

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN
UNMIS
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(By Public Information Office)**

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IN THE NEWS TODAY:

UN

UN, Sudan coordinate on sexual exploitation probe, and trial of the UN staff accused of children rape.

Sunday 7 January 2007.

AlSudani; SudanTribune .com (KHARTOUM) Sudan said today it coordinates with the UN on the investigation with the soldiers affiliated to the United Nations on the alleged sexual abuse, the state-run SUNA said Saturday.

In a press statement, the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Ali Al-Saddiq, said that the authorities are investigating on whether or not the four UN troops were actually deported outside Sudan after their conviction in the rape crimes was proved.

The Daily Telegraph reported on Tuesday 2 January said it had gathered accounts from more than 20 young victims in the town of Juba of U.N. civilian and peacekeeping staff forcing them to have sex. The abuse allegedly began two years ago when the UN mission in Sudan (UNMIS) moved in to help rebuild the region after a 23-year civil war.

He said that the UN employees who commit crimes will be subjected to laws of the United Nations and the laws of their respective countries. Ambassador Al-Saddiq said

that the accused UN soldiers will be referred for trial at courts in their respective countries after their conviction was proved.

On the other hand, State Minister at Federal Governance Ministry John Angol has described the alleged sexual exploitation as shocking.

Angol pointed out that the Daily Telegraph reported seeing a draft of an internal report compiled by UNICEF in July 2005 detailing the problem of child sexual abuse by UN staff in Southern Sudan, noting that the report was nearly a year old while UNMIS' regional coordinator denied that there was anything of the kind.

The British regional co-ordinator for UNMIS, James Ellery, has refuted the claims, arguing that there is no substantiating evidence. "I will refute all claims made on this issue," he said in an interview last May. "We investigated all allegations made and no evidence was forthcoming.

UN investigated over 300 sexual exploitation during past 3 years

Sunday 7 January 2007.

SudanTribune.com (UNITED NATIONS) The United Nations has investigated more than 300 members of U.N. peacekeeping missions for alleged sexual exploitation and abuse during the past three years and more than half were fired or sent home, a senior U.N. official said.

The announcement came as the United Nations was trying to determine whether a report in a British newspaper involved new allegations or ones the U.N. had investigated or was investigating. The Daily Telegraph report alleged U.N. personnel in southern Sudan were involved in sexual exploitation and abuse of more than 20 children.

U.N. Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Jane Holl Lute said Friday that the U.N. has done more in the last two years than ever before to try to combat sex abuse in its 16 peacekeeping missions "but we're not satisfied with where we are."

With nearly 200,000 people from more than 100 countries rotating through the peacekeeping missions every year, some people "are going to behave badly," she told a news conference. "What's different now is ... our determination to stay with this problem ... and constantly improve our ability to deal with it."

Between January 2004 and the end of November 2006, Lute said, the U.N. investigated allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse involving 319 peacekeeping personnel "in all missions" - from East Timor, the Middle East and Africa to Kosovo and Haiti.

This resulted in the summary dismissal of 18 civilians and the repatriation of 17 international police and 144 military personnel, she said.

According to the Department of Peacekeeping, during the first 10 months of 2006, 63 percent of all misconduct allegations involving peacekeeping personnel were related to sexual exploitation and abuse, a third of them to prostitution.

While allegations of abuse have dogged peacekeeping missions since their inception more than 50 years ago, the issue was thrust into the spotlight after the United Nations found in early 2005 that peacekeepers in Congo had sex with Congolese women and girls, usually in exchange for food or small sums of money.

The U.N. peacekeeping department instituted a new code of conduct for peacekeepers and new training for officers and all U.N. personnel, and it reinforced messages of "zero tolerance" for sexual abuse.

A new anti-prostitution campaign is about to start “to target what has been a troubling pathway for sexual exploitation and abuse in the missions,” Lute said.

Meanwhile, the Department of Peacekeeping corrected information it supplied Thursday that four U.N. peacekeepers from Bangladesh have been sent home and 13 other peacekeepers serving in southern Sudan are under investigation for alleged serious misconduct including sexual exploitation and abuse.

According to the department, there are currently 13 sexual exploitation and abuse cases under investigation by the U.N. Office of Internal Oversight Services in Sudan (OIOS), half in southern Sudan.

These cases include an investigation into an allegation of sexual exploitation and abuse in June 2006 against a Bangladeshi peacekeeper in southern Sudan. While the OIOS investigation is continuing, the department said the peacekeeper was sent home and dismissed from the army.

In addition, three Bangladeshi guards on duty when the alleged incident took place and two officers were repatriated for poor supervision or poor command. The Bangladeshi army dismissed one guard, lowered the rank of the two others, and severely reprimanded the two officers, the Peacekeeping Department said. (AP)

US Richardson will ask Sudan to OK more UN troops in Darfur

Alshafa; SudanTribune.com (SANTA FE, New Mexico) New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson arrive Khartoum today heading a diplomatic mission to Sudan. Gov. Bill Richardson said Saturday he hopes to persuade the Sudan’s president to accept more U.N. peacekeepers in Darfur - a goal that has eluded world leaders.

The New Mexico Democrat, a potential 2008 presidential candidate, said he does not expect to settle President Omar al-Bashir’s dispute with the U.N. over troop levels during the trip beginning this weekend.

He plans to meet with al-Bashir in Khartoum Monday and with rebel leaders on Darfur Tuesday. Sudan’s state news agency confirmed Saturday that Richardson would meet the president; several Western officials were unable to get a meeting with the Sudanese leader during their recent visits.

Richardson, who was U.N. ambassador under President Bill Clinton, said he has three goals for his visit to the African nation: increasing the U.N. forces in Darfur, improving the humanitarian situation and helping encourage a cease-fire.

Richardson said he is visiting Sudan in cooperation with Natsios. He said Bush has "done the right thing" in Darfur, sending in humanitarian aide and speaking out at the U.N.

The Sudanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs "expressed hope that Richardson’s visit will contribute to correcting the image of the situations in Darfur (in the) U.S. Congress," the official news agency said Saturday.

Richardson is making the trip at the request of the Save Darfur Coalition, which is paying for the travel. The group asked Richardson’s help because he has a good relationship with al-Bashir and has successfully negotiated with him in the past. (AP)

UN, African Union diplomats renew push for peace in Darfur

SudanTribune.com (UNITED NATIONS) U.N. and African Union diplomats are pushing anew for peace in Sudan's war-torn Darfur region after months of stalled efforts that have foundered on the details of a new, hybrid peacekeeping force.

The first step in the new effort will be to "instill a sense of importance of reducing the level of violence so that ... we can create conditions for a political process," said Jan Eliasson, U.N. special envoy for Darfur.

Eliasson's and his A.U. counterpart, Salim Ahmed Salim, met Friday with U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who took office Jan. 1 and has devoted much of his first days on the job to the Darfur conflict that has killed more than 200,000 people and displaced 2.5 million.

The Sudanese government and one of the major rebel groups signed a peace agreement in May. But the pact has provoked months of fighting between rival rebel factions that refused to sign.

"At the end of the day really there can be no military solution to the crisis in Darfur," Salim said.

Eliasson said he was traveling to Ethiopia over the weekend to meet A.U. officials and would head to Sudan on Tuesday.

How the violence can be reduced is a pressing problem, Eliasson and Salim said, but it isn't the focus of their new mission.

Fighting in Darfur began in February 2003 when rebels from black African tribes took up arms, complaining of decades of neglect and discrimination by Sudan's Arab-dominated government. The government is accused of unleashing Arab tribal militia known as the janjaweed against civilians in a campaign of murder, rape and arson. The government denies the allegations.

A poorly equipped and financed A.U. force of 7,000 has been unable to bring security to region, and the conflict has spilled over into neighboring Chad.

Al-Bashir rejected a U.N. Security Council resolution in August that called for more than 20,000 U.N. peacekeepers to replace the overwhelmed A.U. force, claiming a U.N. force would compromise Sudan's sovereignty and try to recolonize the country.

Annan then proposed a three-step U.N. package to beef up the A.U. force, culminating with the deployment of a 22,000-strong "hybrid" A.U.-U.N. force.

Last month, al-Bashir sent a letter to Annan appearing to endorse the package. But Sudan's U.N. Ambassador Abdalmahmood Abdalhaleem later told reporters that the hybrid force must be smaller and have no U.N. peacekeepers in traditional blue helmets, only African troops supported by U.N. technical and logistical experts.

The U.N. is going ahead with the first phase of the package that will provide the A.U. with about 140 military officers and U.N. police, 36 armored personnel carriers, night-vision goggles and global positioning equipment. A second, larger support package that could include several hundred U.N. military, police and civilian personnel and aircraft is being discussed.

Ideally, Salim said, a cease-fire would be needed to facilitate peace talks, but short of that, a de-escalation of the violence is essential. He said strengthening the A.U. force was crucial to that goal.

But he said the U.N. and A.U. couldn't wait for that to happen before trying to bring the parties together, especially those that did not sign the peace deal. (AP)

New round of talks under the auspices of the UN to end Darfur crisis

AlSudani The Secretary General Special Envoy for Darfur heads to Sudan and neighbouring Ethiopia tonight for almost a week of talks and meeting with officials from the GoS, the AU, and Darfur militias to discuss ways and means for finding a lasting solution for the Darfur conflict.

Jan Eliason, will begin his trip at AU headquarters in the Ethiopia capital, Addis Ababa, where he is scheduled to have two days of meetings with AU Commission Chairperson Alpha Oumar Konare, other senior Union officials and members of the Ethiopian Government.

Mr. Eliason will then travel to Sudan for meeting with the Government of national Unity and all other relevant parties.

Bangladeshi peacekeepers sent back for alleged sexual harassment - paper

BBC Monitoring Service-- Text of report by Ibrahim Chowdhury from New York headlined: "UN Peacekeeping Mission in Sudan: Four Bangladeshi soldiers sent back for sexual harassment allegation against them", published by Bangladeshi newspaper Prothom Alo on 6 January

Four Bangladeshi soldiers have been sent back to Bangladesh from Sudan for sexual harassment allegations against them. The US spokesperson, Michelle Montaj, told this to journalists at the UN headquarters on Thursday, 4 January. The US said Bangladesh government is to try these four peacekeepers.

Michelle said investigations began in last February when allegation of sexual harassment was made against them. These four peacekeepers were sent back to Bangladesh a few months ago based on the findings of the investigation.

Michelle also said investigations continue against another 13 peacekeepers in Sudan for different crimes as well as sexual harassment.

The UN spokesperson said the UN is keeping a keen eye on what Bangladesh government does with the four expelled peacekeepers. She said usually peacekeepers are expelled when allegations such as these arise against them.

The new UN secretary-general, Ban Ki-moon, is also taking this very seriously. In a statement, he said the UN is not to show any sympathy or softness against this kind of harassment.

Allegations of sexual harassment against the UN peacekeepers first arose in 2004. A UN report said incidents of sexual harassment have risen alarmingly in Congo. The report also said they are alluring children to have sex with them with food and US dollars. Investigations against 319 peacekeepers were carried out and 18 civilian officials were suspended. A total of 144 soldiers and 17 police officers were sent back to their respective countries.

Names of Bangladesh peacekeepers could not be known. The UN authorities are also maintaining secrecy because the matter is quite sensitive.

Source: Prothom Alo, Dhaka, in Bengali 6 Jan 07

GoNU

Tripartite Committee resumes work today; GoS protests against rape cases, demands explanation from UN;

AlRai AlAam the tripartite mechanism of the UN, AU and GoS which is responsible for the coordination of the three packages of support provided by the international Organization to AU in Darfur would convene on Wednesday January 10th at the AU headquarters in Khartoum to monitor the implementation of the first package in the Light Technical Support Package.

AMIS Spokesman, Noureddine Mezini told Sudan Vision that there was full coordination between UN and AU, as demonstrated by the coordination between the two organizations respective envoys to Darfur, Jan Aliasson and Dr. Salima Ahmed Salim. The two envoys are expected to lead intensive efforts to bring the DPA opponents on board.

On the other side, the government of Sudan handed yesterday an official protest to the United Nations regarding rape crimes committed by the later's forces in south Sudan.

The Director of Peace Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Alsadig Almagli told Sudan Vision that the government has handed the protest to UN demanding explanation for raping of young girls by UN soldiers in Southern Sudan.

Almagli noted that the National Mechanism would hold a meeting today to discuss the rape incidents in addition to demanding UN to explain the reason for delaying the publishing.

**GoS announces peace day (Tuesday 9th January) as official public holiday. (All Press)*

Al Bashir receives written message from Bush.

Sudan Vision President of the Republic, Field Marshal Omer el-Bashir, has received a written message from his American counterpart, George Bush via the American Embassy in Khartoum, affirming the support of the American Administration to the

implementation of the comprehensive Peace Agreement, Abuja peace talks in Darfur as well as the memos of understanding of Addis Ababa.

Sudanese FM urges government partners to work for peace

SudanTribune.com (MALAKAL) Sudanese Foreign Minister and leading member in the SPLM urged the government of national unity (GNU) partners to work together to realize peace and democracy in the country.

Addressing in a meeting in the capital of Upper Nile State on Friday 5 January, Foreign Minister Lam Akol said that Peace is for all and responsibility of all. He added that Cooperation of the National Congress Party, Sudan People's Liberation Movement and other parties involved in the government of the national unity is required for the sake of Sudan.

The Comprehensive Peace Agreement has stipulated democracy, respect of other opinion, competition between political parties and citizenship regardless of ethnicity or religion, he added.

Lam Akol who was often accused of ignoring his political duties as leading member of the SPLM is visiting different towns in Upper Nile State. The Governor of the State, Dak Dob, described the visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs to the state as boosted the spirit of brotherhood and unity among the people.

More than 86 people were killed and 285 wounded in Malakal clashes during one of the worst breaches to a 2005 peace agreement that ended 21 years of civil war between north and south Sudan. The fighting that erupted on Nov 28, 2006.

The situation is back to normal following the joint patrol by the Sudan people's liberation army and the Sudan armed forces. Also, it was agreed to integrate the militia group loyal to Gabriel Tanginya into the Sudan armed forces as that is the only way to prevent future confrontation between the two groups.

Meanwhile, according to Sudan Radio Service, some of the militias have started escaping from the SAF headquarters due to fear of being integrated into the Sudanese army and taken to the north for deployment. (ST)

Sudan: Constitution commission to organize seminars on electoral rules

BBC Monitoring Service-- Text of report in English by Sudanese news agency

SUNA website Khartoum, 5 January: The National Commission in charge of revising the Constitution is expected to embark on debating the Election Act following Id al-Adha vacation. The commission will organize seminars in northern and southern states to come up with consensus on the act, said Secretary General of the Commission, Majid Yusuf. In statement to Suna, Yusuf has urged political parties to contribute in the debate.

Darfur

US to seek China help for peace in Darfur

SudanTribune.com Jan 5, 2007 (WASHINGTON) The U.S. Special Envoy to Sudan will travel to Beijing next week to encourage Chinese officials to help ally Sudan to achieve peace in its volatile Darfur region, the State Department said on Friday.

Andrew Natsios will travel to China's capital Jan. 8 to 12 to consult with senior Chinese officials and "encourage them to exercise their considerable influence on Sudan to achieve peace in Darfur," the statement said.

China has emerged as a major supporter of Sudan, supplying it with everything from oil industry equipment to arms, and importing Sudanese oil.

At least 200,000 people have died and more than 2.5 million have been driven from their homes in a conflict that has raged in Darfur since early 2003.

"China's continued engagement in Sudan is important to ensure full implementation of the Addis Agreement, including the three-phase peacekeeping package," the statement said.

The statement referred to a pact reached Nov. 16 in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa to renew peace talks. (*Reuters*)

UN envoy Natsios, to China to end Darfur bloodshed.

AlRai AlAam President George W. Bush's special envoy to Sudan, Andrew Natsios, will visit Beijing next week seeking China's influence on Sudan to stop the bloodshed in Darfur, the State Department has said.

Natsios, the department said in a brief statement, "will consult with senior Chinese officials and encourage them to exercise their considerable influence on Sudan to achieve peace in Darfur.

Clashes between Habania and Falata tribes S. Darfur. Six killed, three injured.

AlRai AlAam 6 killed and 3 injured in clashes between Habania and Falata tribes S. Darfur. "One of the tribes had stolen a horse from the other, this was the reason behind the attacks" Deputy Governor of S. Darfur said.

JEM- Khalil Ibrahim ready to negotiate with Government of Sudan.

AlSudani The JEM –Khalil Ibrahim said his movement is ready to conduct negotiations with the Government of Sudan to achieve a comprehensive peace in Darfur. He added that Asmara's negotiations are not enough to achieve peace in Darfur.

4000 aid workers evacuated from Darfur.

AlSahafa French daily Le Monde reported the evacuation of 4000 INGO aid workers from Darfur particularly El Fashir during last month.

The daily added that the situation was complicated after the emergence of the Arab militias in Darfur. All aid workers have been evacuated from Gereida S. Darfur after the area has been attacked by the SLM rebels.

SLM- Free Will to submit list of nominees for constitutional positions.

AlSudani, during his meeting with the SLM- Free Will faction leader, Prof. Abdurrahman Musa, the Interim National Assembly Speaker, Ahmed Ibrahim el Tahir reviewed the ongoing steps regarding the peace agreement implementation.

Musa disclosed that his faction has agreed on its nominees to the National Assembly and the identities of those nominees would be revealed during the forthcoming days. Welcoming the nominees, the speaker expressed his hope that their representation in the Parliament would support the peace process and stability in Darfur.

Sudan welcomes statement by UN chief on Darfur crisis

BBC Monitoring Service-- Text of report in English by Sudanese TV on 6 January

Sudan TV, Omdurman, The government of Sudan has welcomed the declaration by new UN Secretary-General Ban ki-mon to resolve the Darfur problem during his term of office through coordination, with the president of the republic and government officials to enhance peace efforts.

In a press statement the spokesman for the Sudanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Ali Sadiq, affirmed the need to focus efforts on pushing efforts of the UN secretary-general to boost political efforts.

He also underlined the role of the international organization of enhancing mechanisms of implementing the Abuja Peace Agreement and the joining of opposing factions to the agreement.

GoSS

Six killed in road ambush in South Sudan

SudanTribune.com Jan 5, 2006 (JUBA) Six people were killed and 10 wounded after an unknown group attacked them on the road between Juba and Nimule in southern Sudan on Jan. 2, an officer in the south Sudan army said on Friday.

Major General Bior Awad of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), said that three people died in the attack itself and three died in hospital later from their injuries.

He said the attacks were probably the work of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), the Ugandan rebel group which has been active in southern Sudan for many years but which has started peace talks with the Ugandan government.

Bior said there have been two attacks on Ugandan military vehicles in the past week on the same road corridor. Two people were injured in an attack on Dec. 30 and three soldiers were wounded in one on Jan. 1 near the junction with the road to Kit. Kit is to the east of the Nimule-Juba road.

When the SPLA searched the area around the site of the Jan. 1 ambush they found eight bodies in the bush, he said.

The victims may have been abducted by the group responsible for the attack but it was not clear to SPLA intelligence on what day these eight people had been killed, he added. (Reuters)

4,000 SDF personnel integrated in SAF

AlSudani Government of Sudan has begun the integration of a number of southern Sudan defence forces in the Sudanese Armed Forces. A Presidential decree is expected to be issued within coming days to integrate 4000 SDF soldiers in Sudanese Armed Forces.

Al Bashir, Kiir to address anniversary of peace from Juba.

Sudan Vision President of the Republic, Omer Al Bashir and First Vice President and President of South Sudan Lt. General Salva Kiir are to address the national celebrations on the occasion of the 2nd anniversary of the CPA, due to be held in Juba, South Sudan. The celebration will be held among wide participation from heads of states of the Inter-governmental Authority on development (IGAD) as well as the regional and international organizations.

SPLA soldiers killed in the south.

Sudan vision A senior officer in Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) announced that 6 of its soldiers were killed and 10 others were wounded when unknown armed group on the road between Juba and Nimule attacked them last week
SPLA Spokesman Piour Ajang told Reuters that 3 soldiers were killed immediately in the incident while three others pass away later in the hospital noting that Lord Resistance Army (LRA) probably lunched the attack.

6 January 07 Press:

***Al-Ayam* editorial (6 Jan 07): Peacekeepers' crimes. Editorial argues that:**

UN has not learned from past experiences.

The scandal of raping the young girls in juba is not the first scandal to be faced by the UN. The UN staff had committed similar crimes in other countries. Still the UN has not taken enough measures to stop such crimes. This means that the UN has not learned lessons from its past experience

Sudan Tribune Editorial (6 Jan 07)

UN must apologize to Sudanese

In order, that people forgive such crimes by the UN personnel is to apologise to the Sudanese people for the misdeeds its staff have done against the minors in Suthern sudan. This is the only way out to settle such crime also it must be followed a proper and independent investigate into the matter. Without such a step people would consider UN troops as wrong elements.