



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN UNMIS

Media Headlines, 24 January 2007
(By Public Information Office)

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HIGHLIGHTS :

UN/ Agencies

US condemns Sudan assault of UN staff in Darfur

(AFP/ST) The United States condemned the Sudanese government's arrest and subsequent assault of 20 staff from the UN, African Union and non-governmental organizations in strife-torn Darfur.

US State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said the United States "condemns" their arrest and assault and added that the Sudanese government had an obligation to protect humanitarian aid workers and others providing "life-saving" assistance to Sudanese.

"There is no justification for these appalling recent attacks on humanitarian aid workers," he said in a statement.

But he pointed out that such attacks would not weaken international resolve to assist the people of war-ravaged Darfur.

McCormack called on all parties in Darfur to demonstrate their commitment to peace and serving the needs of the people of Sudan.

Please click on the link below for more on this AFP story and the full text of the statement mentioned as sourced from the SudanTribune.com

[US condemns Sudan assault of UN staff in Darfur](#)

United Nations & the Transition Debate

UN Secretary-General to press Sudan's president on Darfur

(AP/ST) U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon will press Sudan's president on his first overseas trip as head of the world body to speed up the peace process in Darfur after months of wrangling over the deployment of a hybrid peacekeeping force, U.N. officials said Tuesday.

Ban's meeting with Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir on the sidelines of an African Union summit next week in Ethiopia could be crucial to pushing through a three-phase U.N. plan to beef up the 7,000-member A.U. force that is struggling to maintain peace in the vast desert region, U.N. officials said.

Please click on the link below for more on this AP story sourced from the SudanTribune.com

UN Secretary-General to press Sudan's president on Darfur

Sudan condemns EU threat of sanctions

(ST) Foreign ministry spokesperson Ambassador Ali al-Sadiq has condemned threats by EU to impose sanctions against Sudan and wondered why such a statement could come from the EU as it was part of the peace process and was involved in the signing of the Abuja Peace Agreement and the arrangements made regarding its implementation.

Commenting on a recent statement issued by the EU council of foreign ministers, Al-Sadiq said the EU knows that there was an agreement and arrangement between the government, the AU and the UN regarding the conflict in Darfur and that progress has been made in these arrangements with the UN to provide support packages to enable the African Union carry out its duties.

Most major local dailies have also highlighted the story.

Arab League to hand over AU Darfur funds - EU

(Reuters/ST) Arab League Secretary-General Amr Musa has promised to hand over \$15 million for the struggling African Union peacekeeping mission in Sudan's Darfur region at an AU summit next Monday, an EU official said.

"He also said he would try to have more money in coming months," a spokesman for EU Aid Commissioner Louis Michel said after talks between Michel and Musa in Brussels.

Michel has vowed to put pressure on donors to make good on pledges to the AU operation after announcing this week that the EU Commission had no more money available for it.

The EU executive has so far given 242 million euros (\$313 million) to the AU's Darfur peace mission and 360 million euros for humanitarian aid. EU foreign ministers this week also urged other donors to make good on pledges.

Both Michel and Musa plan to meet Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir at the AU summit and urge him to follow up on remarks in December in which he appeared to accept the principle of a coordinated AU-UN presence in Darfur.

Please click on the link below for more on this Reuters story sourced from the SudanTribune.com
Arab League to hand over AU Darfur funds - EU

CPA

ELECTIONS: Committee formed to draft electoral law

(AlAyaam) The Constitution Review Commission has formed a committee led jointly by Hon. Abel Alier and Dr. Abdalla Idreis to draft the electoral law.

A meeting of the commission also underlined yesterday the need for the participation of other political parties in the legislative review process.

RETURNS: IOM resumes return operation of Dinka Bor to Jonglei State

(*ST*) An IOM operation to provide return assistance to some 10,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) from South Sudan's provinces of Eastern, Central and Western Equatoria is due to resume this week when a first group of some 350 IDPs will board an IOM chartered ferry that will take them on an 18-hour long journey up the White Nile from Juba to Bor, in Jonglei State.

The operation, which last year helped some 3,000 vulnerable IDPs return to their homeland in Bor County, was suspended in June because of the onslaught of the rainy season.

The resumption of the Juba-Bor return operation, which is carried out in coordination with the UN and government of South Sudan, will be witnessed by group of representatives from main donor countries, who will also visit IOM operations in Khartoum and Darfur.

This movement is the first planned assistance to some 200,000 IDPs expected to return home this year.

IOM is currently seeking USD 24.2 million to ensure the safe, dignified and sustainable return of displaced populations to and within Southern Sudan. This is part of a broader IOM appeal for USD 61 million for operations in Sudan in 2007.

The return of the herders Dinka to their home will ease the tension with farmers tribes of the different Equatoria States.

Please click on the link below for more on this story sourced from the SudanTribune.com
[IOM resumes return operation of Dinka Bor to Jonglei State](#)

SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS: Sudan's army, SPLA form joint integrated units

(*Reuters/ST*) Sudan's former foes have committed to finally integrating their armies, removing a major stumbling block to full implementation of a two-year-old north-south peace deal which ended Africa's longest civil war.

Observers say the failure to form these joint integrated units (JIU) has created tensions, culminating in heavy fighting in the town of Malakal in November, which killed 150 people.

The JIUs were envisaged to help build trust between the northern army, the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), and the former southern rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) who fought a bitter civil war for more than two decades.

While soldiers from both armies have been designated for the JIUs, in reality none of the units are living or training in the same barracks and the troops still wear different uniforms.

Please click on the link below for more on this story sourced from the SudanTribune.com
[Sudan's army, SPLA form joint integrated units](#)

POLITICAL: Parties to the CPA continue to trade accusations

(*AlIntibaha*) The Parties to the CPA are still trading accusations of delaying implementation of the CPA with the latest coming in the form of an accusation by NCP's Nafei Ali Nafei that the SPLM is to blame for many of the violations of the agreement.

Addressing the Students' Résistance Council yesterday, the deputy head of the National Congress Party reiterated the government's rejection to the ABC Panel of Experts' Report and pointed out that the Abyei question could be resolved through open and unbiased discussions between the Partners, the Misseiriya and the Dinka.

He further pointed out that the wrangling over the oil revenue is only meant to destabilise the partnership between the two parties and pointed out that there are some groups within the SPLM who are plotting against the partnership.

But *AlSahafa* daily quotes former SPLM intelligence official, Edward Lino, as having accused the NCP of hiding information about the true revenue reaped from the country's oil revenue.

He said that information they have puts the country's oil production at 800,000b/d while the National Congress Party claims it stands at only 450,000b/d.

Should this be proved correct, then the National Congress Party would have committed one of the worst crimes.

GoNU

Parliament to raise complaint against Deng Alor

(*AlAyaam et al*) The Speaker of the National Assembly says that the National Assembly will protest to the Presidency over the absence of Deng Alor, Minister for Cabinet Affairs, over his absence at a parliamentary session.

The Speaker said that the minister's absence and the manner in which he apologised for not attending the session during which he was to answer queries on the population census was not proper.

President Bashir says* will not stand in coming elections

(*AlSahafa*) President Bashir, in an interview with the BBC yesterday assured that he will not stand in the coming elections less than two years ahead.

He said that he will ask the NCP to field another nominee.

He attributed his decision not to stand to the nature of the Sudanese people which can not tolerate one leader for a long period of time.

** Excerpts of the BBC interview in separate attachment*

Southern Sudan

Arman Dr. Garang above suspicion

(*Khartoum Monitor*) Deputy Secretary-General of the SPLM for the Northern Sector, Yasir Arman, has categorically refuted as “untrue” allegations by President Bashir that former First Vice-President and founding father of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement, Dr. John Garang had received some 60 million US dollars from the central government for the transportation of SPLM members from exile back home.

Speaking at a press conference at SPLM premises in Amarat, Arman said the SPLM advance delegation arrived Khartoum late in April 2005 because the said amount was not handed to the movement.

GoSS president relieves W. Bahr-el-Ghazal minister for agriculture

(*AlHayat*) First Vice President of the Republic, President of South Sudan, Lt. General Salva Kiir Mayardit, has issued a presidential decree relieving Cornelio Kot Nok from his position as Minister of Agriculture, Animal Resources, Irrigation and Forestry in W. Bahr El Ghazal State.

The decree comes following the recommendations of the state governor.

Sudan: Ex-rebel movement "a solid political institution"

(*Khartoum Monitor via BBC Monitoring of 23/01/07*) The head of SPLM's MPs at the legislative assembly of Khartoum State, Bol Reng, said the absence of Yasir Arman from SPLM's northern sector secretariat would have no bearing on the performance of the secretariat as the SPLM is a solid political institution.

It may have psychological bearings given that Arman is a northerner, he added. He went on to say that Arman managed to consolidate the SPLM in the north.

The nomination of Manawa Aligo to head SPLM's MPs at the national assembly was due to his political abilities and understanding of parliamentary intricacies and likewise so was the nomination of Malik Aggar to head the northern sector.

He added that the reinstatement of Walid Hamid in the northern or southern sector, which has been left for him to choose, would be an asset.

Machar travels to Kony hideout to revamp talks

(The New Vision via BBC Monitoring of 23/01/07) Dr Riek Machar, accompanied by the Cessation of Hostilities monitoring Team, on Sunday headed for Kony's hideout in Nabang in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Government of South Sudan officials said on Monday.

"He went to convince them to resume the talks," Rehan Abdelnabi, the acting director of South Sudan Radio, told a press conference. "They are supposed to return with the LRA peace talk negotiators this evening."

Machar's journey to Nabang, near Kony's hideout in Garamba, is the latest effort to woo the rebels back to the negotiating table.

Meningitis outbreak "under control" in southern Sudan

(SRS via BBC Monitoring of 23/01/07) The Ministry of Health in the Government of Southern Sudan says people should not panic as the meningitis outbreak is "under control."

Speaking to Sudan Radio Service yesterday by telephone from Juba, Director General of Communicable Diseases in the Ministry of Health, Dr John Rumunu, said that meningitis has been confirmed in several places in southern Sudan, but people should not panic as the government and partners are combating the disease.

Dr Rumunu said the minister of health has ordered the formation of meningitis crisis committees all over southern Sudan to help contain the situation.

UK White Nile, Moldova firm to drill in South Sudan

(Reuters/ST) Two oil companies in south Sudan will begin drilling soon and the autonomous government may sign three more contracts with firms hoping to benefit from a north-south peace deal, officials said.

Bullen Bol, head of south Sudan's government oil company Nile Petroleum Corporation (Nilepet), said Britain's White Nile and Moldova's Ascom Group SA, which had both signed concessions in 2005, would soon complete seismic surveys and begin drilling.

"They are about to complete work on the seismic and will soon start drilling," he told Reuters in south Sudan's capital Juba.

Please click on the link below for more on this Reuters story sourced from the SudanTribune.com
[UK White Nile, Moldova firm to drill in South Sudan](#)

Darfur

SLM-Minnawi denies links to uncovered mass grave in Gereida

(AlWan) SLM information advisor ElTayeb Khamis has denied in a press release yesterday accusations by a traditional leader in Gereida that SLM-Minnawi had killed 9 people in Rahad S. Darfur.

Khamis denied SLM- Minnawi links mass graves uncovered recently in Gereida and assured that the SLM- Minnawi has no one detained in relation to this issue in its detention cells.

Editorials and Commentaries

The Federalism misinterpreted

This *Khartoum Monitor* editorial mainly criticized the way the Arabic language dailies described the GoSS offices outside Sudan as Embassies or a nucleus of diplomatic missions of an independent future state of southern Sudan.

The GoSS and the GoNU need to be encouraged to promote true federalism under which true power is vested to the people, not their rulers who usurp power by force, the paper goes on.

The editorial also urges people to concentrate on how much of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) has been implemented and what steps are being taken to build confidence among and to make unity an attractive option for the Sudanese people.

The editorial concludes in a stern warning: failure to commit to these simple facts will lead to a virtual secession of the south by the end of the interim period.