



## UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN UNMIS

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(By Public Information Office)

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## **HIGHLIGHTS :**

### **UN/ Agencies**

#### **UN condemns killing of UNMIS peacekeeper**

*(AlAyaam, Khartoum Monitor, et al)* The Secretary-General of the UN has condemned the attack by unidentified armed elements of a UN convoy on the Torit-Magwi-Operi road which resulted in the death of an Indian Peacekeeper and injury of two others and has called for an investigation into the incident and has called for the full cooperation of the Sudanese parties into the investigations.

The Khartoum Monitor and the Sudan Tribune dailies reproduce on 28 January the full text of the UNMIS Press Release (No. 03/07 of 27 January 2007)\* condemning the attack and calling for an immediate investigation.

*\* Please refer to the separate attachment for the full text of the UNMIS Press Release*

#### **Aid agencies warn Darfur operations may soon be paralysed**

*(Aid agencies)* Aid agencies today warned\* the enormous humanitarian response in Darfur will soon be paralysed unless African and global leaders at the AU Summit take urgent action to end rising violence against civilians and aid workers.

They said African Heads of States and new UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon will fail the people of Darfur if they do not take concrete steps to herald the start of a new chapter in the region and ensure an immediate ceasefire is both agreed and adhered to.

*\* Please refer to the separate attachment for the full text of the statement*

### **CPA**

#### **CPC briefed on report of joint monitoring commission**

*(AlAyaam, 27 Jan.)* A meeting last Thursday of the Ceasefire Political Committee discussed last Thursday a report of the CJMC.

The meeting also deferred discussions over the issue of redeployment of the SAF and the issue of militias and assembly points for the JIUs to an emergency meeting to be held on the 14<sup>th</sup> of February.

El-Dirdeiry Mohamed Ahmed who heads the National Congress Party delegation to the committee said that these discussions were deferred so they could be briefed on the report of the OAG committee and a report by the JDB on the general security situation in the country.

On his part, Mjr. Gen. Biang Deng has urged the Presidency to resolve the issue of the Abyei arms-free zone and to bring to justice the perpetrators of the Abyei incident in which more than 30 people lost their lives. Deng described the Presidency of the Republic as a “basket” where outstanding issues are damped.

### **NCP says IGAD could not resolve the Abyei issue**

(*Alwatan*, 27 Jan.) The National Congress Party has called upon the SPLM not to waste time in “conjuring up new ideas and individual initiatives” the Parties have not agreed upon over the issue of Abyei.

Speaking exclusively to the *Sudan Media Center*, el-Dirdeiry Mohamed Ahmed, a prominent member of the National Congress Party, said that the Protocol on Abyei leaves nothing for re-negotiations on the Abyei Boundary and that the IGAD sub-committee headed by retired Kenyan Army General L. Sumbeiywo has been disbanded with the signing of the CPA and could therefore not be a mechanism to which to refer the issue of the Abyei boundary.

### **Parties to the CPA to hold keynote meeting**

(*AlRai AlAam*) Prominent members of the parties to the CPA have started contacts aimed at containing tensions between the two parties.

Sources say the meeting between President Bashir and VP Kiir came out with a number of gains including arrangements for the meeting of the joint high committee to discuss the differences between them.

## **The Transition Debate**

### **AU calls on United Nations to fund Darfur mission**

(*Reuters/ST*) The United Nations should take over full financing of a struggling African Union peacekeeping operation in Sudan’s violent Darfur region, where security is deteriorating, the AU’s top diplomat said on Friday.

Alpha Oumar Konaré’s report to African foreign ministers meeting in Addis Ababa blamed the renewed insecurity on the re-emergence of pro-government militia known as Janjaweed plus a lack of commitment to a truce by all parties to the conflict.

"It is crucial that the issue of funding (of the AU mission) by the United Nations through assessed contributions be pursued expeditiously," the report said.

It added agreement had been reached that U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon should recommend to the General Assembly that "the United Nations provide full financing to the mission".

*Click on the link below for more on this Reuters story sourced from the SudanTribune.com*  
[AU calls on United Nations to fund Darfur mission](#)

## **Southern Sudan**

### **Salva Kiir in Juba says SPLM is capable of winning the presidential elections**

*(Akhbar Alyaum)* Vice-President Silva Kiir Mayardit flagged off the SPLM political campaign yesterday in Juba in the presence of his deputy and a number of government officials.

Kiir reaffirmed the SPLM's commitments to the CPA and his confidence that the party is capable of winning the coming elections.

### **Machar visits Magwi County to cool insecurity**

*(Khartoum Monitor, 26 January)* The Vice-President of the GoSS visited Magwi County in Eastern Equatoria State yesterday to cool growing insecurity in the area caused by the LRA who have rejected talks in Juba.

Speaking to citizens, Riek Machar explained that the GoSS is greatly concerned about persuading the two parties to resume peace talks and that GoSS President Kiir is keen that the negotiations resume in Juba without delay.

The VP urged county chiefs to support the peace negotiations between the Lord's Resistance Army and the Uganda government so that peace can flourish for the citizens striding the border area.

He also called for cooperation with the security authorities and said that the GoSS plans to deploy the SPLA in the county to stop the killing of innocent civilians.

### **SSDF soldiers protest harassments from SPLA**

*(AlIntibaha; Rai AlShaab)* The SSDF has raised protests over harassment from the SPLA and says the SPLA demands that they redeploy from southern Sudan.

Gabriel Tang, the SSDF commander, said that his forces reject these demands by the SPLM and added that there is no power could force them to redeploy to the north of the country.

*Rai AlShaab* daily meanwhile reported on 27 January that citizens emptied the streets of Malakal yesterday and took refuge in their homes following the sound of gunfire from one part of the town.

An informed sources requesting anonymity intimated that the shots were fired by the pro-government militias loyal to Gabriel Tang. He said that this followed heated argument

between the SPLA and Tang's forces following the redeployment of the SAF from the Fanjak area. Tang's forces, he adds, refused to redeploy and fired at the air in a show of their anger and rejection of the SAF redeployment.

### **Relief barges repeatedly attacked by gunmen**

(*AlRai AlAam via BBC Monitoring of 26 Jan.*) A number of River Transport Authority barges working on the Kosti-Juba route have repeatedly come under attack by gunmen. This has affected river transportation, considered the most important means of transport between Kosti and southern states.

The barge Hijlijah, with a large number of internally displaced persons onboard who were part of the UN administered returns programme, came under attack while in the middle of the river and was pursued in an attempt to force it to stop.

The secretary-general of the general union of sea and river transport, Maki Muhammad Bashir al-Amin pointed out that the union had followed these violations against the barges and their employees. He said the union had met the minister of transport who promised to issue a political decision to protect the river route but that nothing had been done. He said the situation was now critical particularly in view of new developments such as the issue of tolls imposed by the SPLM.

Al-Amin further said ineffective procedures led to delays in barges' timetables costing each barge 9 million pounds [4,500 US dollars] daily. He said the river transport workers were forced to remain on the barges and prevented from disembarking at Juba port.

He said he was surprised that the Government of Southern Sudan [GOSS] was silent about these security breaches despite being aware of them. He said the executive office of the union would hold an emergency meeting on Monday [29 January] to discuss the matter and that the central committee would issue a decision which could result in stopping operations on this particular route. He pointed out that the general union of Sudanese workers was working on this issue though its membership in parliament and had tabled an urgent motion for the minister of transport. Al-Amin further urged the GOSS to take the necessary measures to protect barges and workers.

### **LRA condemns GoSS president**

(*Khartoum Monitor, 27 January*) The Lord's Resistance Army has accused GoSS President Salva Kiir on Thursday of inciting violence against them after a newspaper reported him as vowing to "hunt them down".

The Ugandan *Daily Monitor* reported on Tuesday that Kiir made a belligerent speech in Arabic on a tour of southern Sudan describing the Lord's Resistance Army as a "threat to the population" that should be hunted down not only by the SPLA but "everybody with a gun".

His remarks followed comments by President Bashir in which he vowed to “get rid of the Lord's Resistance Army from Sudan”.

LRA spokesman Obonyo Olweny told journalists that Salva Kiir’s statement amounts to incitement of the people of southern Sudan.

### **Bona Malwal barred from visiting Warab save Salva Kiir’s direct authorisation**

*(AlRai AlAam, 27 Jan.)* The Governor of Warrap State has barred Presidential Advisor Bona Malwal from visiting his home village without prior permission from GoSS President, Kiir.

Malwal however resisted the order and travelled for an official visit yesterday to his village.

## **Darfur**

### **Bashir announces willingness to unconditional talks with DPA non-signatories**

*(AlSudani, 27 Jan.)* Speaking to national television yesterday ahead of the African Union summit meeting in Addis, President Bashir said the Sudan government is willing to engage in talks with the DPA non-signatory groups without preconditions.

The President took off for the Ethiopian capital yesterday.

This announcement has been welcomed by the NRF. A prominent member of the NRF pointed out that the NRF had indeed welcomed negotiations with the government since July last year.

### **Darfur rebels to fight AU if Sudan becomes chairman**

*(Reuters/ST)* Darfur rebels said on Friday they would refuse peace talks and would fight African Union peacekeepers on the ground if Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir became chairman of the pan-African body.

Last year wrangling over whether Sudan would become chairman dominated an African Union summit, and a compromise was reached that Bashir would take over in 2007 in the hope the situation would have improved in Sudan’s west.

But security has deteriorated despite an AU-mediated peace deal in May and diplomats warn another battle over the year-long chairmanship will emerge as African leaders prepare to meet on Monday and Tuesday in Ethiopia.

"If Sudan becomes head of the African Union then the AU mission working in Darfur will become party to the conflict on the side of the government," said Esam el-Din al-Hajj, from a faction of the rebel Sudan Liberation Army (SLA).

Jar el-Neby, a commander from a rival SLA faction which cooperates with the roughly 7,500 AU peacekeepers in Darfur, agreed, adding the AU would not be able to mediate talks with Sudan as its head.

Leader of the rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) Khalil Ibrahim also said peace talks would be out of the question with Bashir heading the AU.

Last year, the United States strongly opposed moves by Sudan to take over the AU presidency and has made clear this time there are other candidates that are more suitable because of the conflict of interest over Darfur.

"There is a contradiction there which needs to be addressed, and can only be addressed by the AU. We can make our views clear but it is up to the AU to make decisions on that," said McCormack, when asked whether Washington opposed Bashir's candidacy.

But Sudan is not backing down. "There was a decision made last year and nobody has the right to change that," said Sudanese Foreign Minister Lam Akol.

Nonetheless, diplomats say that last year's deal was only in principle, and it will be discussed again.

*Click on the links below for more on the candidature and related stories from different sources via SudanTribune.com*

[Darfur rebels to fight AU if Sudan becomes chairman](#)

[Chad to withdraw from AU if Sudan gets chair](#)

[Libya suspends Darfur funds to press withdrawal of Sudan's AU candidacy](#)

## **Other Developments**

### **Khartoum accuses Chad of complicity in the hijacking of the Airwest airliner**

(*AlHayat*) Government sources in Khartoum have accused Chad and a leader of one of the armed movements in Darfur of complicity in the hijacking of the Airwest airliner last Wednesday.

The same sources said that the operation targeted key Sudanese military and state officials including President Bashir's special envoy to Darfur, Lt. Gen. Mustafa el-Dabi.

These officials did not get on the aircraft.