



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN UNMIS

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(By Public Information Office)

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UN/ Agencies

Court proceedings against UN officials accused of misconduct postponed

(*AlSahafa et al; SUNA via BBC Monitoring, 28/01/2007*) *AlSahafa* daily says it has learnt that UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon intends sending a UN team to investigate the recent arrest in Nyala, S. Darfur, of UN staff on allegations of immoral acts.

The paper says DSRSG (HC/RC) Manuel Aranda da Silva conveyed in a meeting with the Deputy Governor of S. Darfur State the Secretary-General's grave concerns over the fate of the UN staff.

Da Silva also criticised the way the government has handled the issue and pointed out that these acts were not within parameters agreed upon by the two sides. He also said that the issue is now in the hands of the Secretary-General and the President of the Republic.

The DSRSG did however concede that that some UN staff do commit some "unbecoming" behaviour.

Deputy Governor Dr. Farah Mustafa told the DSRSG that the acts of torture meted upon those UN staff is an individual act and assured him that the state authorities do not target any UN staff. He pointed out that the issue is in the courts. He urged that this issue should not affect ongoing humanitarian operations in the state and ongoing cooperation between the two sides.

He said that the issue is under investigation and assured that none involved in the incident will escape justice. He also denied that the state government had blown the issue out of proportion to the press and pointed out that all that the press has published on the issue is does not represent the views of the state government.

Meanwhile, Sudan's foreign affairs ministry has asked justice minister Muhammad Ali al-Mardi to postpone court proceedings against UN officials who were arrested in Nyala accused of misconduct so that an out-of-court settlement could be reached, *SUNA* reported yesterday.

In a press statement, the justice minister said that the court proceedings were supposed to begin today but were postponed till Thursday next month [1 February], pointing out that the papers would be sent to the foreign minister after his request. "We cannot say what will be the outcome regarding this issue." he added

- ❖ The Citizen *daily reproduces a SUNA story that appeared in the Rai AlShaab daily and the Media Monitoring Report yesterday on the ongoing visit by the UN Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict and her meeting with Sami Abdel Daem Yassin, the State Minister for Social Welfare and Women and Children's Affairs.*

The Transition Debate

Ban calls for 'urgent deployment' of AU-UN force for Darfur

(AFP via NewsEdge, 29 January, Addis Ababa) UN chief Ban Ki-Moon pleaded with African leaders here Monday to work with the world body to end the bloodshed in Darfur by urgently deploying a joint African Union-United Nations force in the strife-torn Sudanese region.

In a keynote address to a summit of AU leaders hours before he is to hold talks with Sudanese President Omar el-Bashir, Ban stressed that "the partnership between the AU and the UN is of central importance" to end the conflict.

"Together we must work to end the violence and scorched earth policies adopted by various parties, including militias, as well as the bombings which are still a terrifying feature of life in Darfur," he said.

The secretary general said he looked forward to "productive discussions" with many other AU leaders, including the presidents of Ethiopia, Ivory Coast, Somalia and South Africa.

On his way to Addis Ababa on Sunday, Ban said he would seek from Bashir "a firm commitment" to translate "into action as soon as possible" his consent for the deployment of an AU-UN force in Darfur.

Early Monday, the UN chief huddled with AU commission chairman Alpha Oumar Konaré to discuss the three-phase Darfur settlement plan expected to culminate in the deployment of a robust UN-AU force.

A UN spokesman said the two men expressed hope the deployment could begin by late February.

But UN officials said this may be contingent on Bashir getting the AU chairmanship as he hopes.

The contentious decision on the chairmanship was to be made at a closed-door session of AU leaders ahead of the Ban-Bashir meeting.

The UN chief also paid tribute to ill-equipped AU peacekeepers who have failed to halt the Darfur conflict which has resulted in an estimated 200,000 deaths and nearly 2.5 million people displaced since 2003, according to UN figures disputed by Khartoum.

"But the toll of the crisis remains unacceptable," he said in his speech.

"It is holding back the potential of Sudan as a whole to develop as a peaceful, prosperous and democratic nation, and that in turn could hold back the future of the entire sub-region," Ban said.

"We must address the regional dimension of the crisis," he said referring to the spillover of the Darfur conflict into neighboring Chad and the Central African Republic.

He underscored the need to get those Darfur rebels who did not sign the peace accord with Khartoum last year to do so "while building consensus for the urgent deployment of a UN-AU force on the ground."

Ban also called for joint efforts to bring peace to divided Somalia and Ivory Coast.

CPA

Political partner works to abrogate Sudan peace deal – SPLM SG

(SudanTribune.com) The SPLM Secretary General Pagan Amum vehemently accused the ruling NCP of working to betray and abrogate the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, adding that such dangerous mentality will lead to the continued instability and civil wars in the country.

After explaining that GOSS liaison offices and their role are clearly provided in the CPA and the constitution, Amum said the campaign carried by its peace partner on the opening of these offices in Washington and elsewhere is a campaign led by anti peace elements within the NCP.

“The voices rising in condemnation of these missions are from those who are against the Peace agreement and who accuse the South and anyone demanding their rights as being separatists or discriminators and enemies of the country.” Amum said in an interview* with *AlSahafa* daily on 23 January.

* Click on the link below for the full text of this story and a transcript of the interview from the SudanTribune.com

GoNU

Sudan's candidacy for leadership of the African Union sparks debate

(AFP/ST; AlKhartoum et al) The war in Darfur looked set to overshadow the opening of the African Union summit, with UN chief Ban Ki-Moon braced for showdown talks with Sudan.

Chad has already threatened to storm out of the summit in Addis Ababa if other heads of state allow Sudan to take up the presidency as part of an agreement at their previous summit, when Khartoum reluctantly agreed to a deferment.

Extensive talks are understood to have taken place behind closed doors in recent days, with countries such as Ghana, Rwanda and Tanzania touted as possible alternatives.

UN and diplomatic sources have also suggested that the current chair of the 53-member organisation, Congo, extends its tenure.

But one of Sudanese President Omar al-Beshir's top advisors insisted Sunday that Khartoum fully expected to take up the chairmanship.

"I do not think there's another scenario because this is the decision of the AU last time in Khartoum," Magzoub Khalifa, one of President Bashir's top advisors, told reporters in the Ethiopian capital on Sunday.

AlKhartoum daily meanwhile reports that Presidential Press Secretary, Mahjoub Fadul, told *SUNA* that Sudan does not want to make of the African Union summit meeting a battleground over its candidacy for the African Union presidency because the issue had been resolved through a "gentleman's" agreement in last year's summit meeting in Khartoum.

He pointed that the reasons given against Sudan's candidacy are not a strong justification and pointed out that the African Union is bound to lose credibility if it bends to pressures to bar Sudan from the presidency and warned that this may compel Sudan to suspend its membership in the African Union.

Human rights groups have expressed outrage at the idea of Khartoum assuming the presidency given its record in Darfur.

* Click on the link below for the full text of the Amnesty International Statement sourced from SudanTribune.com

❖ <http://web.amnesty.org/library/index/engior630012007>

Sudanese market traders strike over "verandah" tax

(*Al-Khartoum daily via BBC Monitoring, 28/01/2007*) Traders in central Omdurman market went on indefinite strike yesterday and have closed down 2,000 of their shops in protest against an additional 400,000-pounds [200-US dollar] "veranda" tax imposed on them.

The strike, in protest against charges being imposed by local authorities and the tax department, was not limited to Omdurman market but extended to markets in Al-Kalaklat in Jabal Awlia District.

The traders insisted their strike was not political or linked to any organization, and that their aim was to achieve their demand to alleviate the financial burden which was forced upon them and to avoid being arrested, saying a sizable number of them had already been harassed and mishandled for the same reason.

Sudanese minister says Chad obligated to hand over hijacker

(SUNA via BBC Monitoring, 28/01/2007) The justice minister, Muhammad Ali al-Mardi, has said that the agreement to exchange criminals signed in 1965 between Sudan and Chad, makes it an obligation for Chad to hand over Muhammad Abd-al-Latif who is accused of hijacking the passenger plane owned by West Airlines.

Speaking to the press today, Al-Mardi said that any failure by Chad on this issue would encourage the ones who commit such acts to continue.

He went on to say that Chad not handing over the suspect contradicts UN and AU accords, as well as international customs and neighbour relations.

- ❖ *The government has formed a committee to investigate a petition from a number of residents and tradesmen residing on Ali AbdelLateef Road who complain of the adverse effects to their livelihoods of the closure by the US Embassy of the Ali AbdelLateef Road.*

Southern Sudan

South Sudan to urge Africa reconstruction cash

(Reuters/ST) South Sudan will ask African countries, including big players like Egypt and South Africa, to help fund its reconstruction because Western donors have been slow to help, an official said on Saturday.

"A lot of money has gone to humanitarian assistance in Darfur so there has been some interruption on that case," said Regional Cooperation Ministry under-secretary Cirino Hiteng Ofuho. Observers say reconstruction is necessary to prevent a return to war.

After the north-south peace deal, western donors pledged more than \$4 billion (2 billion pounds) to Sudan but complicated aid mechanisms slowed delivery of the money.

More than \$1.5 billion has gone to Darfur, where four years of rape, pillage and murder has killed an estimated 200,000.

Ofuho said a meeting had been called in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on the sidelines of a summit of African leaders to discuss south Sudan's reconstruction and he urged countries like Egypt and South Africa to give money.

He said some \$169 million had been received from Western donors, most of it for rebuilding roads in the war-torn south and some for training former rebels to take part in government.

South Sudan's fledgling semi-autonomous government, which under the peace deal gets 50 percent of Sudan's oil wealth amounting to some \$1.3 billion a year, has been accused of corruption and missing funds.

An anti-corruption commission will launch an investigation on February 1 into government contracts. South Sudan can vote to separate from the north in a referendum by 2011.

Almost 50 percent of last year's budget went to the southern army, the former rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), and Ofuho said a similar amount was expected for the 2007 budget, being debated in the southern parliament.

"This budget is not for war preparations but mainly to rehabilitate and improve the army," he said. "Transforming them into a conventional disciplined army requires a lot of resources."

He added the government had also already spent more than \$100 million on improving an almost non-existent infrastructure in the south planned to spend \$130 million on education and \$80-\$100 million on health.

Abyei is Dinka land, says Deng Alor

(*Alwatan*) In a statement the paper describes as the "most dangerous statement by a prominent SPLM figure", Deng Alor said that the people of Abyei have the right to seek legal recourse against the Presidency of the Republic over the issue of Abyei.

He pointed out that Abyei is Dinka land and that the Misseiriya are fully aware of that.

Alor who is also the Federal Minister for Cabinet Affairs further added that the ABC Panel of Experts had failed its mandate and warned that the IGAD or the international community may be sought for arbitration over the Abyei issue.

On recent accusation that SPLM leaders consider southern Sudan's shares of the oil revenue as "pocket money", Alor said that the SPLM is not corrupt and pointed out that the anti-corruption committee formed under Samson Kwajje is currently investigating with the former and current GoSS finance ministers over the amount of \$60 million.

On the departure of Yassir Erman from the country recently, Mr. Alor assured that Erman will soon be back to attend the SPLM meeting at the end of this month.

SPLM says Arman's UK visit not political

(*AlKhartoum via BBC Monitoring, 28 January*) SPLM leaders have reaffirmed that the visit to the UK by the northern SPLM leader, former leader of the SPLM parliamentary bloc and head of the parliamentary information and communications committee, Yassir Arman, is not related to the recent political developments within the SPLM.

The leaders pointed out that Arman's four-day visit to the UK is to do with his university studies and that he is going to see the university where he has been accepted and find out what procedures he needs to take.

In this regard, sources reported that the SPLM had given Arman three years study leave to take whenever he wanted.

Al-Khartoum has learnt that Arman's visa to the UK was issued more than three weeks ago and that his visit therefore has nothing to do with the latest developments and changes within the SPLM.

Some media outlets yesterday reported that Yasir Arman had migrated indefinitely to the UK and would settle in the USA in his second "season of migration."

Wau urges immunization against meningitis; says prepared to receive IDPs

(*Sudan Tribune*) Reports from Wau said that the Acting Governor and health minister in Wau met recently with the visiting Director-general at the GoSS' Ministry of health who was in W. Bahr-el-Ghazal to acquaint himself with the health situation in Wau Teaching Hospital.

The DG urged the local government to carry out immunization campaigns against meningitis and called on citizens to cooperate with local health authorities.

He said that the GoSS health ministry plans to ferry a load of medicines to Wau hospital

In another story, *Sudan Tribune* also reports that the DG in the Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Urban Planning in W. Bahr-el-Ghazal State acquainted himself yesterday to progress in the rehabilitation of camps to accommodate returnees from the northern states.

He commended international and local NGOs for the successful renovation work on the camps.

Ugandan rebel leader says Museveni not interested in peace talks

(*The Daily Monitor via BBC Monitoring, 28/01/2007*) LRA leader Joseph Kony has said President Yoweri Museveni and his government are not interested in the peace talks to end the 20-year old conflict in northern Uganda.

Kony was on Thursday evening [25 January] speaking on a satellite phone during a programme on the Gulu-based Mega FM.

He said: "Museveni is not interested in the peace talks. We are trying all our best but Uganda government and that of southern Sudan seem not interested." He added: "There are issues that people in northern Uganda and Uganda at large need to understand. People in Uganda should ask Museveni why the peace talks are not going as expected. All efforts of local leaders from the region are being frustrated. We shall try all our best," he said.

LRA's second-in-command, Vincent Otti also spoke on the same programme. Mr Kony said they wanted to settle in the two designated assembly points, Owiny-Ki-Bul and Ri-Kwangba in Southern Sudan but feared UPDF's [Uganda People's Defence Forces] presence. "We had plans to assemble all our forces in either Owiny-Ki-Bul or Ri-Kwangba as the peace talks progresses, but all this can't happen now," Kony said.

Otti said: "UPDF has deployed near us in DR Congo. Our forces in southern Sudan are under constant attack by UPDF. So do you expect us to continue with the peace talks yet the cessation of hostility agreement has never been honoured?"

"We are being cornered in Congo and southern Sudan. What do you expect us to do? Machar and the government of Southern Sudan are not impartial. That is why we want the venue changed," Otti said.

Army publicist Felix Kulayigye could not be reached for a comment.

Ugandan diplomat goes missing in South Sudan

(The Daily Monitor/ST) Mr Joseph Lutuk, an administrative attaché at the Ugandan Consulate in Juba, disappeared late last year, under circumstances that government officials in Kampala cannot explain.

According to security sources, Lutuk is a UPDF lieutenant who had been seconded to the consulate by the External Security Organization under diplomatic cover and is among the long serving staff at the consulate.

When contacted on phone last week, ESO Director-General Iga Makku claimed he did not know Lutuk. "I have no information. I don't know him."

But Uganda's consul-general in Juba, Ambassador Busho Ndinyenka said: "If he abandoned his post then people who brought him here will give me a substitute." Mr Busho denied suggestions that Lutuk might have vanished due to work-related problems.

Sources in Juba said that Lutuk abandoned his household property with Sudanese friends claiming he had been called to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kampala. Lutuk, who belongs to the Karimojong ethnic group, is reportedly fluent in local Sudanese languages and Arabic.

But due to poor communication between the Foreign Ministry and the Consulate in Juba, Lutuk's disappearance was discovered in November last year.

According to security sources, Lutuk is believed to have sneaked to the United States using different names because Ministry of Foreign Affairs did not give him a covering letter to travel outside the country, as is usually the case with holders of red passports.

Darfur/ DPA

El-Fasher says prepared to host meeting with DPA holdouts

(*AlRai AlAam*) The Government of N. Darfur says it is fully prepared to host a conference of leaders of the Darfur Peace Agreement holdout groups in any part of the state.

State governor Kibir told reporters yesterday that the state is prepared to facilitate and make available all possible guarantees for the success of such a meeting.

SLA threatens a return to the war path

(*Alwan*) Some key SLA figures confirm that the SLA has presented a memorandum to its leader, Minnawi, protesting the deteriorating conditions in their military camps and their displeasure over the lack of implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement.

They say their memorandum to Minnawi carries their vows to return to war but, they add, they have noticed that the SLM leader has been coming up with weak excuses over the implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement.

They say they have also called upon SLM politicians based in Khartoum to return to the SLM bases in North Darfur.

A spokesperson for the movement has blamed however the National Congress Party for the deteriorating situation within the SLM.

Spokesperson Seif-el-deen Saleh Haroun says the National Congress Party is trying to cause dissention within the ranks of the SLM/A and has urged SLM/A members to unite against these attempts at crippling the movement.

- ❖ *AlHayat reports that local authorities in South Darfur are leading efforts to calm down conflict and reconcile between the Fallata and Habbaniya tribesmen and between other tribes in the area.*
- ❖ *AlHayat reports that the Government of N. Darfur has facilitated the return of 900 IDPs from camps in Khartoum back to their villages in Kabkabiya as part of its programme on voluntary returns.*

Other Developments

Sudan journalists protest detention of colleague at Guantanamo

(*AP/ST*) Television stations in Sudan turned black for three minutes on Sunday to protest the detention of a Sudanese cameraman held in U.S. custody at the Guantanamo Bay prison for more than five years.

A cameraman for the pan-Arab TV channel Al-Jazeera, Sami al-Hajj was arrested in Afghanistan in 2001 and is detained at the Guantanamo Bay military prison in southern

Cuba and, like several hundred other men held at Guantanamo on allegations they have links to international terrorism, al-Hajj has not been tried.

Sudan's state television and the private Blue Nile Satellite TV suspended broadcasting for three minutes at 10 p.m. local time (1900GMT) in a sign of solidarity with al-Hajj, the spokesman said.