

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN**  
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### **IN THE NEWS TODAY:**

#### **UN**

#### **Bush, UN's Ban to cooperate Darfur, Iran**

*SudanTribune.com* Jan 16, 07 (WASHINGTON) US President George W. Bush and UN chief Ban Ki-moon worked to push past any lingering US-UN ill will and vowed to work together on issues like Middle East peace and violence in Darfur.

"You want to talk, pick up the phone and call me," Bush twice encouraged Ban as they wrapped up an hour-long meeting that also covered Iran, Iraq and climate change, according to UN sources.

During their joint public appearance in the Oval Office, Ban and Bush struck a cordial tone, noting their past cooperation on the North Korean nuclear crisis when the UN chief was South Korea's foreign minister, and vowed to work closely on other issues like Iran's atomic ambitions and violence in Darfur.

"I want to thank you for your commitment to help the suffering people of Darfur. I wish you all the best as you work hard to convince the president of the Sudan that it's in his interests and in the world's interest that he allow enhanced African Union peacekeepers in," said Bush.

### **UN force sought to protect civilians along Darfur's borders.**

*SudanTribune.com* Jan 16, 07 (UNITED NATIONS) The UN Security Council made a fresh push for heightened preparations to send a UN force along Sudan's borders with Chad and the Central African Republic (CAR) to protect civilians caught in the Darfur conflict.

In a statement read by its president for the month, Russia's UN envoy Vitaly Churkin, the council "reiterates its concern about the persistent instability along the borders between the Sudan, Chad and the Central African Republic and about the threat this poses to the safety of the civilian population and the conduct of humanitarian operations."

It expressed "readiness to consider the possible establishment of a mission intended to contribute to improve security on the Chad and Central African side of the border with the Sudan and to foster regional peace and stability through the monitoring of cross-border activities" between the three countries.

It asked UN chief Ban Ki-moon to submit, by the middle of next month, a new set of updated and finalized recommendations on the force's size, structure and mandate.

The council also asked Ban "to deploy as soon as possible an advance team to Chad and the Central African Republic" and welcomed his intention to authorize "the immediate return of the technical assessment mission to the region in order to complete its observations that were curtailed on security grounds."

### **UN eyes more cuts in Eritrea-Ethiopia peace force**

*SudanTribune.com* Jan 16, 07 (NEW YORK) The UN Security Council, frustrated by the long-stalled peace process between Ethiopia and Eritrea, is leaning toward more cutbacks in the peacekeeping force monitoring their shared border, diplomats said on Tuesday.

Most members of the 15-nation council support cutting the force to 1 700 from its current 2 300, although some African states worry that too few peacekeepers could

risk a new flare-up in the 1998-2000 border war between the Horn of Africa neighbours that killed 70 000 people, the diplomats said.

The council in May 2006 trimmed the peacekeeping force to 2 300 troops from 3 300.

UN troops were first sent to Ethiopia and Eritrea in 2000 to enforce the ceasefire ending their border conflict.

As part of the peace agreement, both countries pledged to accept a new border as set out by an international commission.

But the new border has never been marked out after Ethiopia rejected part of it and Eritrea objected that Ethiopia was not being held to its word, leading to a four-year impasse.

The volatile Horn region has grown even shakier since Ethiopia last month poured troops into Somalia to drive out Islamist forces, backed by Eritrea, that had seized much of the country's south, and the United States bombed suspected al Qaeda targets near Somalia's border with Kenya.

Council members said they had asked Belgian Ambassador Johan Verbeke to draft a resolution by the end of the month renewing the UN peacekeeping mission's mandate while reducing authorised troop levels by 600.

The current mandate is due to expire on January 31.

In a resolution adopted last September, the council had warned Ethiopia and Eritrea that it intended to downsize the peacekeeping mission by the end of January if it saw no "demonstrated progress" on marking out the border. (*Reuters*)

## **Darfur**

### **China sends first group of second peacekeeping troop to Sudan**

*SudanTribune.com* Jan 16, 07: The first group of the second Chinese peacekeeping troop to Sudan set out here on Tuesday [16 January], to continue implementing the United Nations peacekeeping mission.

The group will replace the first Chinese peacekeeping troop and the rest personnel of the second peacekeeping troop will also set out soon, sources say.

The new group, made up of 135 officers and soldiers, will undertake missions of building roads, bridges and airports, as well as water and power supply and heating facilities, and help destroy weapons and ammunition.

### **China urges Sudan to heed international concerns on Darfur**

*SudanTribune.com* 16 January07 (BEIJING) China's Foreign Ministry urged Sudan on Tuesday to heed international concerns about the conflict in the Darfur region, but reiterated Beijing's support for Sudan against foreign meddling.

The comments come ahead of a key trip by Chinese President Hu Jintao to Africa that may include a stop in Sudan and as a Chinese official visits Khartoum to discuss Darfur, where three years of civil strife have left 200,000 dead and displaced another 2.5 million people.

Negotiations are the best way to resolve the Darfur problem and Beijing is playing its part by "having consultations with relevant parties and within the U.N.," Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said at a media briefing.

Any solution would have to respect Sudan's sovereignty, Liu said.

Assistant Foreign Minister Zhai Jun was in Sudan currently for talks with the Sudanese leadership on the Darfur issue but gave no details, said Liu. (AP)

### **China urges quick Darfur solution Washington requests China to mediate for military flight ban in Darfur.**

*SudanTribune.com* 17 January07 (KHARTOUM) Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister for Africa Zhai Jun urged a quick resolution to the Darfur crisis and denied any US pressure on China ahead of a presidential visit next month.

"Any solution to the Darfur problem should be made with the consent of the Sudanese government," said the Chinese official, suggesting that the problem be resolved "politically and as soon as possible with the support of the international community. (AFP)

Meanwhile Chinese Government says that the United States had requested China to mediate for military ban in Darfur and to convince Government of Sudan not to use its military plans in the Region. *AlSudani* reported.

### **Darfur rebels say govt bombs area despite truce. All Press**

*SudanTribune.com* 16 January07 (KHARTOUM) Sudanese government planes bombed Darfur rebel areas on Tuesday despite a declared truce, rebels said.

"The Antonovs bombed our areas of Amrai and Anka," Darfur rebel commander Jar el-Neby told Reuters from North Darfur, near the affected areas.

He said it was not immediately clear whether any civilians were killed but said dozens of cattle died in the bombardment.

An army spokesman denied the bombing. "No Sudanese planes have moved in Darfur or in Chad in the past two days," he said.

Chadian officials on Monday said Sudanese military aircraft had violated Chad's airspace.

Neby and other rebel Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) commanders are preparing a conference to form a united position ahead of a new African Union and U.N. mediated push for peace talks. One of the main obstacles to talks has been rebel divisions. There are more than a dozen rebel factions.

Some rebel commanders meeting on Tuesday in the Chadian border town of Abeche have rejected the ceasefire. But Neby and other SLM commanders have agreed to honour the truce and are organising their own conference to try to unite their ranks.

### **Darfur fact finding committee final report today.**

*Sudan Vision*, The Chairman to the Parliamentary committee for facts finding in Darfur states, Lt. Gen. Jalal Tawor told SMC that the Committee will meet today to review and table before the Parliament its final report on the security and humanitarian situations in Darfur .

According to Tawor, illegal small arms are rampant in Darfur and as such urgent funds from the centre are needed to handle the insecurity situations now prevailing there.

### **Volatile security incidents reported in south Darfur.**

*Khartoum Monitor*, The security situation in south Darfur continues to be volatile .security incidents, including banditry, tribal fighting, and a militia attack on villages have been reported, UN source said.

The source revealed that on January 8, tribal militia attacked and torched 4 villages in Murdadi area (south of Kass)

### **Darfur interim authority to be announced in few days.**

*Allintibaha* Reliable sources have revealed that the Darfur interim authority will be announced within few days. The sources said that the Governor of S. and W. Darfur State will be from the National Congress while S. Darfur will be governed by a representative of the former rebel movements.

### **Prominent Darfurian leader protests against his arrest in Kadugli Hospital, in telephone conversation Jamous highlights circumstances of his arrest**

*Akhbar Al-Yom*, 17 January 2007- The prominent Darfurian leader, Suliman Jamous, criticized the UN for arresting him, in agreement with the GoS, in a room in Kadugli Hospital since June 2006. In a telephone conversation Jamous told Akhbar Al-Yom that he was arrested after he had been brought from Darfur to Kadugli by a UN aircraft for medical treatment, a matter which was opposed by the GoS and resulted in stopping the UN work in Darfur four days. Jamous said he was arrested because he is against the Abuja Agreement (DPA). Akhbar Al-Yom quoted Jamous as saying that there are armed guards at the door of the room in which he is kept.

The Defence team and the family of Jamous will hold a press conference at 13:00 hours today to explain the circumstances of his arrest by the UN.

## **Sudan: Life "back to normal" after clashes in south Darfur**

*Sudanese radio on 16 January* Life has gone back to normal in some of the places near Nyala, the capital of Southern Darfur State, where recent intertribal clashes took place. A delegation from the Darfur Interim Authority has started a field trip in the region to assess the situation there. Khalifa Sharaf al-Din has the story:

[Khalif] A delegation from the Darfur Interim Authority, which is currently visiting the state, has praised the work of humanitarian organizations operating in the region in providing basic services to people affected by the recent intertribal clashes [between the Rizeigat and Turjum tribes], which led to the destruction of properties and houses in the area. This came about after a field trip that the delegation carried out in the affected areas.

In a press statement, head of the delegation Ali Hussein Dusah, stressed the need to set up camps for all families affected by the clashes and provide services to protect children from the cold. Meanwhile, tribal chieftains in several localities west of Nyala gave the delegation a detailed briefing on the circumstances that led to the clashes.

Dusah said that in general, life had started to go back to normal in the area and the markets had reopened and were bustling. [Passage omitted]

## **Contacts between the DPA non-signatories to unify negotiation positions.**

*AIRai AIAam*, Reports that the leaderships of the DPA non-signatories have started serious contacts to unify their negotiation positions before talks with Government of Sudan which are to be under the UN and AU mediation.

## **GoSS**

### **South Sudan to probe the fate of Garang's \$60 mln**

*SudanTribune.com* 17 January07, South Sudan governments has formed a committee to probe the 60m dollar that the Sudanese president said he gave to the former SPLM leader.

The Government of South Sudan (GOSS) has decided to form a committee to investigate the allegations during peace the celebration in Juba by President Omar al-Bashir that he gave 60 million dollars to the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) to bring its cadres and officials from abroad to form committees to implement the CPA.

The committee is headed by Samson Kwaje, the minister of information and broadcasting, said the Khartoum Monitor in its today's editorial.

Samson should find out if that is a regular move. How is such a large amount of money given to one person? Was it given in cash or was it sent to his bank account in the country or abroad? Also find out where the amount came from?

"The result of Samson's probe will be able to establish the credibility of the SPLM as a worthy signatory of the CPA or tarnish its image", the daily said.

### **Juba commissioner accused of instigating tribal conflict.**

*The Citizen*, Elite in Omduraba, an area in Juba county, in press conference accused the commissioner of Juba, Mr. Peter Jerkiz, of instigating tribal conflicts between the people of Lanya and Fojulo tribe. Youth and women activists groups from Lanya protested and asked the commissioner to free all those who had been imprisoned in the course of the tribal conflicts. They argued that he should not have interfered in tribal matters, contending that it is not part of his concern as commissioner.

### **GoSS announces opening of its own embassy in Washington.**

*Alwan*, Although Sudan has an embassy in Washington; the USA has allowed the Government of South Sudan to open its own embassy there. A reliable source says the SPLM is to open another embassy in Canada.

### **GoNU/ CPA**

### **International Crisis Group warns of return to war in South Sudan as a result of Darfur crisis.**

*AlSahafa* International organizations (ICG) have warned against returning to war in southern Sudan because the international community is concerned about the Darfur crisis more than South Sudan. The organization explained that the conflict in Darfur may result in separation of southern Sudan.

### **Indications of tribal conflicts in Blue Nile before containing tensions in Abyei**

*AlRai AIAam*. GoNU and GoSS have started intensive measures to contain tension in Abyei area. Meanwhile other conflicts have irrupted in Blue Nile State after the killing of a security sergeant and clashes between the citizens. Government of Sudan had summoned yesterday Governor of Blue Nile State, to discuss the security situation in his State.

### **40 million dollars from World Bank for printing new currency**

*AlRai AIAam* The governor of the central Bank of Sudan Dr. Salih Mohamed el Hassan said yesterday that the World Bank had agreed to provide GoNU a sum of 40 million US Dollar for printing the new currency.

### **Misseriya tribe threatens to launch war gives government three days to resolve Abyes crisis.**



*Alwan* Abyie is witnessing further developments as the Misseriya tribe has threatened to intervene directly and to consider various alternatives to protect its tribe's men in the area if the government failed to resolve the issue of Abyie immediately. The Misseriya tribal chief, Mukhtar Babo Nimer informed Alwan yesterday that they have submitted a memo to the president through the Wali of south kordofan. Further, He explained that they have contacted their representatives in the National Assembly to urge the presidency to resolve this crisis very soon. He concluded by saying that they have given the presidency a truce of three days after which they might intervene to protect their tribes men in the area. Nimer accused the SPLM of being behind events in Abyie.

### **Sudan foreign debts: 27 billion Dollars.**

*AlWihda* The Governor of central Bank of Sudan revealed yesterday that Sudan's foreign debt to date is 27.4 billion USA Dollars

### **Ethiopian Patriarch holds talks with President Bashir of Sudan**

*Ethiopian news agency ENA website*, 16 January: Patriarch of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church (EOC), Abune Paulos, held talks with President Omar Hassan al-Bashir of Sudan in Khartoum on issues related to peace in Africa, office of the Patriarch said.

Abune Paulos, who is also president of the World Council of Churches, on the occasion, said finding African solution is significant to curb the problems of the continent, the office said. "No one loves Africa more than Africans," the office quoted the Patriarch as saying.

The Patriarch also held talks with senior government officials and religious leaders during his five-day working visit to Khartoum, the office said.

The Patriarch also called on religious leaders to strengthen their efforts towards peace, the office said.

Abune Paulos gave an interview to a daily Arabic newspaper Akhbar Al-Yaum.

The Patriarch visited the Sudan following the invitation of President Omar Hassan al-Bashir.

The delegation led by the Patriarch has returned home late on Monday, the office said.

BBC

### **Sudan, Turkey interested in boosting parliamentary, economic ties**

*Turkish news agency Anatolia* -16.01.2007 -Turkish Parliament Speaker Bulent Arinc met Sudanese National Assembly Speaker Ahmed Ibrahim al Tahir.

Arinc said the two countries have significant, historical, friendly relations and Turkey wants to boost inter-parliamentary relations.

Stating that Turkey could assist Sudan in making laws, Arinc invited his counterpart to Turkey.

Noting that they expect help from Sudan in Turkish businessmen's commercial activities in Sudan, Arinc reminded that a Turkish company submitted its bid for the modernization of Khartoum Airport.

Arinc said they want a free trade agreement to be signed as soon as possible between Turkey and Sudan.

On the other hand, Al Tahir said they would give priority to Turkish companies as they had invested in his country 7-8 years ago while inflation rates were high.

After visiting Al Tahir, Arinc also had a meeting with Mawlana Ali Yahia, the Chairman of the Sudanese Council of States.

BBC

### **Seven killed as raiders attack village along Kenya-Sudan border**

*The Standard website, Nairobi, in English 16 Jan 07* Raiders slaughtered seven people - all women and children - in a brutal attack in the insecurity-prone northern Kenya.

The armed bandits, numbering about 20, struck on Sunday morning [14 January] at Kologora village near the Lokitiki plains that straddle the Kenya-Sudan border. They shot the women and, in scenes reminiscent of horror movies, bayoneted a six month-old infant, a one year-old baby and another two-year-old child before seriously wounding a police reservist.

The bandits stole 18 camels, but not before the police reservist - who was guarding the homestead - had shot dead one of the attackers.

A survivor told the police that the bandits shot those attempting to escape and indiscriminately stabbed small children who were wailing and scampering for safety. The raiders also destroyed the residents' manyattas.

Turkana District criminal investigation officer (DCIO) Mr Jason Obilo said the women were preparing breakfast for their children when the bandits struck. Obilo said in one family, the bandits stabbed to death two-year-old Lopua Lopoi, Lokai Loking (one year) and Namoi Nachileo (six months). Loking's mother, Amusila Okiring, was also killed.

Obilo said the police reservist put up a spirited resistance and shot one of the bandits dead, but was overpowered and seriously wounded before his rifle was stolen.

The DCIO said the villagers positively identified the suspect, who was shot dead by the reservist, as being from the Toposa tribe in Sudan. They said he had been a frequent visitor to the manyatta.

BBC

### **LRA**

### **Uganda says ready to resume peace talks with rebels**

*SudanTribune.com* 16 January 07 (**KAMPALA**) Ugandan government negotiators are ready to resume peace talks with rebels that have waged a 19-year conflict once the rebels return to the table, the interior minister said Tuesday.

On Friday, officials of the rebel Lord's Resistance Army said they had withdrawn from the Sudan-mediated talks in southern Sudan, questioning Sudan's neutrality. They said they would only resume if a neutral venue, such as Kenya, was found. The talks had been scheduled to be resuming in Juba, the capital of Southern Sudan, on Monday, after a recess.

Lord's Resistance Army officials said they withdrew from the talks because on Jan. 9 Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir said the only solution to the northern Uganda conflict, which has spread into Sudan, is a military one. (*AP*)

### **Mediators say Ugandan talks can resume in Sudan. *All press***

*SudanTribune.com* 16 January 07 (**JUBA, Sudan**) Ugandan rebels will return to peace talks in southern Sudan with the Ugandan government once they receive a formal invitation, two south Sudanese officials said on Tuesday.

The rebels of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) had said on Saturday that nothing would persuade them to attend talks inside Sudan again because of remarks by Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir, who vowed to "get rid of the LRA from Sudan".

But Samson Kwaje, minister of information in the south Sudanese government, told reporters on Tuesday: "The LRA have given a condition ... that they need to be officially invited again." He was referring to their terms for attending another round of talks in the south Sudanese capital Juba.

The Ugandan government delegation is on standby to come to Juba and attend the talks, he added.

The chief mediator in the talks, south Sudan Vice President Riek Machar, also said that this was the position of the LRA, as expressed by LRA deputy commander Vincent Otti on Monday. Sudan has not yet sent a new invitation, he added.

But LRA delegation spokesperson, Obonyo Olweny, said on Tuesday by satellite telephone from Nairobi that to the best of his knowledge the LRA high command in the bush was categorical that talks would not return to Juba. (*Reuters*)

### **Army vows to shoot LRA rebels re-entering Uganda "on sight"**

*Ugandan newspaper Daily Monitor website* on 16 January, The UPDF [Uganda People's Defence Forces] has vowed to shoot on sight any Lord's Resistance Army [LRA] rebels who attempt to re-enter Uganda.

Chris Magezi, the northern regional army spokesman told Daily Monitor yesterday: "If the LRA rebels decide to come back to Uganda, we will welcome them with baptism of fire. We are ready to hit them maximally without any reverse. We have the

obligation to protect our people and their property. Our capacity at the border is unmeasured. We are ready for them."

Lt Magezi's warning comes days after the LRA's second in command Vincent Otti said he was considering ordering his troops reportedly camped at Owiny Ki-Bul in South Sudan to cross back into northern Uganda.

The LRA have vowed not to return to Juba, the setting for talks to end 20 years of conflict in northern Uganda demanding a neutral ground, either Kenya or South Africa. Yesterday, the Kampala peace negotiating team held a closed door meeting with the UN envoy for northern Uganda, former Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano at Sheraton Kampala Hotel, where Uganda formally protested the LRA's latest position.

At the meeting, Mr Chissano reportedly said he would implore the LRA to return to the negotiating table. "He (Chissano) informed the meeting that he accidentally met the LRA in Nairobi last week and told them that 'luck strikes once' urging them not to lose this opportunity to finally have real peace in northern Uganda," Capt Ankunda told Daily Monitor by telephone.

### **Ugandan rebels demand removal of Sudan's Machar as mediator**

*Ugandan newspaper Daily Monitor website* on 17 January Juba: The rebel Lord's Resistance Army yesterday formally wrote to the government, calling for the removal of South Sudan Vice-President Riek Machar as chief mediator of the Juba peace talks.

In a letter signed by the LRA/M peace delegation chairman, Martin Ojul, the rebels continue to press for Kenya or South Africa as alternative venues to Juba. "This is to convey our compliments to you on behalf of the leadership of the LRA/M through your office as the leader of the government delegation to the Uganda peace talks which begun in Juba in July 2006," Mr Ojul wrote.

Sources privy to the Sudan mediated talks said President Yoweri Museveni, on Monday [15 January] night, held a meeting with Dr Rugunda and Mr Chissano at State House Nakasero, Kampala.

The government delegation spokesman, Paddy Ankunda, confirmed the meeting but said he was not in attendance.

Mr Ojul said, "The LRA has formally communicated its position to withdraw from the talks to the chairman Inter-Government Authority on Development and about our commitment to the continuation of the talks at a new venue which is more secure than Juba".

The LRA leader left south Sudan together with his troops that had assembled at Ri-Kwangba, one of two designated assembly points. Joseph Kony and his troops have crossed to their hideout in Garamba Forest in DR Congo, following a fall out with Khartoum and the mediators in Juba, LRA deputy Commander Vincent Otti said at the weekend.

## **Other Developments**

### **Sudan wants more Indian investment in infrastructure**

*SudanTribune.com* 16 January 07 (NEW DELHI) India should enhance its investment in Sudan, especially in infrastructure, as the country offers a range of opportunities, a Sudanese minister said here Tuesday.

'We want enhanced investment from India in developing our infrastructure,' Angelina Tany, Sudan's minister of state for petroleum and mineral resources, told the seventh Petrotech 2007.

'We are thinking of extending our partnership with ONGC Videsh in the future,' she said.

According to the minister, Sudan, recovering from the conflict, is offering investment opportunities in diverse fields.

'We are encouraging Indian investments not just in oil but also in construction and basic projects of recovery.' the Indian IANS reported.

She urged ONGC Videsh, the foreign investment arm of India's state-run Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC), to further explore investment opportunities in Sudan.

(IANS)

### **India shows interest to enhance oil cooperation with Sudan**

*SudanTribune.com* 17 January 07, India has shown an interest to enhance joint cooperation with Sudan in the oil and gas sectors, the Indian minister of petroleum told the Sudanese oil state minister who is visiting India.

Indian Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Shri Murli Deora held wide ranging discussions with Sudanese Minister of State for Energy and Mining Angelina Tany, here today. The talks focused on taking forward cooperation between India and Sudan in the oil and gas sector. Ms Tany is here to participate in Petrotech-2007 [oil and gas exhibition and conference].

In his meeting with the Sudanese minister, Shri Deora conveyed India's desire to further accelerate cooperation in the hydrocarbon sector.

Indian companies like ONGC could partner with Sudan in carrying out speculative surveys and mapping for establishing hydrocarbon potential in the country.

### **USA troops search the Sudanese embassy in Baghdad, arrests 25.**

*AlSahafa*, USA troops had entered the Sudanese embassy premises in Baghdad. The force had searched the embassy premises, arrested 25 security guards, 20 of them are Iraqis.

The Sudanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs has condemned this step and it's expected to summon its Charge d'Affaire to Khartoum to discuss this development.