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(By Public Information Office)

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UN/ Agencies

Report on activities of UNMIS PIO Special Campaigns Unit

AlWasat-- United Nations Mission In Sudan (UNMIS)'s Special Campaigns Unit plays a number of vital roles in disseminating the culture of peace; a peace which was attained following the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) between the Government of Sudan and Sudan's People's Liberation Army/Movement. The unit organized several workshops and festivals to this effect. Students and IDPs, who were exposed and brought together to these recent thematic ideas, were masterminded by the creative and able leadership of the unit.

Alwasat Economic Arabic Daily spoke with the Unit's Chief Jordan Dakamseh about the duties of the media campaigns and its impact on the Sudanese people.

Elaborating on the role being carried out by the Special Campaigns Unit, Dakamseh noted that the unit is concerned with organizing training workshops and media campaigns on the CPA, the role of UNMIS and other humanitarian issues pertinent to awareness-raising on mines risks, epidemic diseases and disarmament as well as distributing the provisions of the CPA.

The main cause of UNMIS presence, Dakamseh went on to say, is to assist the peace parties (NCP-SPLM) in implementing the CPA, monitoring the cease-fire and enhancing the formation of the Joint Integrated Units (JIUs), which are composed of Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and SPLA. However, UNMIS role includes boosting the comprehensive national reconciliation, reinforcing the law, providing political advice, cooperating with the federal and Southern police and rendering assistance to the IDPs to prompt the voluntary return. Drawing the attention to the structure of UNMIS, Dakamseh underlined that UNMIS is headed by the Special Representative of Secretary General (SRSG) Mr. Ashraf Qazi, a Pakistani national and is assisted with

two deputies for political and humanitarian affairs Taye Broke and Amera Haq respectively.

Commenting on the existing cooperation between the GoNU and UNMIS, he said that the mission persistently is calling on the peace partners to cooperate with UNMIS in advocating for the dissemination of the culture of peace through organizing workshop and forums, reiterating UNMIS's readiness to provide the participants of the workshops with all the required facilities that will promote the understanding of the CPA.

Dakamseh pinpointed that the Special Campaigns Unit undertakes, in collaboration with UN Agencies and national voluntary organizations, organizes public information days, pointing out that the idea of organizing information days, which were being initiated by the unit, have gained popularity among university students and IDPs. The main attractive factor behind the increasing popularity of the days was the dissemination of the information in an entertaining format e.g. drama and comedy.

He expressed optimism over the dissemination of the culture of peace through out Sudan, stressing that UNMIS is confident that the two peace partners are committed to the full implementation of the CPA, voicing UNMIS's determination to help the two sides to implement the agreement

Security Council condemns attack on UN convoy in Darfur (UN)

11 January 2008 – The Security Council today **condemned** “in the strongest possible terms” the attack by Sudanese army elements on a supply convoy of the new joint United Nations-African Union peacekeeping force in Darfur (**UNAMID**) and voiced its readiness to act against any party impeding its deployment.

“The Security Council stresses that any attack or threat against UNAMID is unacceptable and demands that there will be no recurrence of attacks on UNAMID,” the 15-member body said in a presidential statement read out by Ambassador Giadalla Ettalhi of Libya, which holds the rotating presidency for January.

It welcomed the Sudanese Government's commitment to undertake a complete and full investigation into the 7 January incident with the UN and African Union (AU), and called on the Government to expedite full compliance with the Council resolution setting up the force by concluding all necessary arrangements for its expeditious deployment and effective use.

The Council urged all parties to the conflict between the Government and rebels, which has killed more than 200,000 people and uprooted 2.2 million others since 2003, to respect an immediate and complete ceasefire, and demanded that they cooperate fully with the deployment of UNAMID and respect its security and freedom of movement.

“The Security Council expresses its readiness to take action against any party that impedes the peace process, humanitarian aid or the deployment of UNAMID,” the statement said, voicing concern at the deteriorating security and humanitarian conditions in Darfur and calling on all Member States to contribute the helicopter and transportation units necessary for the success of the critically under-strength mission.

The Council also called on all sides to engage fully and constructively in the search for a political settlement under the leadership of the UN and AU Special Envoys, Jan

Eliasson and Salim Ahmed Salim, who are scheduled to begin their mission to Sudan tomorrow for consultations with the Government and the rebel movements.

The main objective of the trip is to assess the status of preparations of the parties, including the unification efforts among the rebel movements, so as to determine the possibility of substantive peace talks.

Sudan acknowledges shooting at UN convey in Darfur (ST)

January 10, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — Sudan acknowledged Thursday that its troops shot at a United Nations convoy in Darfur, reversing an initial denial, but it in part blamed the peacekeepers saying they should have notified Khartoum of their movements.

The Sudanese government has demanded that the joint U.N.-African Union peacekeeping force give it prior notification for all its movements and not move at night, conditions the United Nations has rejected.

U.N. officials have accused Khartoum of trying to limit the abilities of the force or hold up its full deployment with a series of bureaucratic obstacles, including such conditions.

The U.N. has lodged a complaint with Khartoum and said "the government of Sudan has to provide unequivocal guarantees that there will be no recurrence of such activities by its forces."

"The Western Sudan military command has provided an apology to the representative of UNAMID in the region and that the apology was accepted, in recognition of the dual mistake committed," the state-run SUNA news agency said.

Sudan's Defense Minister Abdel-Rahim Mohamed Hussein told the independent daily Al-Sahafa the army first fired warning shots at the U.N. convoy.

"Those shots were ignored and that's when the soldiers opened fire, wounding the driver and damaging a troop carrier and a truck," Hussein said.

(AP)

Sudan intends to raise new objections on UN-AU force: Official (ST)

January 09, 2007 (UNITED NATIONS) – A senior Sudanese official warned that his government wants further discussion on issues relating to the status of the UN-AU force in Darfur.

Sudan's U.N. ambassador Abdel-Mahmood Mohamad said that Khartoum will require a change to the force's uniform to reflect "African character of the force" to be included in the agreement on the status of the forces.

Jean-Marie Guéhenno, the UN peacekeeping chief, revealed today that Sudan objected to the “rehatting” of African Union forces from green berets to the blue ones of the United Nations.

“It is a hybrid operation and not a traditional UN operation. The UN has no monopoly on this operation” Mohamed told reporters at the UN headquarters in New York today.

“This should be reflected in the way moves or express itself” he added.

Sudan’s envoy also reiterated that his government will not accept any non-African troops unless all African options are exhausted.

(ST)

Office of Minister of National Defence describes information reported by some media on incident of UNAMID troops in Darfur as subjected to modification (SMC)

(SUNA), The Office of the Minister of National Defence has issued a statement in which it described information reported by some international and local media attributed to statement by the Minister and other statements on the incident of the peace-keeping mission in Darfur, UNAMID, at Tina area in Darfur Monday as subjected to some modifications negatively affecting its content, pointing out that some hostile circles utilized them to serve their known objectives. The statement affirmed that it is not of the policy of the government to attack any peacekeeping troops. The statement stressed that the statement of the Minister of Defence did not refer to attack by the Armed Forces on the peacekeeping mission in Darfur, but it referred to an accident in movement of UNAMID troops in an area witnessing security tension and hostile movements from a number of parties, pointing out that these hostilities and movements was supported by the statement issued by UNAMID itself in this regard, which did not specify any certain party behind the incident. The statement pointed out that the Armed Forces had been in defensive positions and not attacking ones, adding that this conforms with what has been explained by the office of the official spokesman of the Armed Forces at the time, who denied that the Armed Forces had attacked the mission and the Sudan Mission to the United Nations also pointed to this. The statement affirmed that it is not the policy of the government to attack peacekeeping troops in the country, a matter that is proved by the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in the southern Sudan and Darfur Peace Agreement, where no such precedent was recorded against the Armed Forces. The statement went on to say that the Armed Forces had continued to support the troops of the African Union to accomplish its mission, as proved by the Armed Forces containing to the attack the African troops had been subjected to at Haskanita area, where the Armed Forces conducted medical evacuation operations and extended protection and logistic support to the personnel of the mission. The statement pointed out that the government and UNAMID had already agreed on joint investigation of the issue, adding that this come at the proposal of the government, a matter that affirms its confidence in the correctness of its position, a matter that was welcomed by the United Nations .

GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

Sudan foreign minister, US official discuss bilateral ties, Darfur crisis (ST)

January 12, 2008 (KHARTOUM) – The Sudanese foreign minister today said he tackled with the visiting US official on the bilateral relations and the ongoing efforts to end the five year conflict in western Sudan region of Darfur.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Deng Alor has affirmed Sudan commitment to develop its relations with the United States of America, pointing out that establishment of normal relations is an objective that should be worked for by the two countries to realize common interests.

Alor further said following his meeting with US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Linda Thomas Greenfield, that the meeting dealt with the situation in the province of Darfur and the position of the Sudanese government regarding deployment of international troops in that province.

Spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Ali Al-Sadiq said that the meeting touched on boosting the political process in Darfur and accusations made by some circles against Sudan of obstructing the hybrid operation.

In this connection, the minister of foreign affairs said Sudan has extended much for the deployment of the troops of the hybrid operation and is still extending more to realize the aspired goal of realization of peace all over Darfur.

For her part, the US official said the meeting tackled the bilateral relations, pointing out that there are issues under discussions, pointing out that dialogue would solve them.

Responding to the press, Greenfield asserted that the incident of the killing of the US diplomat would not affect the diplomatic relations between Sudan and US, saying that Sudan and US are working together to apprehend the culprits and there is good cooperation with the Sudanese government.

She indicated that she would discuss with Sudanese officials procedures that will help to fortify protection of the American embassy staff in Khartoum.

(ST)

Opposition leader's (al Sadiq al Mahdi) son appointed officer in National Security and Intelligence (AlWattan), his daughter may be appointed Minister of State for Social Welfare (Alwan)

AlWattan-- The youngest son of the opposition Umma Party leader (al Sadiq al Mahdi) has been appointed, according to reports, an officer in the SAF Intelligence Service.

Alwan-- Sources close to circles of dialogue between the NCP and the Umma Party revealed that al Sadiq al Mahdi's daughter Dr. Mariam al Sadiq will be appointed Minister of State at the Federal Ministry of Social Welfare.

Sudan security service still detaining SPLM official - watchdog (ST)

January 11, 2008 (LONDON) — A Sudanese rights group said today that security service still detaining a Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) official in Khartoum state without charges since November 2007

SPLM Secretary of Media and Culture for Khartoum State, Amar Najm Eddine al-Jak, was arrested on Friday 23 November in the morning at Khartoum airport while he was on his way to Juba, the capital of southern Sudan.

The Sudan Organisation Against Torture (SOAT) said such arrest constitutes flagrant violation of the Interim National Constitution (INC) that entered into force in Sudan in 2005.

His lawyer, Nabil Adib, says he does not know whether or not his client is being investigated. He has filed a petition before the Constitutional Court demanding his release arguing that his detention under the National Security Forces Act of 1999 violates the 2005 constitution.

Nabil also stated that he has no access to his client. Only his family was allowed to meet him twice since his detention, SOAt said.

(ST)

Egypt appeals for international efforts to end Chad-Sudan tension (ST)

January 10, 2008 (CAIRO) — Egypt's Foreign Minister on Thursday called on international communities to help defuse the current tension between Chad and Sudan.

Ahmed Aboul Gheit made the appeal in urgent messages sent to foreign ministers of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana, the chairman of the European Commission, as well as Sudanese and Chadian foreign ministers.

He urged all parties concerned to swiftly act to contain the crisis and encourage the Sudanese and Chadian sides to settle differences through dialogue and diplomatic channels.

(ST)

South Sudan army pulls out of Northern Areas (ST)

January 10, 2008 (JUBA) — Southern Sudan army have left contested northern areas, implementing a key protocol of the troubled peace agreement that required north and south to redeploy to their respective sides.

The announcement, by a general in the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) came after the south on Tuesday said northern troops had left areas in the oil-rich south as part of a deal that brought southern ministers back to the unity government after resigning in October.

Deputy chief of staff Major General Hoth Mai told AFP Thursday that the ex-rebel SPLA troops had been moving in the past month but that the withdrawal had been tough owing to the absence of roads.

"These are jungle areas," Hoth said. "They move one, two days, and rest; one, two days, and rest."

Hoth said the withdrawal of 7,000 troops from Blue Nile, a northern state that borders the south, is "100-percent complete."

The SPLA also had 5,000 in the Nuba Mountains. Hoth said their withdrawal was complete save for less than 100 troops, who would reach the southern areas late Thursday or Friday.

(ST)

North Sudan army completes troops redeployment from oil fields (ST)

January 9, 2008 (RABKONA) — The northern Sudan army Wednesday completed a redeployment of its troops from southern Sudan in accordance with a 2005 peace deal that ended more than two decades of north-south Sudanese civil war.

In a celebration ceremony held at Rabkona, a small town in the Unity State in southern Sudan, a flag of the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) on the top of a pole was replaced by a flag of the joint forces of the SAF and the former rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM).

"We announce today a completion of the re-deployment of the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) from all the regions (in the south) according to the security arrangements of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA)," Sudanese Minister of Defence, Abdelrahim Mohamed Hussein, declared at the ceremony; the official SUNA reported.

The minister of defence described the redeployment completion as "a historic event," adding that it coincided with the third anniversary of the signing of the CPA.

He stressed the importance of a peaceful coexistence of tribes on both sides of the boundaries between northern and southern Sudan, which is well-known as the 1956 lines.

The Sudanese minister also expressed his confidence on the strong will of the two peace partners to fully implement the CPA.

Pagan Amum, the minister for cabinet affairs and secretary general of the SPLM, who attended the ceremony announced that the SPLM finished on the same day the

withdrawal of its forces from the Blue Nile and South Kordufan areas north of the 1956 lines, SUNA said.

He noted that the redeployment of the forces of the two sides represented a major step in the establishment of peace, adding that the redeployment was a fruit of serious and continuous work done by the political leadership of the two partners.

Amum hoped that the year 2008 would be one for support to peace building, comprehensive development and stability.

Governor of Unity State, Taban Deng Gai, said that the oil production areas would remain secured, adding that his government would follow up the re-deployment of forces of the two parties.

(ST)

US urges tough UN sanctions on Sudan after attack (ST)

January 9, 2008 (WASHINGTON) — The U.S. pressed Wednesday for tougher sanctions against Sudan after condemning what it said was a blatant and "unacceptable" attack by Sudanese troops on U.N. peacekeepers in Darfur.

"The United States condemns the Jan. 7 attack by the Sudanese Armed Forces on United Nations peacekeepers who were traveling in a supply convoy in Darfur," State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said in a statement. "The United States believes this incident demonstrates the need for a stronger arms embargo for Sudan and we will be working with our security council partners to that end."

"This attack against peacekeepers in white vehicles clearly displaying U.N. markings is unacceptable," McCormack said.

The attack, which the Sudanese blamed instead on rebel forces, "violates the demands of the Security Council and the government of Sudan's public pledges to cooperate with the deployment of the peacekeeping mission," McCormack added. "The United States believes this incident demonstrates the need for a stronger arms embargo for Sudan and we will be working with our Security Council partners to that end."

Washington has been pushing for an extension of the existing U.N. arms embargo in Darfur to the whole of Sudan.

(AFP)

Sudan oil revenue reaches \$449m in November 2007 (ST)

January 9, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — Total oil revenues in November 2007 was 449.18 million dollars while the revenues of the crude oil processed at local refineries reached 134,53 million dollars, the federal ministry of finance said today.

The Undersecretary of the Federal Ministry of Finance and National Economy, Al-Sheikh Mohamed Al-Mak. told the regular meeting of the Joint Committee for Oil

Accounts that the share of the national Government in November 2007 reached 287, 88 million US dollars while the share of the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) amounted to 160, 35 million US dollars, including 120, 20 million US dollars from the oil-export and 40, 15 million US dollars as the proceeds of the petroleum refined domestically.

Al-Mak explained that the total amounts transferred to the GoSS in November 2007 reached 150, 39 million US dollars. He added that some 9, 78 million US dollars will be paid to the GoSS from the accounts of December 2007, the official SUNA reported.

He explained that the total amounts deposited in the Oil Revenues Stabilization Account (ORSA) reached 247 million US dollars, 193 million US dollars of which were drawn, including 79, 95 million for the National Unity Government, 43, 5 million US dollars for the GOSS and 70 million US dollars for the printing of the new currency.

The Sudanese official said that the total share of the oil producing states in the oil revenues in last November 2007 were 8.98 million dollars, explaining that 7.35 million dollars of the total revenues were paid to the oil-producing States, including 2, 49 million US dollars for Unity State, while 2.58 million dollars was the share of the Upper Nile State and 2.28 million dollars for South Kordufan State.

Undersecretary of GoSS Ministry of Finance, Aggrey Tisa, affirmed that the joint committee for the Oil Accounts is working in harmony and has access to all data, explaining that data on the production and consumption will be made available to public.

(ST)

Sudan loses \$1 billion after Rift Valley disease cases (ST)

January 12, 2008 (CAIRO) — Sudanese diplomat said false reports about cases of rift valley fever among Sudanese livestock incurred substantial losses for nearly one billion USD.

Idris Suleiman, Deputy Head of Mission at Sudanese Embassy in Egypt said unfounded reports related to cases of Rift Valley Fever among Sudanese livestock caused huge losses in the national economy that reached nearly one billion US dollar. Losses were incurred by both the private and the public sector, he added on January 10.

(ST)

Ministry of Interior Opens Civil Record Offices in the south (SMC)

Immigration department at ministry of interior said it has opened civil record service office in Juba, Malakal and Wau coincided with the 3rd anniversary of CPA celebration.

Chief of the department Gen Adam Dalil explained that opening of civil record offices

came in the context of expanding the service to the south so that people there could obtain identity documents. He said nationality office will also be opened in Awaal and teams are to be sent to other areas in the south for issuance of nationalities.

GoSS

Speculations on possible appointment of SPLM Nuba leader Abdelaziz al Hilo Deputy SPLM Secretary General, deals with Darfur file (AlSudani)

AlSudani-- Informed sources suggest that the SPLM Chairman and GoSS President Salva Kiir Mayardit may issue a resolution appointing the SPLM Nuba leader, Abdelaziz al Hilo, SPLM Deputy Secretary General and SPLM official in charge of the Darfur dossier. Al Hilo has held a long meeting yesterday in Juba with Salva Kiir.

Southern Sudan's Juba celebrates peace third anniversary (ST)

By Isaac Vuni, January 9, 2008 (JUBA)° — The minister for cabinet affairs Dr. Luka Monoja, has today appeal to 26 states of Sudan particularly the ten southern states to construct a permanent roof over the tomb of the CPA heroes of Sudan late Dr. John Garang de Mabior whose mausoleum is laying under direct sun heat.

If you really love late Dr. John Garang de Mabior as your hero who champions the signing of the CPA three years ago, you better show him respect by constructing a shade over his tomb now lying under direct sun heat” remarks Dr.Monoja.

Speaking on behalf of the government of Southern Sudan at the celebration marking the third anniversary of signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in Juba, minister Monoja challenge Southern Sudanese to put aside their political differences and instead work towards reconstruction and development of Southern Sudan.

He also called upon people in Juba and other parts of south Sudan including both the GoSS and states ministers of agriculture to be serious with local food production and to reduce by fifty percent dependency on outside or foreign food comes next year CPA celebration.

Dr. Monoja further calls on local South Sudanese musicians and poets to participate in annual competition for commemorating CPA starting next year and pledge to pay a sum of five thousand Sudanese pounds to any youth who composed the best poem on CPA next year.

(ST)

Darfur

Habania kill eight Salamat people (AlSahafa)

AlSahafa-- The Salamat tribe in Darfur said that eight of its tribesmen have been killed by the Habania tribe on Friday at al Sunnta-al Firdos road in South Darfur State.

Rebel movement proclaims 3 new states in Sudan's Darfur (ST)

January 12, 2008 (LONDON) — Darfur rebel Justice and Equality Movement announced today the establishment of three new states in war torn Darfur region. JEM said this move is imposed by the need for true civil authority in controlled areas

In a two decrees signed by its chairman, Khalil Ibrahim, JEM proclaimed the creation of three states in Darfur: Al Wahat (Oases State) with Al Atrun as capital, Jabal Mara State with Zallingi as capital and Bahr Alghazal State with Al Deain Caital.

The creation of the three states is justified by the fact "most of Darfur has now come under control of JEM; and in response to the genuine popular need for establishment of new States and commencement of true civic authority;" the leader of rebel movement said.

Further JEM specified that Al Wahat State includes: Area covering all the territory at the Egypt-Sudan border west of the River Nile; Territory at Sudan's side of all Libyan-Sudan border; Northern Zone of Sudan-Chad Border and Oases of Wahat Al Rahib, Wahat Jabarona, Wahat Ghibaish, Wahat An Nukhila, Wahat Al Mutaz, Aahat Al Fagi and Wadi Hawar.

While Jabal Mara State includes Jabal Mara, Nertiti, kas, Wadi Salih, Sullu, Umkher. Um Dukhun, Mukjar and garseila.

The third state, Bahr Alghazal covers El Deain, Adayla, Giraida, Wad Hijab, Al Radum, Al Amoud Alekhdar, huftrat en Nahas, Kafia Kingi, Bahr Alarab and Abu Karaynka.

These three states correspond in fact to North Darfur, South Darfur and West Darfur states.

Besides these states JEM also established three districts: Seliea District with Seleia as capital, Korno District with Korno as capital and Wad Ginja District with Wad Ginja as capital

(ST)

Aid workers fear confusion after troops deployment in Chad (ST)

January 11, 2008 (NDJAMENA) — With Chadian rebel groups constantly changing, inter-communal fighting frequently breaking out, and tension with neighbouring Sudan increasing, some humanitarian officials in Chad fear the planned presence of simultaneous UN and European Union (EU) police and military forces will only add to the confusion.

"We have our questions about the deployment," said Guinlhelm Molinie, head of Médecins Sans Frontières Luxembourg, which works in northeastern Chad. "We don't know if it's to protect humanitarians, refugees, the areas of return, the east of Chad. The official line varies."

"We are waiting to see how this force will act on the ground and whether it will do any good. We

have some doubts about it, that's for sure."

Aid agencies in Chad have been plagued by insecurity, including frequent hijackings, shootings and kidnappings of national and international staff. In December 2007 alone six attacks on UN agencies and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) were recorded.

(IRIN)

Poland says to dispatch 400 to Sudan-Chad border (ST)

January 12, 2008 (WARSAW) — Poland's Deputy Defense Minister Stanislaw Komorowski last Friday has voiced Warsaw's intentions to deploy 400 country's peacekeepers the European Union force for Chad and the Central African Republic.

The budget of the Polish force will reach 28 million Euros. "The servicemen will be in Darfur for a year, but there are no plans to extend their stay there," he said.

(ST)

China, Russia quash ICC efforts to press Sudan over Darfur crimes – see attachment (ST)

EU force for Darfur neighbors could approved by end of January (ST)

January 11, 2008 (BRUSSELS, Belgium) — A European Union military force for two countries neighboring Sudan's troubled Darfur region is expected to be approved by the end of the month thanks in part to pledges made Friday for more helicopters and troops for the operation, officials said.

Belgium, Poland and France agreed to contribute needed helicopters and other means of air transport, meaning planning for the mission can now be completed, officials said after a meeting of EU military experts. The first soldiers could be on the ground in early February, they said.

"While the process has taken longer than anticipated, it has reached a successful conclusion in the end ... The launch of this mission demonstrates the potential of the European Union to respond to conflict and humanitarian crisis," Irish Defense Minister Willie O'Dea said in a statement in Dublin.

(AP)