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UNMIS Media Monitoring Report 22nd January 2007(By Public Information Office)

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IN THE NEWS TODAY:

- **UN**
 - Bashir to meet the UNSG in Addis Ababa end of the month
 - UN, AU experts complete heavy support document
 - UN confirms at least 150 killed in Darfur tribal fighting
 - UN officials arrested

- **Darfur**
 - Egyptian FM Sudanese counterpart discuss Darfur
 - Sudan open to UN force in Chad
 - AU agrees to hold joint ceasefire commission meeting in el Fashir.
 - US urges government, non-signatories to a political solution
 - Protest at EU headquarters to urge action on Darfur
 - Europe searches for funds for Darfur peacekeepers
 - SLM Minnawi arrests some of its members in S. Darfur

- **GoSS**
 - South Sudan invites 4 countries to join Uganda peace talks
 - South Sudan bank governor in Rumbek to advertise new currency
 - US Firm could start training South Sudan forces - official
 - Kiir to Doha on a three- day visit
 - GoSS to establish 6 dams in the south
 - Governor says meningitis killed over 1000 people in Warrap State

- **GoNU/ CPA**
 - CPA partners: south Sudan now closer to secession
 - Sudan Child rapists sentenced to death

- **LRA**
 - LRA rebels ambush Ugandan truck in South Sudan – officer

- **Other Developments**
 - Iran offers to train and equip Sudan's army
 - Sudan declines to participate in Somalia peacekeeping force

Highlights :

UN

Bashir to meet the UNSG in Addis Ababa end of the month

(*Akhbar Alyaum*) The Secretary-General of the United Nations has confirmed commitments to implement the United Nations support package to the African Union as agreed in Abuja and Addis.

In a telephone conversation with President Bashir yesterday, the Secretary-General expressed appreciation for the warm welcome envoy Eliasson received during his recent visit to Khartoum and said he hopes to meet the Sudanese president during the forthcoming African Union summit meeting in Addis at the end of this month.

President Bashir has, on his part, expressed readiness to honor his obligations towards the United Nations plan and confirmed government's commitments to a peaceful resolution of the Darfur conflict and as soon as possible.

UN, AU experts complete heavy support document

(*Rai AlShaab*) United Nations and African Union experts concluded yesterday a two-day meeting in Khartoum to conclude a document on the second phase of the United Nations support package for the African Union Mission in Sudan.

African Union Mission in Sudan spokesperson Nouredin el-Mezni said that the parties to the talks will report to their respective leaderships over this second phase, the heavy support package, before the final report is presented to the Sudan government.

UN confirms at least 150 killed in Darfur tribal fighting

(*ST – 19 Jan. Khrt.*) Clashes between tribes of Arab nomads and ethnic African farmers competing for Darfur's resources have killed 150 people in the last two weeks, according to the United Nations mission to Sudan.

The U.N. mission also said that 64 people among the latest wave of refugees chased by separate pro-government janjaweed militia raids have been diagnosed with leprosy.

A joint team of U.N. and Sudanese officials, sent to investigate the tribal fighting, reported that 101 Targem farmers were dead or missing around the South Darfur locality of Bulbul, as well as 40 Rizeigat nomads.

Please click on the link below for the full story from the AP

[UN confirms at least 150 killed in Darfur tribal fighting](#)

UN officials arrested

(*AlSahafa*) A police force stormed yesterday into the offices of the National Mine Action center in Riyadh, Khartoum, arresting some senior United Nations officials as

well as some foreign colleagues from other agencies following reports that alcohol is being slipped into the country through the United Nations Mission in Sudan.

Informed sources reveal that the law will take its course on the issue and say these officials will probably be deported as they enjoy immunity from facing trial before the local courts.

In a similar development, *Sudan TV* (sourced from *BBC Monitoring* of 21 Jan.) reports that Security officers in Southern Darfur state have arrested several persons from AU and UN missions at one of the villages in Niyala over misconduct.

The UN internal supervision office was yet to conclude its investigations into the rape cases against UN peacekeepers in southern Sudan when the scene recurred in Darfur region.

The southern Darfur city of Niyala was the new scene of misconduct from the AU and UN missions there.

Seventeen officers from the AU and UN missions in Darfur were apprehended in one of the villages in the city and are facing criminal charges for misconduct.

Darfur

Egyptian FM Sudanese counterpart discuss Darfur

(*SudanTribune.com* – 21 Jan. **CAIRO**) The foreign ministers of Egypt and Sudan held talks during a stopover of the Egyptian official at the Khartoum Airport yesterday.

The talks focused on the implementation of the Darfur peace process.

Preparations for an upcoming African summit, to open in Ethiopia on 29 January, the latest developments in Somalia, as well as efforts exerted by the East African Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) to form and immediately dispatch an African peace-keeping force to Somalia also figured high at the talks, he added.

Sudan open to UN force in Chad

(*AFP/ST* – 20 Jan. **Khrt.**) The Sudanese government has said that it has no objections to the deployment of a UN peacekeeping force to neighboring Chad provided it kept out of Sudan.

"We will not be concerned if the UN forces are deployed inside the Chadian territories but they will not have a chance to enter the Sudan," Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Samani al-Wasilla Samani told reporters Saturday.

AU agrees to hold joint ceasefire commission meeting in el Fashir.

(*Sudan Vision*) The African Union Commission has responded positively to the demand of the parties to the Abuja Agreement to hold the next meeting of the Joint Cease-fire Commission in el-Fashir.

Informed sources told SMC that the African Union Commission has agreed to holding the meeting in the State capital of Northern Darfur State on the seventh of next February.

US urges government, non-signatories to a political solution

The US Administration has called upon the Sudan government and the DPA non-signatory factions to return to the negotiations table as soon as possible and to work towards a peaceful settlement and a sustainable peace in Darfur, reports *AlAyaam* daily.

In a statement issued by the US embassy in Khartoum, the US government also expressed its support for efforts by the African Union and the United Nations to facilitate an impending meeting between commanders of the non-signatory faction in a bid to widen the negotiations base.

The *Sudan Tribune* website reports on the other hand that US envoy Andrew Natsios following meetings with two Darfur rebel groups in neighboring Chad, said the different factions of the insurgency needed to adopt a unified position to bring an end to the four-year Darfur conflict which has killed 200,000 people.

He called on Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir to implement the Darfur Peace Agreement signed in the Nigerian capital Abuja in May with some rebel groups.

The full text of the web stories sourced from the Sudan Tribune website could be accessed by clicking on the texts below:

[Darfur NRF leaders affirm keenness to end Darfur crisis](#)

[Darfur stoking war between Sudan and Chad - US](#)

Protest at EU headquarters to urge action on Darfur

(AP – 21 Jan. **Brussels**) About 500 demonstrators formed a human chain around the E.U. headquarters Sunday calling on European Union foreign ministers to take urgent action to prevent further bloodshed in Darfur.

Belgian Senator Alain Destexhe, who was joined by other Belgian politicians and members of the European Parliament at the protest, said a meeting of E.U. foreign ministers Monday needed to take concrete measures to force Sudanese and rebel forces to adhere to a cease-fire.

"We want tougher action by the E.U. and by the United Nations," Destexhe said. "Darfur is the major tragedy...We think the E.U. is not doing enough."

Destexhe called for the 27-nation bloc to push for a no-fly zone over Darfur.

Sudanese rebel leaders said government aircraft bombed wide areas of northern Darfur Sunday, breaching a cease-fire (*click on the links below for the full story on these reports*).

Monica Frassoni, co-leader of the Green Party in the European Parliament, called on the E.U. to try to persuade China and Russia not to support Sudan. "The real problem is what to do with governments that support Sudan," she said after Sunday's rally.

Europe searches for funds for Darfur peacekeepers

The *AFP* (sourced from SudanTribune.com) reports meanwhile that European Union foreign ministers meeting in Brussels next week will discuss ways to keep funding the African Union peacekeeping force in Sudan's conflict-torn Darfur region.

The foreign ministers are to commit to funding the African Union Mission in Sudan until a new force combining African Union and United Nations troops can be deployed, probably in about six months, EU officials intimate.

An EU diplomat said: "We will discuss the ways that we will, perhaps, continue to finance AMIS." The money needed is believed to be in the low hundreds of millions of euros.

[Sudan resumes large-scale bombing in North Darfur - rebels](#)
[Khartoum resuming Darfur air raids - rebels](#)
[Darfur rebels say government bombs kill 17](#)

SLM Minnawi arrests some of its members in S. Darfur

(*Rai AlShaab*) SLM-Minnawi has launched an extensive campaign in markets in South Darfur to roundup faction members carrying out business in the markets.

The manner in which the operation was carried out did not go well among the local community but an SLA field commander defended the campaign saying that it was necessary in order to bring their members back to SLA territory and clear the state of arms as per the instructions of the security committee that only the regular forces should carry firearms.

GoSS

South Sudan invites 4 countries to join Uganda peace talks

(*The Daily Monitor* – 21 Jan. **Juba**) South Sudan has invited four countries to join the peace negotiations between the Uganda government and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in Juba as external observers and guarantors of any deal that will be signed, South Sudan Vice President Riek Machar said.

He identified the countries as South Africa, Kenya, Tanzania and Mozambique.

South Sudan bank governor in Rumbek to advertise new currency

(*SudanTribune.com* – 21 Jan. **Rumbek**) The Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Sudan and Governor of Southern Sudan Bank, Elijah Malok Aleng, arrived on Friday 19 January to Rumbek to introduce the New Sudanese Pound to the public in Lakes State.

Elijah Malok, who held a close door meeting in council of ministers in Governor Office, indicated that the value of new pound is clear and simple. The pound equals hundred Sudanese Dinars.

He specified three stations for Lakes State citizens to exchanges their old currency for new currency notes and said that the Dinar will remain in circulation alongside the pound until 30 June.

US Firm could start training South Sudan forces - official

(*AP/ST* - 19 Jan. **Norfolk, Va**) An official with the Sudanese government said he expects a North Carolina military-training company to soon start working with security forces in the southern part of the country.

Blackwater USA, based in Moyock, N.C., could start training exercises within the next few weeks, Ezekiel Lol Gatkuoth, head of mission in Washington for southern Sudan's regional government, told *The Virginian-Pilot*.

State Department spokeswoman Nancy Beck acknowledged that Blackwater has a training proposal for the region but declined to comment on it. Blackwater would need a license from the State Department to offer security service overseas.

Kiir to Doha on a three- day visit

(*Sudan Vision*) The First Vice President of the Republic Salva Kiir leaves tomorrow at the head of a delegation for a 3-day visit to Doha, Qatar.

Telar Deng, State Minister at the Presidency, told the *Sudan Vision* that Kiir would hold talks with officials in Qatar over the role Doha could play in the rehabilitation and development of southern Sudan.

GoSS to establish 6 dams in the south

(*Rai AlShaab*) The Ministry of Irrigation at the GoSS has revealed intentions to construct 6 dams in different states in southern Sudan.

Minister Joseph Douer says they have signed a memorandum of understanding with the Dams Authority and that the construction will be carried out in coordination with the federal ministry. He said that the GoSS will also seek to sign an MoU with the Egyptian government to that end.

The six dams, he said, will contribute to development in southern Sudan and priority will be given a proposed dam in Nimule.

Governor says meningitis killed over 1000 people in Warrap State

(*Khartoum Monitor*) The Governor of Warrap State says at least 1000 people have died of meningitis in the state last week.

The governor issued a statement on 20 January in which he declared the outbreak of meningitis and other unknown disease spreading fast throughout the state and that there was fear that it may affect other neighboring states such as Western Bahr el-Ghazal, Northern Bahr el- Ghazal, Lakes and Bentiu States.

GoNU/ CPA

CPA partners: south Sudan now closer to secession

(*AlRai AlAam*) 2 years after the CPA, the Parties agree that southern Sudan is closer to secession than to unity mainly due to the slow implementation of the CPA and their failure to break the atmosphere of distrust among themselves.

At a symposium held yesterday and organized by the *AlRai AlAam* daily, the Parties agree however that a return to war is unlikely.

The near 4 hours of heated confrontation saw Deng Alor, Minister for Cabinet Affairs, cautioning that secession is most likely if the ongoing wrangles between the Parties and the slow implementation of the CPA continue in the same manner.

El-Dirdeiri Mohamed, a member of the government negotiations team to Naivasha, countered by saying that the SPLM has indeed caused a secession of the south and has left nothing for the people to vote on in the referendum.

He pointed out that the SPLM has opened 8 embassies abroad, issues entry visas to foreigners – even holders of Israeli passports, and is in the process of issuing out passports ... all without consultations with its partner in government.

He said that the SPLM is also seeking to apply for an international telephone code different from the one in use for the Sudan and has dished out oil concessions to foreign companies without notifying the central government.

He attributes all this to the prolonged absence of First Vice-President Salva Kiir from the capital and his continued demands to refer issues of contention to arbitration before the IGAD.

Sudan Child rapists sentenced to death

(*AFP/ST, the local press* – 21st Jan. **Khrt.**) Two Sudanese men were given 100 lashes in public Sunday and sentenced to hang for raping and murdering a four-year-old girl.

The central Khartoum criminal court convicted Mutassim Khairallah, 35, and Imad Tabben, 18, of raping and then suffocating Muram Awad Sadiq last October before dumping her body down a well.

No date was set for the hanging, but the whipping was carried out on the spot. The two were dragged from the courthouse and publicly lashed in front of hundreds of cheering onlookers as drivers stopped their cars on the nearby main road to watch.

The grisly murder, which happened during the Eid al-Fitr feast ending the holy month of Ramadan, shocked Khartoum and the case was closely followed by the public.

After being whipped, the men were returned to prison to await a date for their execution.

There is no official record of the number of people executed each year in Sudan, but international human rights organizations frequently report cases in which the death penalty is handed down.

Meanwhile some local newspaper reports say that some members of the victims family have demanded that the execution be carried out in a public square as a deterrent to such offenders.

LRA

LRA rebels ambush Ugandan truck in South Sudan – officer

(*New Vision* – 21 Jan. **Kampala**) According to the Ugandan army the rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) ambushed and set ablaze a lorry on Friday night between Amer junction and Magwi in southern Sudan.

This brings to 23 the number of trucks ambushed and burnt since the signing of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement last August, said the Ugandan army spokesperson for northern Uganda, Lt. Chris Magezi.

Magezi said some passengers were still missing, while four managed to reach a Uganda Peoples Defence Force (UPDF) detachment some 10km away.

Four former LRA fighters, who recently defected to the UPDF, told the listeners of Radio Mega FM in Gulu last week that LRA leaders Kony and Otti ordered the ambushes.

Over the weekend, northern leaders warned the LRA leadership against people whom they described as "conflict entrepreneurs."

Other Developments

Iran offers to train and equip Sudan's army

(*World Tribune/ST* – 21 Jan. **Nicosia**) Teheran has discussed weapons sales to and training for Khartoum's military and security forces. They said Sudan has sought to bolster its military to quell rebellion in Darfur.

"There is strong interest in acquiring Iranian missiles, RPGs, UAVs and other equipment," an Iranian source said, referring to rocket-propelled grenades and unmanned aerial vehicles.

On Jan. 17, Sudanese Defense Minister Abdel Rahim Hussein concluded a visit to Iran, Middle East Newsline reported. Hussein met his Iranian counterpart, Mustafa Najar and discussed arms procurement.

Sudan declines to participate in Somalia peacekeeping force

(*ST* – 21 Jan. **Khrt.**) Sudan has declined to participate in the African peacekeeping force to Somalia, saying priority must be given to the realization of peace in the country.

Following a meeting on Sunday between Sudanese president Omar al-Bashir and the visiting Somali prime minister Ali Mohamed Gedi, the State Minister at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ali Kerti, told the press that any foreign troops that are to be deployed in Somalia will be targeted by the Somali Islamists militia. He further said that Sudan prefers to focus efforts on the realization of the peace in Somalia.

The Sudanese official added that the Somali Government has changed its request from participation in the AU peacekeeping force to send forces to train the Somali Army, Police and Security forces as well as the civil administration.

Upon the request of the Somali Prime Minister, President Al-Bashir voiced Sudan's readiness to continue its efforts to bring together the Somali parties as well as pushing forward the peaceful dialogue process, the state-run SUNA reported.