



## UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN UNMIS

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(By Public Information Office)

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## **HIGHLIGHTS :**

### **UN/ Agencies**

#### **UN, AU envoys meet Sudanese president**

(*UN News*) Wrapping up a visit to Sudan aimed at reviving the stalled peace process for the strife-torn Darfur region, envoys from the United Nations and the African Union held talks with the country's president, who indicated that he would support dialogue with different factions.

The AU's Salim Ahmed Salim and the UN's Jan Eliasson on Saturday briefed President Omar Hassan Al Bashir on the outcome of the discussions they held with senior government officials and both signatories and non-signatories to the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA).

President Al Bashir "stressed the commitment of the Government to support the dialogue with non-DPA signatories and expressed Sudan's keenness to improve relations with Chad," according to the UN Mission in the country (UNMIS), which said the Sudanese leader also pledged to boost humanitarian work and cooperate with UN agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

The two envoys are expected to report in the coming days to their respective organizations on the outcome of their joint mission.

Before departing on their visit, Eliasson and Salim said they "will be delivering a strong message" on the urgent need for an end to the political and humanitarian crisis engulfing Darfur.

#### **UN-African Union program to bolster darfur dialogue**

(*AlRai AlAam*) AMIS Spokesperson Nouredin Mezni says that the African Union and the UN have agreed on a joint program to bolster dialogue between the parties to the Darfur conflict.

The spokesperson said that the program will be led by the two envoys who have just concluded a visit to Sudan. He said that the envoys will again visit the Sudan next month.

In a related development, Mezni said that the tri-partite mechanism on the 3-phase UN support package to the African Union will hold a meeting next Wednesday.

He said that the mechanism awaits the approval of President Bashir to the Heavy Support Package that has been approved by the UN Secretary-General and the African Union Commissioner.

#### **Rebel commander on meeting with African Union and UN envoys**

(ST) Commander Suleiman Marjan, field commander, SLA North Darfur, asked about the meeting with AU and UN Special Envoys Salim Ahmed Salim and Jan Eliasson on 14 February, said they discussed in the meeting the preparations of the talks with Khartoum.

Marjan said they asked for a strong international participation in the talks, the mediators should be capable to bringing compromise between the two parties. The rebel delegation blamed the African Union for the failure of Abuja talks.

He also said that they prefer a European venue for the expected talks with the Sudanese government. The management of the negotiations by the AU in Abuja was a disaster, Marajan said.

He also said the Sudanese government transported more than 500 people from the relatives of the rebel delegations to exhort them to conclude a peace deal, a move that Marajan qualified as “emotional and psychological pressures”.

### **EU declares support to UN, AU efforts on Darfur**

(SUNA via BBC Monitoring, 18 Feb., ALRai AlAam) The European Union (EU) has welcomed and declared support to the efforts of the envoys of the UN and the AU for reaching a peaceful and political solution for Darfur problem. EU called for a united front of non-signatories of Darfur peace accord to begin talks with government.

Upon receiving the EU special envoy to Sudan, Bekka Havisto, who is currently visiting Sudan, the foreign minister, Dr Lam Akol, said some European countries are making wrong signals by receiving Darfur rebel leaders and giving them impression that the international community is backing them against government of Sudan. He pointed out that the EU did not live up to its role to put pressure on the rebels and to urge them to accept political dialogue.

Foreign ministry spokesman, Ambassador Ali al-Sadiq, pointed out that the meeting reviewed the issue of the fact-finding mission of the UN Council of Human Rights in Darfur, saying the minister informed the EU envoy that there is no option available for the government other than non-cooperation with the mission, on ground that the government reservations on the formation of this mission were not taken into consideration. He said that the meeting also discussed US threatening to Sudan with regard to plan (b), where Dr Lam Akol explained that the government does make its policies in response to threats, adding that the minister has asserted the government commitment to the agreement which was signed between Sudan, the UN and the AU.

On the Sudanese-Chadian relations, the ambassador indicated that the minister told the EU envoy that the best way to resolve the differences between the Sudan and Chad is the direct contacts, stressing the government commitment to Cannes and Tripoli agreements.

The visiting envoy also held talks with cabinet affairs minister Deng Alor on the humanitarian situation and continued violence in Darfur.

## **Security Council to discuss troop deployment to Chad**

(*AlRai AlAam*) The Security Council is preparing to discuss this week the deployment of UN forces in Chad in order to protect refugees from Darfur and Chadian IDPs in the east of the country.

IRIN reports that the Security Council has from last November been pondering over the issue since it requested sending an assessment mission to Chad and the CAR. IRIN points out that the assessment mission had resolved that a deployment of forces in Chad should be carried out after agreement is reached between the chadian government and rebels but then the Security Council sent another assessment mission that is expected to report today.

## **UNHCR and COR release 1,300 from prison**

(*Khartoum Monitor*) UNHCR, supported by the Commissioner of Refugees have released 1,300 people of different nationalities from prisons over the course of several weeks.

Speaking to the Khartoum Monitor, UNHCR representative Chrysantus Ache said that these people did not have the correct legal papers for living in the country.

Many Ethiopians are currently living in the UNHCR premises and have locked themselves within its confines for lack of proper documents. The UNHCR representative pointed out that they need to go for screening to determine their status and then be issued refugees ID cards.

A representative for the refugees said they could not go back to Ethiopia for political reasons and has asked for UNHCR protection.

## **OIC group rejects UNHRC delegation's report**

(*AlQuwat AlMussalaha*) The OIC group in Geneva has sent a letter to the UNHRC head saying it will not recognise the report that the fact-finding team will present to the rights council on the human rights situation in Darfur.

the delegation seems to be facing a crisis with reports saying that the Gabonese representative in the delegation refused to accompany the delegation as it heads for Chad and chose instead to remain in Addis.

## **CPA**

### **Constitution review commission to discuss elections draft**

(*AlQuwat Al-Musalaha*) The National Constitution Review Commission held a meeting yesterday in which it discussed plans to draft an elections law and especially on inviting political forces, editors-in-chief of newspapers, academicians and experts on elections to participate in preparing the draft.

Also discussed was a tour of the different states that members of the commission intend to embark on in a bid to encourage participation and consolidate democratic awareness and to create political interaction on specific views over the electoral system most suited for the country.

### **UNREST IN S. KORDOFAN: Government offices burnt down in Kadugli violence**

(*AlHayat et al*) 20 policemen and 10 students were injured yesterday as police used teargas in a clash with secondary school students in Kadugli. Other reports say one student was killed and two others seriously injured.

The students burnt down the taxation office, the offices of the ministry of finance, the offices of Kadugli Locality and documents of the Agricultural Bank.

The governor said that the violence was sparked by protests from students over poor teacher turnover and blamed the federal finance ministry for delays in sending the teachers' pays. He accused political parties he declined to name of inciting the violence and said 20 people have been arrested in connection to the violence and are currently being interrogated.

Secondary school students had staged a sit-in last Saturday before the offices of the National Congress Party and had blocked access to the main road in town. They had also chased away the deputy chairman of the local National Congress Party chapter and other party leaders who had come to try to talk them into dispersing.

*AlSahafa* daily adds that school has been suspended for 48 hours until stability is restored.

Sources say life has come to a complete standstill in the town and army units have been deployed to patrol the streets. International organisations have taken precautions for the security of their staff and the UN has stopped flights.

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### **Other Headlines:**

- ❖ SPLM to seek IGAD arbitration over CPA outstanding issues

### **GoNU**

#### **Police opens complaints offices**

(*AlSahafa*) The Ministry of Interior has announced that police will be opening up offices where citizens could file in their complaints on issues pertaining to police performance.

This, says a spokesperson for the police, will help ease pressure on the police through community participation and interaction in the security system.

## **SPLM informs political forces of outcome of its Yei meeting**

*(AlSahafa)* The SPLM says it is embarking on an endeavour aimed at establishing a more effective relationship with the DUP, the Sudan Communist Party and the Popular Congress Party.

The Secretary-General of the SPLM has launched a series of meetings with representatives of these parties mainly in a bid to inform these parties of the outcome of the recently concluded SPLM leadership and executive meeting in Yei.

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### **Other Headlines:**

- ❖ Secretary-General of the Arab League arrives Khartoum
- ❖ Authorities raise the alarm over possibilities for further spread of Avian flu in Khartoum

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

### **Raw over GemTel**

*(Daily Monitor via Allintibaha)* The Uganda parliament was in for a shock when it heard last week that Uganda Telecom had granted southern Sudanese telecom company GemTel rights to use their international telephone code without charges. Parliament has demanded for a detailed explanation from the government over the deal.

The Ugandan parliament pointed out that GemTel is not charged taxes for the service and its shareholders are unknown to Uganda Telecom.

Parliament is now embarking on investigations into how southern Sudan got the rights to use the country's phone code and network.

### **GoSS received 50% of donor pledged support**

*(Sudan Vision)* A report published by the *Sudan Media Center (SMC)* says that the GoSS has receive in the past years more than 50% of the \$45 billion support pledged in Oslo in addition to 2 billion dollars from the federal government and \$400 million in terms of loans and subsidies.

The report says that this shows that what the GoSS received during the last year has over trippled that of northern Sudan and was enough to lay foundations for the great development renaissance southern Sudan requires.

But despite all these monies, development in southern Sudan, especially in the education and health sectors, is very poor.

The report concludes by pointing out that this points to three probabilities: the SPLM/A hs not put in place relevant development programs and plans prior to the signing of the

CPA; it faces difficulties in identifying development priorities or there is an absence of the administrative structures and manpower required to handle the issues of development in that region.

### **South Sudan denies restriction on northern merchants**

(ST) The Southern Sudan government denied restricting northern Sudan merchants from doing business in southern Sudan.

The GoSS Minister of Commerce, Trade and Supply, Anthony Makana, said in a statement to Sudan Radio Service that northern Sudanese merchants are not subjected to any restriction. The minister added that they are just facing competition by southern Sudanese traders.

He said that southern Sudanese merchants have learnt business skills during their exile. He also explained the situation by the fact that the new comers have broken a sort of trade monopoly in which the northern traders had used to work.

“When they came back they met with northern traders. To their surprise they found that for the first time southerners are now doing big trading business because the northerners were not used to competition before because they were the only people dominating the business.” he said.

Makana says he expects southern Sudanese traders to “out-compete” northern Sudanese traders soon, especially in Juba.

### **LRA/Govt truce to expire in 9 days FRANK NYAKAIRU & AGENCIES**

(*The Monitor*) A landmark truce that raised hopes for an end to two-decades of conflict in northern Uganda expires in nine days with no clear indication of what happens next.

The Cessation of Hostilities Agreement signed between the government and the Lord's Resistance Army on August 26 and renewed in December had brought relative peace and stability to war-weary northern Uganda where tens of thousands of people have been killed and nearly 2 million displaced by war.

But the agreement expires on February 28, and the LRA have since walked out of the South Sudan-mediated talks after Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir threatened to "get rid of the LRA from Sudan," where many fighters remain camped out.

Ruhakana Rugunda, the leader of the government negotiation team, said yesterday that government is keenly aware of the expiry date of the truce and the failure by both parties to meet for a review.

"It is true that is an issue that is being given due consideration but remember that it takes two to tango," dr Rugunda said by telephone. "The peace talks, in our view, are the only viable option to finding lasting peace in northern Uganda," he added.

Fears of a resumption of hostilities are also shared by the LRA which emphasises the need to resume the peace process but with a new mediator and venue. "The date of February 28 should not mean the resumption of war, and we call upon every peace-loving person to impress it upon the Uganda government not to take that line," said LRA spokesman Godfrey Ayo yesterday.

"We are in touch with our counterpart, Dr Rugunda, and we have made clear our reasons for not going back to Juba and the need for a new mediator. We are working around the clock to make sure the peace process resumes," he added in a telephone interview from Nairobi.

Last week on Friday a planned teleconference featuring the government and the LRA's second-in Command Vincent Otti did not take place. Another is planned for this week, where the two sides are expected to discuss the venue and resumption date. The August 26 truce designated two assembly points in South Sudan for the rebels; Owiny-Ki-Bul in eastern Equatoria and Ri-Kwangba in western Equatoria.

But the UPDF has accused the LRA of refusing to assemble. The LRA has continually accused the UPDF of attacking its positions, a claim the army has vehemently denied. The rebels had also asked the UPDF to withdraw its troops from areas surrounding Owiny-Ki-bul.

## **Darfur/ Darfur Peace Agreement**

### **Count-down to SLM/A reunification conference**

(*ST; AlHayat et al*) Darfur rebel commanders of the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) have postponed a general conference scheduled to begin tomorrow 19 February to reunite the different factions of the group in order to allow other factions to participate in the meeting.

SLA leading commander of North Darfur, Suleiman Marjan told Sudan Tribune that the conference is delayed because Khamis Abdalla Abakr, Adam Bakheit — both of the SLA but had rejoined the National Redemption Front (NRF) — and Ahmed Abdelshafi have requested to participate in the reunification conference.

The rebel commander said that the members of the conference welcomed the move because it constitutes a crucial shift in the reunification process.

Only field commanders will participate in the conference at the present stage. In a second phase there will be a political meeting for the commanders and the political leadership to fix the roles of the two wings in the SLA/SLM.



Different rebel commanders say they have no political ambition to remove the historical leadership of the SLM, their main purpose is to contribute to stop division and to rebuild the SLM/A.

After the signing of the Darfur peace talks, the field commanders, despite the political divisions — worked together and supported each other to repel attacks by Sudanese army and its militia.

### **SLM-Minnawi requests participation in talks with DPA non-signatories**

(*AlHayat*) The Minnawi faction of the SLM/A has requested that it be allowed to participate at ongoing talks on talks with the DPA non-signatory factions.

At a meeting of the Darfur Peace Agreement Implementation monitoring mechanism, SLM representative Mohamed el-Tijani said that their movement's knowledge of their former comrades-in-arms puts them in a good position to facilitate contact with these groups.

### **Sadiq el-Mahdi says SAF party to the conflict in Darfur**

(*Alintibaha*) Umma Party leader Sadiq el-Mahdi says Darfur is deep in conflict and that neither SAF nor the AMIS can not put down the conflict because the first is a party to the conflict while the second is short on logistics and human resource.

In his speech at a US-Islamic Dialogue conference held in Doha, the Umma supremo said that only international forces, through a UN Security Council resolution and funding and support from the international community is capable of carrying out ceasefire monitoring activities, protecting civilians and humanitarian relief and controlling the cross-border wars being carried out by proxy.

He says that the deployment of an international force is a great necessity.

### **JEM accuses the African Union of siding with the government**

(*Rai AlShaab, 18 Feb.*) The JEM has accused the African Union of siding with the government and has branded it "a liar". The movement says it is ready to hold talks for peace only with UN envoy Jan Eliasson but not with Dr. Salim of the African Union.

Djibril Ibrahim, a prominent member of the JEM, said over telephone from London yesterday that Salim Ahmed Salim, the African Union's Chief Mediator, had deceived the rebel movements by saying government was committed to the realisation of peace in the region. He pointed out that this is yet to happen. This, he said, shows that the African Union lacks credibility.

He also blamed Dr. Salim for the fragmentation of the factions that the African Union chief mediator had convinced into signing the Darfur Peace Agreement that does not meet the aspirations of the people of Darfur and will not bring about peace in the region.

The JEM also announced it is boycotting the conference to re-unify the Darfur movements but will participate at the NRF conference to be held on the 25<sup>th</sup> of this month.