

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

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**IN THE NEWS TODAY:**

**UN**

**UN to respond Monday to Sudan's memo on sexual abuse**

*AlSudani; ST* Jan 7, 2007 (KHARTOUM) The United Nations mission in Sudan (UNMIS) will give tomorrow to the Sudanese government its reply on the sexual misconduct committed by UN staff in southern Sudan, the official SUNA reported.

The Director of the Peace Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and coordinator of the national mechanism for cooperation with the United Nations in Sudan, Ambassador Sadeq al-Magli, said that the mechanism discussed Sunday the content of the Sudanese government memo which was delivered to the United Nations.

The Sudanese ministry of foreign affairs addressed Saturday a memo to the UNMIS stating Sudan government's extreme concern with regard to the inhumane crimes committed by a number of UN employees against minors in south Sudan.

Since Wednesday 3 January, the United Nations announced it was investigating 13 cases of serious misconduct including sexual abuse and exploitation in south Sudan.

Britain's Daily Telegraph newspaper said on Tuesday 3 January that U.N. peacekeepers and civilian staff were raping and abusing children as young as 12 in southern Sudan. The paper said it had interviewed 20 young victims in the south Sudan capital Juba.

Al-Magli said that Sudan had called for immediate response concerning these accusations, besides outcome of the investigation on this issue that was conducted in accordance with directives of the UN Secretary General.

He said that the Foreign Ministry's memo also included the government's protest over the concealing of information throughout the past period, especially that UN officials in New York and Vienna affirmed in press statements that investigations are being conducted in these crimes since May, 2005.

The Sudanese official said that the new UN Secretary General has expressed his concern on crimes perpetrated by UN employees in south Sudan, and explained that the international organization is dealing with this issue seriously.

## **UN envoy Jan Eliasson arrives Sudan tomorrow.**

*AlSudani* The United Nation Secretary General envoy to the Sudan Jan Eliason will arrive Khartoum on Tuesday on a three day visit to the country during which he would hold meetings with the President of the Republic, the First Vice President and Senior Assistant to the President of the Republic beside a number of Presidential advisors and the Foreign Minister.

## **UN to be tough on sexual offenders among peacekeepers - Bangladesh daily**

**BBC Monitoring--** Text of report by Bangladeshi newspaper Prothom Alo on 7 January About 250,000 UN peacekeepers continue to work in 100 countries across the world with fame and image as their assets. This has led the UN authorities to be tough on the sexual offenders among its peacekeepers. The deputy secretary-general, Jane Hall Lute, said this at a press briefing in New York on Friday, 5 January.

Local residents in Sudan and Congo are being victims of sexual harassment at the hands of UN peacekeepers. Four Bangladeshi peacekeepers have already been sent back to Bangladesh following allegations against them.

Explaining the latest on this, Jane Hall spoke to the journalists.

Of the accused Bangladeshi soldiers, one has been sacked and other two have been relegated from their posts.

The deputy secretary-general said the image of the UN is at stake today due to a few persons.

Meanwhile, a Bangladesh official at the UN in New York, denying revealing his identity, said the matter is depressing for Bangladesh. He said the government had taken measures when it received the news. He, however, said this would not put a negative impact on Bangladesh's prospect in the peacekeeping.

*Source: Prothom Alo, Dhaka, in Bengali 7 Jan 07*

## **GoNU**

### **Sudan's al-Bashir appeals for national reconciliation**

**ST;** Jan 7, 2007 (**KHARTOUM**) Sudanese president Omar al Bashir, on Sunday launched a national reconciliation appeal to all political forces in the country.

The President pointed out in his address before the ceremony marking the fifty first anniversary of the National Independence Day that this was a message to all Sudanese People who should respond to the call of National Reconciliation and of restoring rights and letting go.

The President pointed out to the government seriousness in the democratic transformation process and that this would be based on laws to be agreed upon for organization of the partisan life in accordance with the stipulations of the constitution.

Al-Bashir referred in his address to the efforts exerted by the government to enforce the unimplemented clauses of the Comprehensive Peace Agreements signed in Naivasha and its endeavors to equally implement the Abuja and the Addis Ababa agreements.

He commended the roles played by Egypt, Libya, and Eritrea as well as the African Union and the United Nations in boosting the peace process and stability in the country.

### **Sudan orders air strikes on Darfur before arrival of UN force**

*ST* Jan 7, 2006 (**LONDON**) The attacks are in breach of UN Security Council resolution 1591, passed. The Sudanese government has unleashed a fresh aerial bombing campaign in Darfur in an attempt to inflict as much damage as possible on rebel forces before United Nations troops arrive in the region.

Antonov bombers and helicopter gunships are reported to have attacked villages and fired on civilians in open defiance of UN efforts to bring an end to the fighting.

in March 2005, forbidding "offensive military flights in and over the Darfur region". The new surge of attacks is targeting rebel strongholds throughout Darfur, where militias have secured key territories.

The African Union force commander, Major Gen Luke Aprezi, confirmed the attacks and said they followed talks with rebel groups in which he agreed a ceasefire commitment that he now fears may no longer hold. In October, The Sunday Telegraph witnessed Sudanese soldiers loading bombs on to Antonov aircraft at El Fasher air base in North Darfur before a number of villages were attacked.

Last week, new arrivals at the Otash camp in the South Darfur capital, Nyala, said they were forced to flee their villages when government helicopter gunships opened fire on them.

"Out of nowhere, helicopters were over the village firing at us," said Asir Ibrahim, who fled his home near the southern town of Buram.

"I called my wife and children from my home and we starting running. Some people were hit, but it was such mayhem I don't know what happened to many of them. I don't know whether they fled or were killed."

Under the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) signed in Abuja, Nigeria, last May, Sudan had agreed not to carry out aerial attacks in Darfur. But rebel groups say Sudanese Antonov bombers have been conducting raids on Jebel Marra and the North Darfur regions of Anka, Um Rai and Kutum.

A senior Sudanese Liberation Army commander told The Sunday Telegraph: "We were prepared to adopt a ceasefire. Just two days later our positions were bombed by the government.

"These kind of attacks are what we have come to expect from Khartoum, they are doing what they can before the UN arrives."

Escalations in fighting and government aerial attacks often happen when new peace agreements or resolutions are signed.

"When a deadline is set for there to be a change in what is happening in Darfur, the number of attacks on villages and towns increases along with clashes between rebel groups and the government," said one aid worker.

"With the latest resolution, it now looks imminent that UN troops will be on the ground here. But every time there has been any progress in terms of peace agreements, you can be sure that factions of rebel groups and the government will do what they can to secure territories for their own and weaken the other side."

The UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, has pledged to focus his "highest attention" on Darfur in the hope of finding a peaceful solution to the three-year conflict, which has claimed the lives of as many as 400,000 people and displaced 2.5 million. The UN initially proposed sending a peacekeeping force of 22,000 troops to the region, but Khartoum has continued to resist its deployment, insisting instead that only African troops supported by UN technical and logistical experts would be acceptable.

The Sudanese president, Omar al-Bashir, has made it clear that the UN force will only be granted access on a conditional basis, stipulating that the African Union, which currently has an under-equipped and underfunded force of 7,000 in Darfur, must remain in control of operations on the ground.

UN aid organisations in Darfur say they have been told that Sudan has also said that there must be no senior UN officials in the region, only junior officials who would act under orders from the AU.

UN officials in Darfur say they have not been told when they will be seeing the blue berets of the UN troops but only that the troops that come are likely to be made up of soldiers from African nations.

One UN official added: "The implementation of the latest resolution will prove challenging, with AU commanders in certain regions of Darfur not wanting to concede that they need support from the incoming UN troops."

In the meantime, Sudanese forces are using the interim period to attack the territories held by rebels who have not signed up to the DPA and are therefore legitimate targets.*(Sunday Telegraph)*

## **Sudanese President, First Vice President to address peace celebration**

*ST* Jan 7, 2007 (**KHARTOUM**) President Omer Al-Bashir, and the First Vice-President and President of South Sudan Government, Salva Kiir Mayardit, will address the national celebrations marking the second anniversary for the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA).

The celebration will be held on Tuesday in Juba amid wide participation of the states and partners of the Inter-governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) as well as the regional and international organizations.

The Peace Day celebrations coincides with the 51st anniversary of Sudan's Independence Day, and when all the constitutional, legislative and executive institutions have been set up as stipulated in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

The peace deal between the government of the ruling National Congress Party and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) ended a 21-year civil war — Africa's longest — that killed about 2 million people.

Ambassador Tom Vraalsen, head of the commission in charge of evaluating the implementation of the CPA, last December said that Darfur crisis had diverted the attention of world powers away from backing the CPA which faces serious delays.

Tension has escalated between the former northern and southern foes after violent clashes between the SPLM and the northern Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) in Malakal late in November in which 150 people were killed, the United Nations said.

The two sides are also at odds over other issues such as demarcation and the ownership of oil fields, and Abyei status.

Big aid pledges at a subsequent aid conference in Oslo came from the European Commission which promised about \$765 million, Britain \$545 million, Norway \$250 million and the Netherlands \$220 million.

The World Bank said in March that more than \$1.1 billion of aid money was spent on urgent humanitarian needs mostly in the south. Aid needed in southern Sudan alone stands at \$2.5 billion, the World Bank says.

## **Parliament to summon Foreign Minister over rape of children in south Sudan.**

*AlSudani* Foreign Minister Lam Akol, will be summoned to the Parliament to make statement over rape of children committed by UN affiliates in south of Sudan, the National Assembly speaker Ahmed Ibrahim el Tahir says.

**Bashir to repeal all laws contradicting the constitutional contradictory laws; Bashir argues political parties to prepare for general elections.**

*AlSudani; AlRai AlAam* reported that the President Bashir has undertaken to repeal all laws which contradict the constitution and promised to go ahead with the process of democratic transformation in the country. The President has called on all political parties to get ready for the elections and to prepare themselves for a fair and free competition for the peaceful exchange of power and just distribution of wealth.

**Bank of Sudan to begin tomorrow distribution of new Sudanese pound to banks.**

*AlAyam* The Bank of Sudan will begin tomorrow distribution of new currency (Sudanese Pound) to banks. Throughout the replacement period the two Sudanese currencies (Dinar, Pound) will be used.

**GoNU, GoSS carry out investigations in violations of human rights committed by UN troops in the south, Nafie.**

*Sudan Vision* Assistant of the president of the Republic and AND Deputy chairman of the national congress for political and organizational Affairs Dr. Nafie Ali Nafie has called that the federal government and the government of the south carry out investigations in the violations of human rights committed by UN troops in the south.

Dr. Nafie described child rape crimes committed by UN troops in the south as violation to human rights and that it is an act that is denounced by all and unifies will and ranks for confronting such violations.

**Sudanese president says final solution for Darfur close**

*BBC Monitoring--g* Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir has said his government "close" to getting a final solution to the Darfur crisis. Bashir was addressing the nation at the Republican Palace in celebrations to mark the 51st anniversary of Sudan's Independence and the second anniversary of peace. Mauritanian President Ely Ould Mohamed Val also addressed the celebrations. Following is an excerpt of the speech broadcast live by Sudanese TV on 7 January

[Beginning omitted] By the grace of God, we have been able to bring about peace in the east and we are moving towards implementing it and we are also close to getting a final solution to the Darfur crisis. Solutions which will make the people of Darfur realize their ambitions and give them a place in governing the country. This is a mission which we will not spare anything to achieve it. From this place, we direct all officials to work towards the implementation of what was agreed upon through seriousness and commitment to complete what we have decided upon to realize peace in eastern Sudan and Darfur. [Passage omitted]

*Source: Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1734 gmt 7 Jan 07*

## **Darfur**

### **Bleak assessment of Darfur as Richardson starts mission**

*ST* Jan 7, 2007 (**KHARTOUM**) Governor Bill Richardson got a bleak assessment of the deteriorating situation in Darfur as he arrived in the Sudanese capital Sunday, hoping to lay the groundwork for peace in the region.

On a 17-hour overnight flight, the former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations worked on a plan to broker a cease-fire, continue the flow of humanitarian aide and persuade Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir to allow U.N. peacekeepers.

On arrival, Cameron Hume, the top U.S. diplomat in Sudan, laid out Richardson's challenge. "I don't think anybody's strategy is working," Hume told Richardson at the airport.

The Democrat from the U.S. state of New Mexico, a few advisers and officials with humanitarian groups flew aboard a private jet for the trip arranged by the Save Darfur Coalition. The group asked for Richardson's help in trying to improve the situation in Darfur because he has negotiated successfully with al-Bashir in the past.

Richardson planned to meet with the president on Monday, and then fly to Darfur on Tuesday to see rebel leaders.

"I'm not discouraged," Richardson said after the briefing from Hume. "I think we make some measurable progress if we can help the cease-fire and the humanitarian situation and possibly start a united political process that helps the U.N. peacekeeping effort alive."

Hume explained at his hour-long briefing that violence is on the rise in Darfur, making it more difficult for humanitarian groups to travel and distribute aid. He said there have been occasions of rebel groups attacking humanitarian offices, stealing their vehicles and assaulting workers.

Hume said African Union troops that are supposed to be providing protection have slowed patrols, meaning it is more critical that U.N. forces get in the region. So far, al-Bashir has allowed only 20 civilians to be sent in for assistance.

Asked why al-Bashir has permitted the visit of Richardson and activists who have criticized his government, Hume smiled. "Well, first of all he likes the governor," he said. "I think it also has a fact to do with elections in the United States, looking beyond the Bush administration. I don't think they feel threatened by the delegation."

Richardson plans to announce soon whether he will run for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2008. The trip to Sudan helps highlight Richardson's extensive international experience as he prepares for a possible run in a competitive field. (AP)

## **64 killed in clashes between Tarjam and Rizeigat tribes S. Darfur**

*AlSudani* reports that 34 people were killed and 30 others injured in clashes between Tarjam and Rizeigat tribes in S. Darfur.

The head of the Tarjam tribe, Abbas Abdullah, has said the Rizeigat tribe is supported by border intelligence forces to attack the Tarjam areas. A Land Cruiser full of heavy weapons attacked the area, he pointed out. Rizeigat refused to resolve the problems between the two tribes through traditional conflict resolution mechanisms and have chosen fighting, he added.

## **20 killed, 13 injured in armed attack W. Nyala.**

*Alwan* reports 20 people were killed and 23 others injured during an attack by unidentified group 20 km w. Nyala.

Serious measures are taken by security authority to prevent the reoccurrence of such attacks. The Deputy Governor of S. Darfur, who visited the Sakli village, was met with public anger and protest.

## **The Sudanese United Movement: New rebel Movement in Darfur.**

*AllIntibaha* A new rebel movement called “The Sudanese United Movement” headed by former JEM leader Bashar Jazam just been established in Darfur.

Head of the new movement Bashar Jazam said the government have failed to secure Darfur and accused it of lacking good will and keenness to achieve peace in the region.

## **GoSS**

## **Unidentified group attacks SPLA military base W. Juba**

*AlRai AlAam; AllIntibaha* Unidentified armed group had attacked yesterday morning SPLA base in Gumba w. Juba. The information available by SPLA says the armed group belongs to the LRA, Minister of Humanitarian affairs Paul Mium said.

## **Kiir says UN sex criminals would be prosecuted as individuals**

*The Citizen* The Vice President of the Republic, President of Government of Southern Sudan Lt. Gen. Salva Kiir in a press conference yesterday at Juba Airport prior to his departure for Khartoum regarding the soldiers affiliated to United Nations on the alleged sexual abuse, Kiir said that those are individual crimes and would be treated as such. He assured his government is seriousness to bring those involved before justice.

## **Kiir relieves four senior officials due to corruption.**

*Alsahafa* Four senior officials accused of corruption in the Government of South Sudan were relieved yesterday. Among the four included the undersecretary in the Ministry of Finance in the Government of southern Sudan.