



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN UNMIS

Media Headlines, 25 January 2007
(By Public Information Office)

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HIGHLIGHTS :

UN/ Agencies

UN chief protests Sudan arrests, beatings of staff

(Reuters) Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon protested the arrests and beatings of U.N. and other relief staff in Darfur, a U.N. spokesman said on Wednesday, days before talks with Sudan on a beefed-up peacekeeping force.

Ban criticized the arrests as well as the recent Sudanese bombardment of Darfur towns to Mutrif Siddig, Khartoum's visiting undersecretary in the Foreign Affairs Ministry, on Tuesday before leaving for Europe and an African Union meeting on a long-delayed U.N. peacekeeping mission for Darfur.

It was Ban's first public comment since Darfur police and security officials on Friday arrested 20 U.N., African Union and other aid workers at a social gathering in Nyala.

Click on the below link for the full text of this Reuters story sourced from the SudanTribune.com
[UN chief protests Sudan arrests, beatings of staff](#)

Ministry of Justice takes legal measures towards UN staff in S. Darfur

(AlHayat, 24 January) The Ministry of Justice says that the state prosecutor in South Darfur State has instituted legal measures against about 20 staff from the UN and African Union detained in Nyala last Friday while at the premises of an NGO.

In a statement to the *Sudan Media Center*, the state prosecutor said that they defendants will face charges related to public disturbance and alcohol and pointed out that the competent authorities had received a number of complaints about disturbances caused by UNMIS officials.

The prosecutor went on to say that the 20 were released as soon as the investigation was file and none of them was detained in the police cells.

UN chief to work closely with EU on Sudan, Somalia, Kosovo

(AP/ST) U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, on his first overseas trip since taking office, said Wednesday he aims to work closely with the 27-nation European Union to resolve the conflict in Darfur and other African crises as well as fighting climate change.

Ban, speaking to reporters after talks with EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana, said the EU and the United Nations were "are on the same page" in their views on key issues.

"I hope that my visit ... will contribute to our further stronger partnership between EU and the United Nations," Ban said. "We are experiencing a lot of regional conflicts and poverty issues, and violation of human rights, we need to cooperate fully toward mutual prosperity."

Solana said the two discussed a wide range of issues, including the future status of Kosovo, the Middle East and Africa, as well as terrorism and human rights.

Please click on the link below for the full text of this AP story sourced from the SudanTribune.com

[UN chief to work closely with EU on Sudan, Somalia, Kosovo](#)

Mozambique reconsiders troops for Somalia, Sudan

(Reuters/ST) Mozambique is reconsidering whether it will contribute troops to peacekeeping forces deployed in Somalia and Sudan, the country's defence minister told Reuters on Wednesday.

"We have ordered a thorough study to be conducted before we intervene, then we will decide," Maj. General Tobias Dai said in an interview. "We need to know the region, the nature of the conflict and its evolution and also understand different efforts that we would propose."

Please click on the link below for the full text of the Reuters story sourced from the SudanTribune.com

[Mozambique reconsiders troops for Somalia, Sudan](#)

Sudan security inspects UNMAO compound in Khartoum

(Khartoum Monitor) The UNMIS Bulletin reports that Sudanese security and other government officials visited on Monday evening the compound of the UNMAO in Khartoum expressing concerns that UNMAO had a shipment of alcoholic beverages in its compound.

UNMIS assured Sudanese officials that the matter will be investigated in full cooperation with the competent Sudanese authorities on the basis of the relevant provision of the SOFA signed between them.

The bulletin also disclosed that on 21 January four intruders illegally entered the UNMIS TCC site compound in Wau and broke into containers where they stole some boxes containing tent poles. The KenBat TCC Protection Force managed to arrest one suspect who was handed over to the local police while the other three escaped.

The Security Section at UNMIS is currently conducting an investigation.

United Nations & the Transition Debate

UN deploys more advisors in Darfur by the end of January

(ST) The UN announced* today during the fifth meeting of the tripartite commission that it will deploy soon five UN police advisors and twenty Military Staff Officers. "By the end of January 2007, it is estimated that a total of 47 UN Military Staff Officers and 30 UNPOL Advisors would have been deployed under the Light Support Package" (LSP) to the African troops in Darfur.

Also, it was announced that ten civilian staff have arrived to Khartoum and they will be soon deployed.

The total of personnel to be deployed in support to African Union Mission in Sudan in the framework of the Light Support package is 105 Military Staff Officers; 33 Police Advisors and 48 civilian staff.

** Please refer to the separate attachment for the full text of the AU/UN statement on the 5th Meeting of the Tripartite Mechanism*

US urges Sudan to agree fully to Darfur plan

(Reuters/ST) The United States on Wednesday urged Sudan to publicly agree to the last phase of a plan to get international peacekeepers into Darfur and prodded reluctant U.N. members to contribute troops to such a mission.

"There is of course a much larger phase three program that is out there on the horizon that the Sudanese have yet to agree to. And we would urge them to agree to that," McCormack told reporters.

Sudan's agreement on the final phase of the plan was even more urgent given the recent spike in violence in Darfur and mounting concern over attacks on aid workers, said McCormack.

"I think that what is required of the international community is constant, consistent pressure — diplomatic pressure — as well as constant review of whether or not the Sudanese are living up to the commitments that they said that they were going to perform on," he said.

McCormack urged the United Nations to come up with the resources and logistical support for Darfur, where more than 200,000 people have died and 2.5 million have been forced from their homes in four years of violence.

Please click on the link below for the full Reuters story sourced from the SudanTribune.com

[US urges Sudan to agree fully to Darfur plan](#)

Chinese president urged to take tough line on Darfur

(AP/ST) China should not allow the Sudanese president to say 'no' to U.N. peacekeepers for Darfur, a human rights activist said on Wednesday, after officials in Beijing outlined Chinese President Hu Jintao's upcoming visit to Sudan.

Lawrence Rossin, international coordinator of the private U.S.-based Save Darfur Coalition, said in an interview in London that Chinese officials have assured him they were using their status as a major trading partner with Sudan and working behind the scenes to try to persuade the country to bow to international will.

But Rossin, a former U.S. diplomat, said he has seen little evidence Chinese efforts were having an effect on Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir, who has rejected U.N., U.S., European and African Union calls to replace an AU peacekeeping force of about 7,000 in Darfur with a more powerful U.N. force of 22,000.

Please click on the link below for the full text of the AP story sourced from the SudanTribune.com

[Chinese president urged to take tough line on Darfur](#)

CPA

Vice-President Salva Kiir threatens to resort to the IGAD for arbitration over Abyei

(Alltibaba) Vice-President Salva Kiir has renewed threats to seek an IGAD arbitration should the issue of Abyei continue to remain unresolved.

The V-P who doubles up as the President of the Government of Southern Sudan told Sudanese at the Sudan Embassy in Qatar where he has just concluded a visit, denied any differences with President Bashir and said that they only have differences in points of view.

He also took the opportunity to call on the federal government to exert efforts to develop southern Sudan in order to encourage the people of the south to vote for unity.

Disarmed Jongei community needs protection

(Juba Post) Disarmed civilians in Jonglei State need immediate protection, demands MP Gatkuoth Duop of the GoSS legislative body.

The MP says at least seven people were killed and four children abducted between June and December last year in 19 separate cattle raids on unarmed communities in Jonglei State. He said the exact number of cattle stolen has not been established.

The MP pointed out that the problems of cattle rustling appear to be worsening because some communities have been disarmed while others haven't and the latter seem to be taking advantage of the imbalance to step up their cattle rustling activities.

He urged the government to take the initiative to disarm the other communities.

Former US envoy warns new war can erupt in South Sudan

(AFP/ST) A former US envoy to Sudan complained that American policy on the country was based on a "fundamental flaw" and warned that a new war could erupt without urgent action by the US administration.

Roger Winter also made a personal appeal to President George W. Bush, warning that the peace agreement that ended Sudan's bloody, 21-year civil war was at risk and would darken his White House legacy if it failed.

Winter told the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs committee's Africa sub panel that the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) could collapse because of the National Islamic Front-controlled government led by President Omar al-Bashir. The NIF has more recently been known as the National Congress Party.

"It is my very strong belief that the CPA is unravelling," said Winter, the deputy secretary of state's former special representative on Sudan.

"There is a fundamental flaw in the way the United States has been approaching Sudan," said Winter, who served under former deputy secretary of state Robert Zoellick, who resigned last June.

"The fundamental flaw is the belief within our policy establishment that the National Islamic Front wants to be a responsible government.

Please click on the link below for the full text of this AFP story sourced from SudanTribune.com
[Former US envoy warns new war can erupt in South Sudan](#)

Deng Alor says Petroleum Police is a blatant violation of the CPA

(Khartoum Monitor) Speaking at an exclusive interview with the *Khartoum Monitor*, Deng Alor said that the formation of the Petroleum and Mining Protection Police Force is a blatant violation of the Security Arrangement Protocol that says that the JIUs is the only body that should carry out such protection work.

The prominent SPLM figure who is also the Minister for Cabinet Affairs questioned the identity and political affiliation of these forces and pointed out that the SAF has not been redeployed from the oil fields as well as in northern Upper Nile and Unity states.

“The SPLM urges the National Congress Party not to persist in these violations of peace by enlisting new police forces for the protection of petroleum as it is solely the job of the JIUs”, he said.

GoNU

SLM accuses government of attempts at assassinating Minnawi’s deputy

(*Rai AlShaab*) The Minnawi faction of the SLM has formally accused the government of attempting to assassinate its deputy leader who is also the movement’s army commander.

In an official statement issued yesterday, the SLM said that they are in possession of evidence to substantiate their claims that “Governor Atta-el-Mannan’s government [South Darfur]” was involved in the assassination attempt.

In the statement, the movement reiterated denials of links to a recently uncovered mass grave near Gereida.

Parties to the CPA continue to trade accusations

(*AlAyaam, AlAdhwa, et al*) In its session yesterday to discuss the report of the Parliamentary Committee on Health, the Speaker of the National Assembly accused the GoSS of allowing into the country drugs that do not pass quality control and having a blind eye on the flow of small arms through the country’s southern borders. He called upon the GoSS to cooperate with the federal government to consolidate control over such imports through the customs authorities.

Some MPs however pointed out that the National Council for Drugs and Poisons has been suspended and it is the body responsible for control over the quality of drugs that enter the country.

On the other hand and following protests from the Speaker of the National Assembly that he did not turn up at a parliamentary session to answer queries over the population census, cabinet affairs minister Deng Alor told *AlAyaam* daily that he, alongside other ministers as himself, was only a member in the National Census Council. He pointed out that the National Assembly seems to have mixed up between him and the Minister for Presidential Affairs who is primarily responsible to answer those questions as per a constitutional decree he quoted.

He added that the National Assembly should have been aware of these constitutional decrees that clearly set out the functions of each minister.

Parliamentary Committee on Security says AMIS forces turned to SAF for protection in Gereida

(*AlAyaam*) In an emergency session yesterday to discuss the security situation in Darfur revealed that AMIS troops had to turn to the SAF for protection in Gereida, South Darfur, which is not under government control.

The committee underlined the need to strengthen the AMIS forces and to review its role. The committee's report described the security situation in the states of Darfur as "deteriorating".

The report said that the state has a weak hold on Darfur, the police there has a limited capacity to carry out its functions and there is very little support from the central government to the security organs.

It also says that IDP camp residents number up to about 31,590 [or 315,900 *unclear figure*] depending on the WFP for 70% of their food requirements and on other agencies for health requirements.

The report further points out that the Darfur Peace Agreement, especially its security arrangements, have no bearing on the ground.

Majzoub el-Khalifa, who led the government delegation to the Abuja talks, also said that the government has handed to the African Union and the international community its proposals for talks with the Darfur Peace Agreement non-signatory groups.

** A meeting of Permanent Representatives to the African Union saw the emergence of a group of African countries that reject a Sudan chairmanship for the African Union reports AlSahafa.*

Southern Sudan

South Sudan's Kiir warns Ugandan LRA of military action

(*The Daily Monitor/ST*) The President of the GoSS has warned of military action against rebels of Ugandan Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) accused of being against Sudanese, the Ugandan Daily Monitor reported Wednesday.

South Sudan President Salva Kiir on Monday 22 January said on Southern Sudan Television in Juba that he would call for mass action against the Lords Resistance Army (LRA) rebels if they continue to terrorise his people.

However, LRA deputy commander Vincent Otti told Daily Monitor by telephone yesterday that they are neither scared of Gen Kiir nor his planned action.

Please click on link below for the full text of the story from the Daily Monitor sourced from the SudanTribune.com

[South Sudan's Kiir warns Ugandan LRA of military action](#)

South Sudan to launch anti-corruption review

(Reuters/ST) South Sudan's anti-corruption commission will launch a wide-ranging probe into the semi-autonomous government's contracts after allegations arose that millions of Sudanese dinar had disappeared.

The head of the anti-corruption commission Pauline Riak told Reuters on Wednesday the massive investigation would begin on Feb. 1 and include all government ministries and the army.

"The task is to review all government contracts, or contracts made on behalf of the Government of Southern Sudan in the years 2005 and 2006," Riak said.

"This includes all government institutions including commissions, the army as well as ministries. It is potentially massive."

Please click on the link below for the full text of this Reuters sourced from SudanTribune.com

[South Sudan to launch anti-corruption review](#)

Oil flow south straight to Kenya instead of Port Sudan

(Juba Post) A World Bank and GoSS joint team is working in developing Southern Sudan's international trade.

They have particular ideas to switch oil refining and transport from Port Sudan to Mombasa, and for agricultural industries.

The team consists of experts from the World Bank's Washington DC office, led by Philip Schulu, and delegates from the presidency office.

World Bank increase Presence in Sudan

(Juba Post) The World Bank is beefing up staff in Juba as part of efforts to strengthen implementation of its increased portfolio in the country, a senior official said.

The Bank is currently bankrolling 14 projects of \$227 million for 14 projects aimed at restoring basic services ,establishing government functions ,and rehabilitating infrastructures but the total donor funds pledged in tow multi donor trust funds amount to \$580.5 million one to rehabilitate war -affected areas, and the other to rebuild and develop southern Sudan.

No more EDF in Torit

(Juba Post) The governor of Eastern Equatoria State announced the Equatoria Defense Force is no longer a functioning militia group in Torit but is made up of a few individuals.

On 2nd December, the Equatoria Defense Force (EDF) headquarters moved to Lokere from Torit

The Governor Alosis Ojetuk made these comments during President Salva Kirr's visit to Torit adding that the EDF were forced to become friendlier with the local community and cuts links with the Sudan Armed Forces and cattle raiding.

Acute shortage in meningitis vaccines in southern Sudan

(*AlAyaam*) Following the death from meningitis of 37 in southern Sudan and with a further 34 cases of infection reported, the GoSS coordinator at the health ministry has urged for an urgent intervention from the Presidency of the Republic to cover the shortage in vaccines.

The coordinator says that W. Bahr-el-Ghazal State has been the worst affected.

Southern Sudan Law Society warns of collapse of southern judiciary

(*Khartoum Monitor*) The South Sudan Law Society has appealed to the President of the GoSS to take action and "rescue the Judiciary in southern Sudan from the danger of collapse".

The law fraternity, in a statement, also called on the Southern Sudan Human Rights Commission to investigate into what it dubbed "serious violations of the Bill of Rights in the Interim Constitution of Southern Sudan and the Rights of the Accused Persons".

The press release further pointed out that while Sudan was celebrating the second anniversary of the signing of the CPA innocent people were "languishing" in the prisons of southern Sudan without trial.

The statement also criticised the Chief of the Judiciary in Southern Sudan for a lack of focus on his duties as he "shuttles between the capitals of East Africa and Europe".

Southern Sudan to establish airline

(*AlIntibaha*) In what the paper describes as proof of "seriousness of the GoSS to secede", authorities have agreed to a proposal to establish an airline for southern Sudan.

The paper says that Feeder Airlines has concluded deals for the purchase of 3 Boeing 737s and that a delegation of the GoSS is currently trying to clinch a deal to purchase a fleet of Fokker 50s.

When approached by the paper, the Sudan Civil Aviation Authorities confirmed it had preliminarily endorsed the proposal and will carry out a technical study on capacity, crew and staff of the proposed airliner six months down the line before giving its final nod or rejection.

Darfur

Sudanese plane hijacker demands Darfur peace

(Reuters/ST) A young man demanding an end to conflict in Darfur hijacked a Sudanese plane on Wednesday and tried to force it to fly to Europe, but it diverted to Chad where he was arrested and the passengers released unharmed.

Mohamed Abdelatif Mohamed, who was armed with several knives and a pistol, said he was trying to escape "degrading and humiliating treatment" at home in Darfur. The 24-year-old said he was neither a terrorist nor a rebel.

The Sudanese Air West Boeing 737 with 103 passengers and crew on board was on a domestic flight from Khartoum to el-Fasher in Sudan's conflict-torn western Darfur region when Mohamed hijacked it 20 minutes after takeoff, the pilot said.

"I call on the international community to put pressure on Sudan to find a definitive solution to the crisis in Darfur," Mohamed, handcuffed and wearing a light-coloured casual jacket, told reporters after his arrest in Chad's capital N'Djamena.

"It was the only way to get out. ... I asked the crew to take me to Rome so I could go on to Britain. But they told me the fuel wouldn't get us there," he said. "I asked them to divert to Bangui or N'Djamena and they said N'Djamena was closer."

Chad's Infrastructure Minister Adoum Younousmi said Mohamed had first demanded to be flown all the way to Britain.

"He has been arrested and will answer for his actions. ... Chad is not a sanctuary for terrorists," he said.

"He's so quiet, and so desperate," said the airline's pilot, Captain Ali Asir. He said Mohamed had about five knives and a pistol* and had threatened the crew, but had not been violent.

The 95 passengers and eight crew aboard, who were believed to be mostly Sudanese but included a Finnish woman and an Italian man, were taken by bus to the airport terminal, airport officials said. They were due to be returned to Sudan.

An Air West official had said earlier in Khartoum that the hijacker had requested asylum from the French embassy in Chad.

The French government denied any asylum request had been received. French military officials were at the airport.

It was not immediately clear how he managed to smuggle a firearm on board the aircraft but Sudanese security is lax, especially on internal flights, and Captain Asir said he had not locked the cockpit door.

Local newspapers (*AlRai AlAam et al*) report that Sudan's interior minister has revealed that preliminary investigations into the incident prove that some elements working in the airport may have assisted the hijacker in carrying out the operation. The minister however did not elaborate but promised to publicise the final findings once investigations are complete.

The minister also said that the government is in contact with the InterPol and the Chadian and French governments for the extradition of the hijacker as per international treaties.

** Other papers quoting the airliner's operations manager describe the firearm as an AK-47 assault rifle*

Please click on the link below for the full text of the Reuters story sourced from the SudanTribune.com
[Sudanese plane hijacker demands Darfur peace](#)

Editorials and Commentaries

UNMIS' role in southern Sudan

In this article appearing on the Opinion pages of the *Khartoum Monitor* daily, Benedict Tarifa Julius points out that for him and others residing far from southern Sudan, the UNMIS was brought in with the mandate to monitor the implementation of the CPA came as a relief as they gained confidence that the UN forces will remain to see their mandate through.

He then laments that recent reports linking UNMIS peacekeepers in southern Sudan with alleged misconduct and sexual abuse and the fact that some opposed to the CPA took it as an opportunity to justify the adamant refusal of President Bashir to the deployment of UN forces to Darfur came as a shock.

He questions how the *Daily Telegraph* that first broke the news got the news in the first place and ahead of Sudanese journalists in Juba.

The writer goes on to point out that the peacekeepers are only human and are here for a purpose and may not be able to resist their natural urges. He points out that such things are usually done in secret and that should there be an investigation into any such act, then the investigations should start with the source of these rumours.

The writer requests the GoSS to turn a deaf ear to all this but instead to open its eyes on how to protect the young generation to enable them grow in dignity and winds up by saying that those who committed such crimes should not be left to fly away with it.