



## UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN

## UNMIS

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(By Public Information Office)

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# Highlights

## UN/ Agencies

### **UN ponders replacing Darfur envoys (The Citizen)**

Diplomatic sources said that consultations are taking place between the permanent membership of the UN Security Council to appoint a new international mediator jointly by the UN and AU to push the peace process in the Darfur region. Sources expected that the new envoy to the Darfur peace is Italian, would be named within three weeks. The new envoy will replace Jan Eliasson and the African envoy Salim Ahmed Salim.

## GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

### **Taha renews commitment of the government to complete peace process (SUNA)**

Khartoum, Jan. 22 (SUNA) - Vice President of the Republic Ali Osman Mohamed Taha has renewed the commitment of the government to complete the peace process in Darfur. This came when the Vice President received at his office at the Republican Palace Tuesday the Senior Assistant of the President, Meni Arku Menawi, who briefed him on the outcomes of his recent visit to the Libyan Jamahiriyyah as well as his visit to the States of Darfur. Meanwhile, the Senior Assistant of the President expressed in a statement to SUNA his appreciation to the outcomes of his meetings in the Libyan Jamahiriyyah as well as Libya's readiness to host the 2nd session of Darfur peace negotiations in Serte. Menawi added that his visit to Darfur was very successful and focused on establishment of development projects in the states of Darfur. MF/ BT

### **Vice President acquainted with peace-building efforts in transitional areas (SUNA)**

Khartoum, Jan. 22 (SUNA) - Vice President of the Republic Ali Osman Mohamed Taha was acquainted with the outcomes of the coordinating conference held in Hejlieg area, comprising representatives of Unity, North Bahral Ghazal and South Kordofan States in order to consolidate peace and coexistence in the area. This came

when the Vice President received at his office in the Republican Palace Tuesday the Minister of Cabinet Affairs, Pagan Amum, and State Minister at the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs Ahmed Haroun. During the meeting, Taha called for keeping on the efforts with regard to building of peace and boosting it in the transitional areas. Meanwhile, Amum said in a statement to SUNA that convocation of the conference at this very time, which witnesses completion of redeployment of troops, expresses a new stage of peace building in the area. He further explained that efforts will continue in order to realize full freedom of movement of the citizens as well as provision of services besides establishing national projects in these areas. MF/ BT

**NCP-SPLM Joint Military Committee to visit al Meram to defuse tensions (AlSahafa, Sudan Vision), SPLM arrests seven Miseriya (AlWattan), JIU Commander and Miseriya in Abyei demand release of detainees by 10 am today (Rai AlShaab)**

The SAF-SPLA Joint Military Committee will visit today the border area between South Kordofan and Northern Bahr El Ghazal States to defuse tensions resulting from the SPLA-Miseriya clashes, open al Meram-Awiel road and ensure safety of the nomads' movement to the south. The GoNU Minister of Cabinet Affairs, Pagan Amum, said they have agreed that the Miseriya nomads leave their arms with the regular forces when they cross the north-south borders and that the GoSS would be responsible for protecting them.

Minister in the Council of Ministers and Chairman of the Joint Committee for Resolving Conditions in South Kordofan and North Bahr-al-Ghazal, Pagan Amum, stated at a joint conference held yesterday that the Committee has ascribed the tension in those regions to the delay of withdrawal of SAF and SPLA troops to the north and south, respectively, and non-demarcation of the border.

He said the Committee has worked out solutions for easing off the tension, stressing that both SAF and SPLA should provide security for the border demarcation delegation to be able to carry out its assigned task. He further revealed that the Joint Committee has adopted several joint projects aimed at building confidence among citizens residing in contact points, redressing the impact of war and calling for a conference for reconciliation and peaceful co-existence. "The Committee has also recommended the convention of a workshop to probe means for implementing the security protocol and addressing peaceful co-existence issues," he said.

For his part, Minister of State for Humanitarian Affairs, Ahmed Haroun, disclosed that the Committee coordinates its work in accordance with the directives of the First Vice President of the Republic, underlining that elimination of tensions in contact regions will greatly facilitate the population census.

Meanwhile, AlWattan has been informed by reliable sources that the SPLA has arrested on last Sunday seven Miseriya nomads. According to the sources the Miseriya have approached UNMIS office in Abyei requesting UNMIS intervention to release the detainees. The Miseriya and the JIU Commander in Abyei demanded that the SPLM releases the detainees by 10 am today.

**SAF and SPLA redeployed 60 kms north and south Bahr Al Arab (AlAyam)**

Following a meeting yesterday between the National Assembly committee for defence and security and the Ministry of Defence, it has been revealed that President al Bashir has issued a decree instructing SAF and SPLA to move their troops 60 kms north and south of Bahr al Arab.

### **SPLM and opposition demand 50% of Parliament seats through proportional representation (AISudani)**

The SPLM and 12 opposition political parties have agreed on a mixed electoral system of geographical constituencies and proportional representation. They further agreed that the seats of the Parliament be divided equally between the two systems (50% for geographic constituencies and 50% for proportional representation).

### **We are not arming Miseriya, says SAF (The Citizen)**

The SAF yesterday denied arming the Miseriya, who were involved in bloody battles with the SPLA around the oil-rich Abyei area. “There are UN observers who can verify the accusation which we completely reject”, said the SAF Spokesman.

### **Senior Sudanese official criticizes promotion of militia leader (ST)**

By Wasil Ali, January 22, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — Sudan’s senior presidential assistant today condemned the appointment of a militia leader in a government post.

“This is a very unfortunate decision. It was not supposed to happen” Minni Arcua Minnawi told Sudan Tribune by phone from Khartoum.

Last Wednesday Al-Bashir issued a decree appointing Musa Hilal, leader of the Darfurian Arab Mahameed clan, as an adviser for the ministry of federal government.

The leader of Arab tribes in Darfur told Miraya FM last week that he will assume his new responsibilities soon after the oath taking ceremonies.

The former rebel leader and the head of a faction of Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) said that he was not consulted on the nomination.

“It is illogical in all respects to appoint an individual like Hilal with questionable background to say the least, for a position in the government” Minnawi said.

Hilal has been named by numerous eyewitnesses in Darfur as leading terror campaign against the African tribes in the war ravaged region.

The tribal leader denied any wrongdoings and told Human Rights Watch (HRW) in a videotaped interview in 2005, that he only recruited militias on behalf of Sudan’s central government.

Minnawi said he does not expect to meet with Hilal one on one after his appointment. However he said that the Janjaweed leader may possibly be present in governmental meetings he attends.

(ST)

### **Sudan's FM says Darfur crucial to improve ties with US (ST)**

January 22, 2008 (ISTANBUL, Turkey) — Sudan's Foreign Minister has unveiled that Khartoum discusses with Washington ways to improve bilateral relations indicating that ending Darfur crisis is crucial to achieve this amelioration.

Deng Alor said Tuesday from Istanbul where he accompanies the President Omer al-Bashir that Sudan began contacts with the US State Department to improve bilateral relations. He added that Washington has welcomed this move and urged two main partners in the national unity government to swiftly act to end Darfur crisis.

The Foreign Minister said that the United States informed Sudan that normalizations of relations between the two countries depends on the resolution of the five years conflict in Darfur.

The foreign minister said there are established contacts with Washington to know its point of view as observer to push forward efforts for a peaceful solution to Darfur crisis.

He further indicated his ministry will undertake contacts with Washington following the meetings of the African Summit in Addis Ababa at the end of this month

Alor has unveiled that Turkey would play a key role to improve Sudan's relations with the US particularly in light of its good ties with Khartoum and Washington. He added that he invited his Turkish counterpart to visit Khartoum in this regard.

(ST)

### **Sudan doubles crude exports to China in 2007 (ST)**

January 22, 2008 (BEIJING) — Crude oil exports from Sudan to China more than doubled last year to top 200,000 barrels a day, with official data showing that China now takes 40 percent of the east African producer's total output.

Sudan exported 10.31 million tonnes to China in 2007, or 113 percent above 2006, ranking as Beijing's sixth-largest crude supplier, with 6 percent of the total crude imports to the world's second-largest oil user, data from the General Administration of Customs showed.

The surge in Sudanese oil was due to the rising production at Block 3/7, which started up in August 2006 and produces a heavy, highly acidic crude Dar Blend, traders said.

State energy group CNPC, parent of PetroChina, is the largest oil investor in Sudan, owning 41 percent of block 3/7 and 40 percent of the 1/2/4 field, which produces Nile Blend crude.

Sudan now stood within striking distance of the fifth-largest exporter, Oman, where sales in 2007 sales went up a marginal 3.7 percent to 270,000 bpd.

Saudi Arabia, Angola, Iran and Russia were the top four exporters, among which Iran recorded the biggest increase — 22 percent over a year earlier, the data recorded.

The data also showed that supplies from Russia came down 9 percent at 290,000 bpd, which traders attributed partly to below-target sales through railways.

For this year, Riyadh is set to remain Beijing's top oil supplier, as the Kingdom agreed to raise exports by nearly 40 percent to some 720,000 bpd, to feed China's new refining facilities, Beijing-based traders have told Reuters.

Since Beijing has agreed to raise imports from Tehran by about 100,000 bpd under a one-year supply pact, Iran could soon overtake Angola as China's No.2 supplier.

(Reuters)

### **State Minister at the Presidency of the Republic receives American Charge d'Affaires (SUNA)**

Khartoum, Jan. 22 (SUNA) - State Minister at the Presidency of the Republic Joseph Luwal Ashweil has affirmed the government commitment to the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). This came when the State Minister received in the Republican Palace Tuesday the American Charge d'Affaires in Khartoum, Alberto Fernandez. The meeting reviewed the peace process in Sudan and the American support in this regard. The State Minister at the Presidency of the Republic said in a statement to SUNA that the meeting tackled the bilateral relations between the two countries and the US support to the peace agreements. Mr. Fernandez, on his part, pointed out in a statement to SUNA that the meeting reviewed issues pertinent to the implementation of the CPA, expressing his country's keenness on boosting the peace process. He indicated that US has fulfilled its pledges in Oslo donor conference and has development programmes in Southern Sudan. BT/BT

### **Students of Khartoum State stage march in denunciation of Zionist acts in Gaza Strip (SUNA)**

Khartoum, Jan. 22 (SUNA) - Khartoum State General Students Union Tuesday staged a march in solidarity with the Palestinian people, denouncing the inhuman acts being perpetrated by the Zionist enemy against the people of Palestine. The students march moved to the office of the United Nations in Khartoum where they handed over a memorandum of protest against the inhumane Israeli practices in Palestine. The memo further called for providing the population of Gaza Strip with food stuff, fuel and the basic needs besides removing the racial separation wall, opening of crossings as well as providing them with the life-saving medicines and energy. The demonstration was addressed by the Chairman of the students union, Mohamed Abdullah Al-Gadhi, who called on the leaders of the Arab and Islamic world to stand in support of the Palestinian people. MF /BT

**GoSS**

## **Southerners are responsible for their security, Riak Macahr (Sudan Vision)**

**By: Alsamani Awad Allah**, Vice president of GoSS Riak Machar inaugurated yesterday in Malakal reconciliation and peace conference in Great Upper Nile states which includes Jonglie, Unity and Upper Nile. The conference which continues until next Friday will discuss security situation in Southern states especially Upper Nile state, in addition to development, population census, trade and opening of borders.

In statement to Sudan Vision Riak Machar said that he has explained security situation in the South and the security development that Sudan has witnessed since 2005 after the signing of peace agreement.

He added that SPLA has been redeployed and the joint forces imparked on their job of preserving security, stability. He pointed out that the police have been reorganized to provide security and protection for people .He stressed the necessity of enlightening people about the disarmament.

He also pointed to the vitality of opening trade, investment, opening of road to achieve development in the South.

## **Darfur**

### **Plan for reviewing work of ceasefire committee in Darfur (AlRai AlAam)**

UNAMID has agreed on a plan for reviewing and reactivating the work of the of the ceasefire committee in Darfur by having representatives for the DPA non-signatory rebel groups. According to UNAMID Spokesperson the joint committee (UN, EU, AU and the US) which supervises the work of the ceasefire committee will hold a meeting during the coming days on an invitation from UNAMID Force Commander.

### **George Clooney cuts Darfur trip short (ST)**

January 22, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — George Clooney cut short his first trip as a U.N. "messenger of peace" and flew home from Darfur after falling ill, U.N. sources said on Tuesday.

The Oscar-winning actor, who has been appointed by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to promote U.N. peacekeeping efforts, had been in Darfur for two days.

He was also forced to cancel a visit to neighbouring Chad, where the violence in western Sudan has spread.

"He got sick and returned to Khartoum," a source in the U.N. mission said. U.N. spokesmen declined to comment.

Clooney's outspoken views on the conflict in Darfur, which he has called genocide, prompted the United Nations to keep his visit low-key. Interview requests were turned down and media were not allowed to film him.

Clooney came down with fever and a bad stomach, returned to Khartoum and cancelled the second part of his trip to Chad, the sources said. He flew out of Sudan on Tuesday morning.

The actor and his father travelled to Chad, now host to 240,000 Darfur refugees, in 2006.

Fighting in Darfur began in 2003, when mostly non-Arab rebels took up arms against a central government they accused of neglect. To quell the revolt, Khartoum mobilised mainly Arab Janjaweed militia, who now stand accused of atrocities.

Washington called the conflict genocide in 2004, a term European governments are reluctant to use and which Khartoum rejects.

(Reuters)

### **Darfur rebel groups express fury over militia chief's appointment (ST)**

January 22, 2008 (PARIS) — The two major rebel groups in Darfur denounced the decision by the Sudanese government to bring on a notorious militia leader as a special adviser.

“This move is nothing short of a slap on the face to the international community. Khartoum is rewarding those responsible for the loss of thousands of my people in Darfur” Abdel-Wahid Al-Nur, leader of Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) told Sudan Tribune by phone from Paris, France.

Al-Nur said that the Sudanese government is now challenging the will of the UN Security Council (UNSC).

“This is just another example of Sudan sticking its tongue out to the UNSC. Hilal has been designated by the UN sanctions committee as an obstacle to peace in Darfur. It is time to put an end to this vicious cycle” he added.

JEM spokesperson Ahmed Hussein Adam speaking to Sudan Tribune by phone from London said that the move is a “disregard to the UN charter and a serious threat to the moral character of the world body”.

“Sudan is endorsing someone who has been one of tools of genocide in Darfur. Should a government like this be a member of the UN?” he added.

Both Al-Nur and Adam said that the appointment is an insult to the people of Darfur.

“He [Hilal] has blood on his hands from massacring the people of Darfur. He didn't make it a secret. Unfortunately victims in Darfur mean nothing to Khartoum since they view them as second class citizens” the SLM leader stressed.



“All this time Hilal has not shown any signs of remorse or regret to the misery he inflicted upon the people of Darfur” the JEM official said.

Hilal told Reuters he would be based in Khartoum, but said the post could require travel to outlying regions. The ministry coordinates regional administrations with central government.

The JEM official said that they will not meet with Hilal nor do they want anything to do with him. However Al-Nur went a step further and issued a stern warning to the militia leader.

“Any attempt by Hilal to enter into areas controlled by our army makes him a legitimate target. He will be arrested immediately” Al-Nur emphasized.

Some analysts have suggested that the appointment of the Mahameed clan leader was meant to pacify the Arab tribes and reverse a growing trend of defection.

“The Sudanese officials are prepared to undertake any expedient act in order to halt the defection of Arab militia forces in Darfur, and prepared also to make the most vicious appeals to Arab sentiment in the region” Eric Reeves a leading Sudan expert said.

A rebel commander speaking to Sudan Tribune by satellite phone from Darfur on condition of anonymity said that Khartoum was worried about the possibility of Hilal leaving the government ranks.

“His tribe is no longer supporting him in his alliance with the government. There has been lots of talk about Hilal defecting. The Sudanese government wants to keep him under their eyes in Khartoum” he said.

The JEM spokesperson said that many Arab tribes have contacted them condemning the nomination of Hilal.

“Hilal is not a representative of the Arabs in Darfur. They are distancing themselves from him” he added.

Abdel-Wahid Al-Nur urged the international community to correct the illogical situation created by Khartoum.

“The UNSC must see that the Sudanese government adheres to its handful of resolutions. They are still obstructing the deployment of peacekeepers authorized by resolution 1769. This should precede any steps made to pressure me to attend peace talks.” Al-Nur said.

“I will not attend peace talks before the peacekeeping force is deployed and security for my people is achieved. The world cannot victimize the victims just because they want to feel safe in their homes. It’s a basic right” he added.

(ST)

## **US criticizes appointment of Darfur militia leader in Sudan govt (ST)**

January 22, 2008 (NEW YROK/WASHINGTON) — The United States on Tuesday strongly criticized Sudanese government for appointing to a senior position a militia coordinator Washington accused of involvement in Darfur atrocities and war crimes.

Sudanese president said over the weekend that Musa Hilal, one of four men subjected to travel restrictions and asset freezes in a 2006 U.N. Security Council resolution on Darfur, had been picked as an adviser to Federal Affairs Minister Abdel Basit Sabderat.

"We deplore the government of Sudan's decision to name him to a senior position. He is under both US and UN sanctions for the role he played in Darfur," Gonzalo Gallegos, a State Department spokesman, told reporters.

"The regime in Khartoum shows contempt for the rule of law," U.S. Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad told reporters. "The man is not only on the U.N. sanctions list but also on the U.S. list. So it is totally unacceptable."

Speaking in Turkey on Monday, Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir dismissed criticism of Hilal, saying he had "contributed greatly to stability and security in the region."

"In Sudan we don't think the claims against Hilal are true," he said. "The people who really commit murders in Darfur are receiving help from Europe and others."

Khalilzad said he would bring up the issue of Hilal on Tuesday at a meeting with the other four permanent members of the Security Council — Britain, France, Russia and China.

"We'll discuss it today," he said. "We have a P-5 meeting on this issue among ourselves, on the Sudan situation."

Sudan's ambassador to the United Nations, Abdalmahmoud Abdalhaleem, told reporters that if Ban brings up Hilal at the meeting, Bashir will tell him that Khartoum does not listen to outside parties when filling government posts.

"We will tell anybody who talks to us about this that this is not his business and they should respect the sovereignty of the country," he said.

(ST)

*(Material for this report provided by the AFP and Reuters)*