

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS**Media Monitoring Report, 03 January 08

(By Public Information Office)

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Highlights

UN/ Agencies

UN personnel suffer deadliest year in 2007

(*Dpa* – 2 Jan. New York) a total of 42 United Nations personnel were killed while performing their duties in 2007, including 17 killed by the bombing attacks in Algiers last month, the UN said Wednesday. The dead included nine peacekeepers killed in Sudan, Lebanon, Uganda and Afghanistan.

"While we mourn our colleagues and the other civilians killed, we cannot but stress the need for prevention and punishment," said Stephen Kisambira, the president of the UN staff union. He called the high death toll the "deadliest in years."

The union said the UN Department of Safety and Security is responsible for safety of UN personnel working in the field and urged enhanced measures to ensure that the personnel is protected.

GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

SPLM resolves to reinvestigate on in Garang's plane crash

(*AlRai AlAam*) The Deputy Vice President of the GoSS, Dr. Riak Machar, said that the SPLM is thinking of a reinvestigation on John Garang's plane crash. It is in the interest of the SPLM to reopen this file if need arises, he said. The SPLM, Machar explained, may seek assistance from an international committee or specialized companies in the field of aviation incidents.

NCP-SPLM delegation to assess situation in Al-Meram

(*AlSahafa*) A political and security delegation from the NCP and SPLM will visit today Al-Meram, Girinty and Aweil areas in an effort to contain tensions between the SPLA and the Miseriya tribe.

According to the Executive Director of Abyei, Ibrahim Mohamed al Amin, the delegation includes Minister of Defence General Abdelrahim Mohamed Hussein, GoSS Minister of SPLA Affairs, SAF Chief of Staff, SPLA Chief of Staff, Police commanders from the north and south, SPLM Secretary General and Minister of Cabinet Affairs Pagan Amum, al Dirdeeri Mohamed Ahmed (NCP), Wali of South Kordofan and Governor of Northern Bahr Al-Ghazal State.

SAF denies occupation of Sirba by JEM

(*AIRai AIAam*) SAF has yesterday denied truth of reports on occupation of Sirba area – 25 kms north of Geneina - by JEM. SAF Spokesman Alsawarmy Khalid Saad said Sirba, Silaiaa and surrounding areas are still under the control of the Government. The Head of the Shura Council of the Miseriya Jabal, Jamal Hamad al Haj, said a JEM forces came to Sirba on last Tuesday and arrested Farsha (Omda) Khatir Ahmed Mahdi who was released later after paying a ransom.

North Sudan army misses new deadline to quit south- SPLA

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 2 Jan. JUBA) Khartoum has missed a new deadline to withdraw its troops from south Sudan, flouting a deal that saw former rebels rejoin the government last week, a senior Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) commander said on Wednesday.

"They have not moved up to now," Major General Mai Hoth, deputy chief of staff of the southern former rebel SPLA said. "They haven't given us a concrete reason."

Khartoum's failure to meet an earlier deadline for the troop pullout was one of the key reasons cited by the former rebels for quitting the government.

Under the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), which created a southern autonomous government and two separate armies, Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) should have withdrawn from the south by July 9, 2007.

However, the SAF had only moved two-thirds of its forces by that date, according to the United Nations, setting off a protracted war of words that culminated in the south recalling its ministers from the unity government.

Read more <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25419>

Miseriya call for SPLA withdrawal from 1/11956 border line

(*Sudan Vision*) Leaders of Miseriya criticized the delay of SPLA to withdraw its army south of 1965 boarder, in special statement to the chief of Miseriya Hireika Izeldeem Hireika has criticized the existence of SPLA in 1965 boarder demarcation without orders from its leaders as it is stipulated by the CPA, security arrangements, and article 18/1.

Hireika also disclosed that SPLA is launching cruel practices that target people and their properties especially domestic animals.

He further blamed SPLA for not following the outcome of the meeting that comprised leaders of SPLA and Miseriya held recently in Khartoum.

He rejected the accusation of SPLM that the armed forces backed Miseriya tribes. He affirmed that the armed forces are committed to the Peace agreement and further reiterated Misseriya's commitment to CPA.

50 East Sudan Front elements to be accommodated in military college

(*Sudan Vision*) Fifty cadres of East Sudan Front (ESF) who are holders of university and secondary school certificates will next week be accommodated as military students in the Military College.

Chairman of the Security Arrangements Committee, Lt. Gen. Mohammed Abdelgadir Nasr, said appointment of ESF cadres as officers in the armed forces will be proportionate to the number of ESF troops present in camps, adding that the President of the Republic is following up the issues of accommodating ESF subordinates in both the army and police forces.

Minister of Foreign Affairs meets US Charge d'Affaires, conveys condolences of the government over killing of USAID employee

(*SUNA, Khartoum Monitor* — 2 Jan. KHARTOUM) The Sudan People's Liberation Movement declared its readiness to take up the issue of improving the relations between US and the Sudan. It is determined to use its good relations with the US to improve the relation between Government of national Unity (GoNU) and the US administration to resolve all the pending issues between them.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Deng Alor met Wednesday Acting US Charge d'Affaires Roberto Powers and conveyed to him condolences of the Government of National Unity to the US government and the family of the late employee of the USAID.

Director of the America Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Abdelbasit Badawi Alsanusi said in a statement to SUNA that the meeting tackled the tragic incident of the killing of the USAID employee and his Sudanese driver.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs affirmed to the US Charge d'Affaires that the Sudanese security organs are working actively to pursue the culprits, identify them and bring them to justice.

Ambassador Alsanusi added the meeting tackled bilateral relations between the two countries and difficulties facing them and means of removing these difficulties through dialogue.

The US Charge d'Affaires, on his part, commended the cooperation between the US Embassy and the Sudanese authorities in investigation of the incident, appreciating the sympathy he felt from all official and popular sectors of the Sudanese people.

Organization of Political Parties and Associations Regards Pardon of Accused in Sabotage Attempt as Practical Start for the Unity of Rank

(*SUNA* — 2 Jan. KHARTOUM) The Organization of Political Parties and Associations has regarded the pardon of the accused persons in the recent sabotage attempt as the practical start for the unity of the national ranks and completing the steps declared by the President of the Republic toward establishment of a common ground that is conducive to bolstering the unity and surpassing Darfur problem.

Chairman of the Organization, Abboud Jabir, affirmed in a statement the organization's support to the national programme which was declared by the President of the Republic in his recent address to the Sudanese nation on the occasion of the 52nd anniversary of Sudan Independence Day. He said that the President's address asserted the commitment to national dialogue for reaching consensus and the goals of comprehensive peace and development.

Cabinet Affairs Ministry's Advisory Council meets

(SUNA – 2 Jan. KHARTOUM) The Advisory Council of the Ministry of Cabinet Affairs reviewed in its meeting Wednesday, chaired by Minister of Cabinet Affairs Pagan Amum, situation of implementation of the directives and recommendations of the last meeting, presented by State Minister in the Ministry, Kamal Abdellatif.

The meeting necessitated coordination between Central Bureau of Statistics and statistics department in the Government of Southern Sudan to disseminate statistics culture. The meeting has also reviewed the Ministry's plan for 2008 and challenges and instructed designing national scientific research project and national women centre project. AH/BT

Activities of Peace Week of Radio and TV Corporation to Start Saturday

(SUNA – 2 Jan. KHARTOUM) The Sudan Radio and TV Corporation is making preparations for launching new projects and establishment as part of activities of the Peace Week starting as from next Saturday. Acting Director General of the Sudan Radio and TV Corporation Mohamed Hatim Sulieman pointed out that the launching of the week starts by opening the Peace Radio.

The opening ceremony will be attended by a number of the state's legislative, executive and political leaderships, as well as heads of media and press institutions. Suleiman said the Peace Radio came as product of the peace atmosphere and aims to expand public participation in boosting the message of peace and enhance the spirit of tolerance and national unity.

Chadian Opposition Confirms Delivery of Arms to JEM at Abashi Border Town

(SMC – 2 Jan. Abeche) Chadian opposition accuses President Idris Deby for involvement in weapon deal supplies from France to Justice and Equality Movement which is fighting Sudanese government in Darfur. The deal was finalized and arranged through weapon dealer named Abdallah Huks the elder brother of Deby's wife. Coalition of Chadian opposition spokesman Hassan Garmy told (smc) that JEM delegation headed to Chadian town of Abashi to receive the weapon arriving from France under cover of supplies to Chadian forces in Eastern Chad.

However, Garmy has warned the Darfurian rebels against involvement in Chadian struggle. He pointed out that JEM led by Dr Khalil Ibrahim is fighting as integrated force with Chadian army against the opposition. He said he has evidence that JEM's elements have involved in the recent fights between opposition and Chadian troops at Abashi, Adri and Bada areas where a number of JEM fighters were claimed.

New Government in South Kordofan

(*AlAyam*) The Wali of South Kordofan, Omer Suliman, issued a decree appointing ministers of the State Government:

Maj-Gen Daniel Kodi (SPLM), Deputy Wali and Minister of Local Government
Ali Kuku Kunda, Minister of Culture and Information and Youth and Sports
Dr. Hussein Hamdi, Minister of Health
Juma Ibrahim Ali, Minister of Education
Dr. Ahmed Saeed Abdelrahman, Minister of Finance
Nyil Ahmed Adam, Minister of Economy and Investment
Awatif al Tom Idris, Minister of Minister of Social Welfare and Woman and Child Affairs
Niron Philip Ajo, Minister of Rural Development
Khairy al Gidail, Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources
Brig. Mohamed Omer Abdallah, Minister of Urban Planning

MPs summon Minister of Defence

(*AlAyam*) A group of 20 MPs have requested summoning the Minister of Defence in order to provide answers to questions related to the recent events in Western Darfur State, the number of villages attacked by the Chadian army, numbers of those killed or wounded and security measures adopted in order to avoid similar incidents.

GoSS

Sudan economy: Southerners cleared to borrow abroad

(*EIU ViewsWire*) FROM THE ECONOMIST INTELLIGENCE UNIT

The cabinet of the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) has agreed that the government could borrow money internationally, from within the Middle East and Africa.

The announcement is an indication both of the fiscal pressures on the GoSS and of its desire to bolster its financial independence from the national government in the north of the country.

At present, the GoSS's largest source of revenue is the 50% share of earnings it receives from oil produced in the south, as set out in the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement. However, a combination of fluctuating oil revenue, low non-oil revenue and high spending pressures has prompted the GoSS to look for alternative sources of financing.

According to Gabriel Changson, the newly appointed southern information minister, the GOSS is seeking to borrow around US\$5bn in total for economic and social development in the south.

Mr. Changson said that a loan of US\$550m is being negotiated with the Gulf Arab countries.

Unconfirmed reports have said that the GoSS is also looking to borrow money from China and the World Bank, although the head of the World Bank in Southern Sudan, Surendra Agarwal, has warned the GoSS to be cautious about taking on debt.

Nonetheless, China may prove to be a willing and convenient lender: like the Gulf Arab countries, China has recently helped the national government with financing for infrastructure projects in the north, and Chinese companies are now becoming more active in infrastructure work in the south.

Darfur

Darfur SLA says probing with its ICRC liaison officer

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 2 Jan. NYALA) Rebel Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) said that its liaison officer with the Red Cross is under investigation for internal irregularities.

Abdelrahman Adam Nimer, the military spokesperson of the SLA told Sudan Tribune that Ali Haroun, SLA-Abdelwahid liaison officer with the ICRC in the Ain Siro Mountains, is under investigation over internal military irregularities.

The spokesperson denied that Haroun is held for political reasons. He added that the liaison officer didn't observe military instructions and put many times lives of his comrades at risk.

He declined to give further details but assured that Haroun didn't been subjected to tortures and dismissed these "unfounded allegations".

Read more <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25426>

Rebel JEM claims capture of another town in West Darfur

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 2 Jan. KHARTOUM) Darfur rebels said they had taken a town Wednesday around Geneina, the main city of West Darfur which they claim to have surrounded

"We have taken control this afternoon of the town of Sirba, 30 kilometres (18 miles) to the north of Geneina," JEM commander Abdelaziz Nur al-Asher told AFP by telephone.

But there was no immediate confirmation of the rebel claim — made by the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) — from UN officials or Sudanese authorities.

Read more <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25423>

Darfur rebels condemn killing of US diplomat

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 2 Jan. LONDON) The Darfur rebel groups have strongly condemned the incident which led to the killing of a US citizen, who was working for USAID in Khartoum, and his Sudanese driver.

Three Darfur rebel groups denounced the killing of the US diplomat in Khartoum saying that such murder was a crime strange to Sudan. They held the Sudanese government responsible of the killing adding it was the government responsibility to safeguard the security of foreigners working in the country.

Darfur SLM founder Abdelwahid al-Nur said Khartoum used to kill Darfur civilians without accountability and now they extending this terror against unfriendly foreigners in a new phase of generalization of insecurity in the country.

Ahmed Hussein Adam the spokesperson Justice and Equality Movement condemned the “rigoristic rhetoric” spread by the leadership of the National Congress Party which leads inevitably to the emergence of extremism in the country.

Esam Eddine al-Haj, the spokesperson of the SLM led by Ahmed Abdelshafi, said NCP government harbored and supported the terrorism since the 1989 coup d’etat. He also underlined that this murder occurred the day where the AU force transferred authority to the Hybrid peacekeeping force in Darfur.

Egypt sends 1,200 peacekeepers to Sudan’s Darfur

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 2 Jan. CAIRO) President Hosni Mubarak inspected hundreds of Egyptian troops Wednesday ahead of their deployment in the war-torn Darfur region of neighboring Sudan to join a U.N.-African peacekeeping force.

Mubarak, accompanied by Libyan leader Muammar Gadhafi, urged the 1,200 Egyptian soldiers to remain impartial as they operate in Darfur. Egyptian spokesman Suleiman Awwad said the troops would head to Sudan in the coming days.

"We will be dealing with the sons of Darfur and Sudan equally, as our brothers, without discrimination or prejudice," Mubarak said.

Egypt, along with Ethiopia, is among the first countries to send a strong contingent to the new force, which is still far from reaching full capacity. Sudan has voiced suspicions that western nations are hostile to the government and that the U.N. mission is biased.

Miscellaneous

Sudanese police question witnesses in US diplomat slaying

(*AP* — 2 Jan. KHARTOUM) Sudan Authorities questioned witnesses in the killing of a U.S. diplomat shot in a drive-by attack as he returned from a New Year's Eve party in the Sudanese capital. The U.S. sent its own investigators to the country.

One woman said she rushed to help the badly wounded American, who pleaded, "I am dying, I need help," the independent Al-Rai Al-Amm newspaper reported Wednesday.

John Granville, 33, an official for the U.S. Agency for International Development, was being driven home at about 4 a.m. Tuesday when another vehicle cut off his car and opened fire before fleeing the scene, the Sudanese Interior Ministry said.

The diplomat's driver, Abdel-Rahman Abbas, was also killed. Granville, who was hit by five bullets but initially survived, died after surgery, said Walter Braunohler, a public affairs officer at the U.S. Embassy in Khartoum.

Sudanese officials insist the shooting was not a terrorist attack, but the U.S. Embassy said it was too soon to determine the motive. There has been no claim of responsibility, and U.S. and Sudanese officials investigating the shooting have not specified any suspects.

The Sudanese government often drums up anti-Western sentiment in the media. But attacks on foreigners are rare in Khartoum, where a U.S. diplomat was last killed in 1973.

In Washington, the State Department said investigators from its Bureau of Diplomatic Security and the FBI were heading to Khartoum, a routine measure when U.S. officials are killed in uncertain circumstances overseas.

"They will be sending a joint team to Sudan to investigate the murders, collect any evidence they possibly can, work closely with the Sudanese government to determine who is responsible for these murders and bring them to justice," spokesman Sean McCormack told reporters.

He said the Sudanese government had agreed to admit the team, the first members of which will come from U.S. diplomatic missions in the region but will quickly be joined by investigators from Washington.

The driver's family said the two victims were heading home from a New Year's party at the home of a British diplomat when the attack occurred.

Nimat Malik, a woman who lived nearby, said she rushed to help Granville.

Malik told the Al-Rai Al-Amm newspaper she had some medical training and wanted to try to stop his bleeding using her robes, but others bystanders warned her that she could later face trouble for tampering with evidence.

"But I saw the need to help him so I got the police car to take him to hospital to receive medical assistance," she told the paper.

Maj. Gen. Abdin el-Tahir, the director of criminal investigations, said little material evidence was found at the crime scene. But some witnesses have given information that could help police; he was quoted as saying by the semiofficial Sudan Media Center.

Authorities investigate Arab suspects on killing of US diplomat and driver

(AlSudani) Concerned authorities have arrested Arab suspects and investigated with them on the killing of the US diplomat and driver. The police have also carried out investigations with eight witnesses who attended together with the US diplomat the New Year's party. Authorities say the witnesses have provided useful information.