that by doing so, the GoSS is now operating like an independent state.

The security and military agreement in question allows the Uganda army and the SPLA to carry out joint operations against the LRA and that the Ugandan side will train the SPLA and the GoSS police.

The diplomat said that the two sides to the agreement did not inform the government in Khartoum of the agreement and that is why the Sudan government, through the embassy in Kampala, filed a formal protest to the country's foreign ministry.

### **Armed groups blamed for "slowing down" peace process**

(*SRS via BBC Monitoring, 16 Feb.*) The Sudan People's Liberation Army has blamed other armed groups for slowing down the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, especially the security protocols.

In an interview with Sudan Radio Service at the SPLA general headquarters in Juba on Monday [12 February] Major General Kuol Deim Kuol said that other armed elements in southern Sudan are the cause of the recent insecurity in Malakal and around Juba. Deim Kuol urged the Sudan Armed Forces to cooperate with the SPLA in the implementation of the CPA's security protocols.

He said that if the [ruling] National Congress Party will not cooperate with the SPLM, it will amount to what he calls "dishonouring the agreement."

### **GoSS delegation to travel to Nairobi today**

(*AlSahafa*) A 5-member delegation of the GoSS led by SPLM Secretary-General Pagan Amum travels to Nairobi today for talks with Kenya government officials over difficulties in resolving the outstanding issues in the CPA.

The delegation hopes to table these issues at a forthcoming meeting of the IGAD heads of state.

### **Ugandan rebels leave assembly point in Sudan's Western Equatoria State**

(*SRS via BBC Monitoring, 16 Feb.*) In a letter to the commissioner of Ibba County in Western Equatoria State last week, the LRA said that it has evacuated the Ri-Kwagba assembly point in Nabang'a and is now moving to an undisclosed location.

Western Equatoria Deputy Governor Joseph Ngere says he believes that the LRA may still be "loitering" in the state, but assured the Western Equatoria legislative assembly that the state government would ensure security.

Meanwhile, the LRA has denied reports that their forces have attacked civilians in the area, saying that their forces are only patrolling near Sudan's border with the Democratic Republic of Congo.

### **GoSS blames World Bank for poor agriculture season**

*(AlSahafa)* The GoSS has blamed the poor harvest to a lack of funding by the World Bank.

Minister Elia said that Bahr-el-Jebel State is also to blame for the late issue of permits for the envisaged agricultural projects in the state.

### **Darfur/ Darfur Peace Agreement**

#### **Sudan president says Darfur rebels Western-backed**

*(Reuters/ST)* Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir said in comments published on Friday that Darfur rebels who rejected a 2006 peace deal were backed by the West.

Speaking to the Saudi-owned Asharq al-Awsat newspaper on the sidelines of African talks in the French city of Cannes, Bashir said that instead of punishing rebels that rejected the peace deal, a United Nations resolution had put the onus on Khartoum.

"The elements that reject the agreement move with freedom in Western capitals and receive financial and military support ... and due to this support have been successful in controlling the northern section of Darfur," Bashir said. "Is this not a direct threat to Darfur and to security and peace?"

Bashir appeared to have made his comments before Sudan agreed at talks with its neighbours Chad and Central African Republic not to support rebels attacking each other's territory.

In his comments to Asharq al-Awsat, he accused Chad of backing Darfur rebels under the nose of the United Nations.

"These movements were initially present in the refugee camps where they were carrying out military training and where Chad opened its borders and airports to get weapons to these groups and to facilitate their movement to Darfur, and this is happening within the sight of the United Nations," he said.

"No one has condemned Chad or the states that send arms, but accusations are always against the Sudanese government and Janjaweed," he said, referring to a pro-government militia.



## **Arab League to hold conference on Darfur humanitarian situation**

(ST) The Arab League has affirmed its commitment to support the ongoing efforts to address the humanitarian situations in Darfur.

This came in the meeting held Thursday at the premises of the Arab League in Cairo for its committee which was assigned with the preparations for a proposed conference on humanitarian situations in Darfur.

A committee, chaired by the Assistant Secretary General of the Arab League Ambassador Salah Halima, agreed last week to hold the conference in Khartoum in the 3rd week of March.

Meanwhile, Member of the Committee and Chairman of Darfur Organizations Network, Hassan Bargo, said the Conference will be attended by the President of the Arab League, President Omer Al-Bashir, as well as the Secretary General, Amr Musa, who will extend invitations to all the Arab presidents and Kings.

Bargo, who is a ruling NCP official, explained that the meeting further endorsed the projects put forward by the Sudanese side and decided to form a permanent Steering Committee to prepare for the said conference.

Projects, prepared by joint committee from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Humanitarian Affairs, are estimated at 45 USD million, including projects in domains of health, education, water services as well as resettlement of the internally displaced persons.

## **European Parliament urges UN force, non-fly zone in Darfur**

(ST) The European Parliament has adopted a resolution urging the UN to set a date for deployment of a UN peacekeeping force in Darfur; it also calls to enforce a non-fly zone in Darfur.

In a resolution adopted Thursday Feb 15, the European Parliament calls on the United Nations, even in the absence of consent or agreement from the Sudanese Government, to clearly set a date for deployment of a United-Nations-supported peacekeeping force to secure humanitarian aid corridors.

The resolution further urges the EU and the international community to supply equipment for the enforcement of a no-fly zone over Darfur and implement targeted economic sanctions, including an oil embargo, against those who impede the peace process.

The resolution also calls on the governments of the Member States of the EU, the Council and the Commission to assume their responsibilities and make every possible effort to protect the people of Darfur from a humanitarian disaster.

The Members of the European Parliament call on the international community, including the EU Member States, to make equipment available in the region for the enforcement of the no-fly zone over Darfur - a region the Sudanese Government has been bombing.

Another concern for the House is China who should cease to export arms to Sudan and to stop blocking decisions on targeted sanctions in the UN Security Council. The European Parliament is also in favour of targeted economic sanctions, including travel bans and asset freezes and threatens to have an embargo on oil.

*Full text of the resolution attached separately*

### **Sudan, CAR, Chad agree to respect territorial sovereignty**

*(SUNA via BBC Monitoring, 16 Feb.)* The presidents of Sudan, Field Marshal Omar al-Bashir, Chad, Idriss Deby, and Central Africa Republic, Francois Bozize, Thursday [15 February] held a tripartite summit in France, at the sidelines of the 24th conference of the Heads of State of Africa and France.

The summit was held under the auspices of the French President, Jacques Chirac, and presided over by President John Kufuor, the current chairman of African Union, in the presence of the Presidents of Egypt, Gabon, and Congo.

In this connection, Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Lam Akol, said in a statement to SUNA that the summit focused on the issue of relations linking the three countries.

He explained that the meeting agreed on respecting national sovereignty by blocking armed movements from launching war from inside the territories of any state against other State and set up of a consultations mechanism to solve any arising issues as well as supporting the efforts of the African Union and the UN in order to solve the issue of Darfur according to an earlier agreement signed by the parties.

### **US, Chad move toward closer military ties**

*(AP/ST)* The U.S. has reached an agreement with Chad that opens the way for grant military transfers to that country along with surplus U.S. defense equipment.

Chad had been barred from receiving such transfers. The prohibition applies to countries unwilling to exempt U.S. citizens from possible International Criminal Court prosecutions.

Under the agreement, the ICC will not be authorized to take legal action against U.S. citizens on Chadian soil.

Chad's changed status was disclosed Thursday in a note from U.S. President George W. Bush to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

