

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS****Media Monitoring Report, 31 January 08**

(By Public Information Office)

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**IN THE NEWS TODAY:****➤ UN/ Agencies**

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- UN to reinforce its presence at north-south border areas (AlRai AlAam)
- Rebels say UN refusing to return them to Darfur (ST)
- Clooney to attend UN briefing on Darfur peacekeeping (ST)

**GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)**

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- Sudanese-British agreement on overcoming the issue of the hybrid (AlSudani)
- Federalism failed in the Sudan – Governor of Southern Blue Nile Agar (Khartoum Monitor)
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**➤ Darfur**

- **BREAKING NEWS:** China issues a warning to Sudan over Darfur crisis (ST)
- Ambassador Abdel-Halim on Sudanese-Chadian relations (SUNA)
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➤ Miscellaneous

- Uganda peace talks resume in Sudan with US, EU participation (ST)

## Highlights

### UN/ Agencies

#### **Secretary-General, Sudan agree to speed up deployment of peacekeeping force (UN)**

30 January 2008 – Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir have agreed on the need to accelerate the deployment of the hybrid United Nations-African Union peacekeeping mission (UNAMID) to the war-wracked Darfur region and to finalize the status-of-forces agreement for the new missions.

During a 90-minute meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where Mr. Ban will address the AU summit tomorrow, Mr. Ban and Mr. al-Bashir discussed the situation in Darfur, where UNAMID is trying to quell deadly violence and human rights violations and bring a measure of stability.

UNAMID took over from an earlier AU mission to Darfur and at full deployment it is expected to have about 26,000 troops and police officers.

Mr. Ban stressed to the Sudanese President the importance of engaging with all the parties in Darfur, where at least 200,000 people have been killed since 2003 and 2.2 million others have been displaced from their homes because of fighting between rebels, Government forces and allied militia groups known as the Janjaweed. He also urged Mr. al-Bashir to move forward on the implementation of the commitments contained in the comprehensive peace agreement (CPA), a 2005 pact ending the separate civil war between northern and southern Sudan.

Earlier, the Secretary-General held a working lunch with AU Chairperson Alpha Oumar Konaré in which they discussed the situation in Darfur and the need to make progress on the dialogue between the various parties in the arid and impoverished region.

The two men also talked about the latest developments between Sudan and its neighbour Chad and on the most recent progress with the CPA.

Later today, Mr. Ban was due to meet separately with three African presidents: John Kufour of Ghana, Omar Bongo of Gabon and Yoweri Museveni of Uganda.

In a related development, this week Mr. Ban has sent a letter to the President of the Security Council to inform him that he has appointed Patrick Schneider of Germany to serve on the Panel of Experts that helps to monitor Darfur sanctions.

Mr. Schneider's appointment, through 15 October this year, places the Panel at its full strength of five members.

### **President Al-Bashir meets Ki-moon in Addis Ababa (SUNA)**

Addis Ababa, Jan. 30 (SUNA) - The government of Sudan and the United Nations have agreed on speeding up deployment of the hybrid operation in Darfur and work to facilitate steps of its implementation. United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon pledged when he was received by President of the Republic Field Marshal Omer Al-Bashir at his residence in Addis Ababa Wednesday to provide the logistic facilities with the international community, which, he said, accords great concern to this issue. Ki-moon said to journalists following the meeting which was attended by senior aides and advisers from the two sides that the hybrid operation was the subject of talks between the two sides during the previous technical meetings, adding that agreement was reached during his meeting with President Al-Bashir to complete the operation soonest. Responding to questions by journalists, Ki-moon affirmed that the United Nations also accords concern to the political process in Darfur, in which his special envoy Jan Eliasson and the African Union envoy Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim exert continuous efforts with Darfur movements that did not sign Abuja agreement, pointing out that there is an encouraging trend by the movements to agree on a common vision. The Secretary General of the United Nations expressed his pleasure over the return of the ministers of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement to assume their posts in the Government of National Unity, affirming that progress in implementation of the Naivasha agreement and the peaceful process with the movements in Darfur would boost deployment of the hybrid operation. Ki-moon pointed out that there is also efforts for rehabilitation and development in Darfur. Meanwhile, Sudan Permanent Envoy to the United Nations Ambassador Abdel-Mahmoud Abdel-Halim described in a statement to SUNA the meeting between Al-Bashir and Ki-moon as fruitful and constructive and tackled all issues regarding the hybrid operation and the peace process in the country. BT/BT

### **Al Bashir, Ki-moon, Konare to meet today in Addis (AlKhartoum)**

The UNSG Ban Ki-moon told the media following a meeting yesterday with al Bashir, that the meeting focused on the hybrid operation in Darfur. Al Bashir, UNSG and Konare will hold a meeting today at the sidelines of the African Summit in Addis.

### **UN to reinforce its presence at north-south border areas (AlRai AlAam)**

The UNSG Under-Secretary General for Peacekeeping Operations said the UN is considering reinforcing its presence along the borders between north and south Sudan to defuse tensions.

## **Rebels say UN refusing to return them to Darfur (ST)**

## **Clooney to attend UN briefing on Darfur peacekeeping (AFP, ST)**

Oscar-winning US actor George Clooney, a newly-appointed Messenger of Peace of the United Nations, is to attend a briefing here Thursday on UN peacekeeping missions, including in strife-torn Darfur, a UN statement said Wednesday.

The Hollywood heartthrob, who will be accompanied by his parents, Nina and Nick Clooney, is to speak at a meeting of countries contributing troops to UN peacekeeping operations around the world, it added.

Clooney, whom UN chief Ban Ki-moon appointed Messenger of Peace of the world body 12 days ago, will hear a briefing from UN Assistant Secretary General for field support Jane Holl Lute on start-up operations of the joint UN-African Union force in Darfur (UNAMID) as the UN mission in Chad/Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

During his visit to UN headquarters, the US actor is also to give a press conference from 11:00 am (1600 GMT) during which he was to share his impressions of his recent tour of Darfur, Chad and DRC where he accompanied Lute on her recent technical mission.

Clooney, a passionate advocate for an end to war and famine in Sudan's Darfur region, was chosen as peace messenger in recognition for his tireless efforts to focus public attention on key international political and social issues.

Clooney joins eight other internationally renowned individuals chosen to campaign for the UN drive to improve the lives of billions of people around the world.

Other UN peace messengers are Nobel Peace Prize winner and Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel, Chinese-American cellist Yo-Yo Ma, Oscar-winning US actor Michael Douglas, British primatologist Jane Goodall, Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein of Jordan, Israeli conductor Daniel Barenboim, Brazilian writer Paulo Coelho and Japanese violinist Midori Goto.

## **GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)**

## **Cash shortage threatens Sudan's census (ST)**

## **Sudanese-British agreement on overcoming the issue of the hybrid (AlSudani)**

Sudan and Britain agreed to discuss obstacles facing the hybrid operation in Darfur before approaching the Security Council and the UN. The Head of the European Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Khidir Haroun, said following a meeting yesterday between the state Minister for Foreign Affairs al Samani al Wasila and the FCO Minister for African Affairs Lord Moloch Brown, that

it has been agreed that Sudan and the UK discuss obstacles facing the hybrid before approaching the Security Council and the UN.

### **Federalism failed in the Sudan – Governor of Southern Blue Nile Agar (Khartoum Monitor)**

The charismatic Governor of Southern Blue Nile, Malik Agar, who recently raised eyebrows for his proposal for effective confederation in Sudan, said federalism has failed in the country. Agar cited the disastrous implementation of federalism both in the south and the north that never worked. Agar defended his co federalism theory he proposed as the best solution to solve ever growing marginalization in the country.

### **Sudan's victory is inspired by Iran's revolution - speaker (ST)**

### **Darfur former rebel leader visits Chad to defuse tension (ST)**

January 30, 2008 (KHARTOUM) – A Darfur former rebel leader who signed Abuja peace deal is expected to fly tomorrow to the Chadian capital in a bid to defuse the tension between the two countries.

Yesterday Chad renewed accusation to Sudan of supporting rebels saying Khartoum had ordered the Darfur based Chadian rebels to cross the border and attack government forces in order to topple Deby regime.

Senior Presidential Assistant, Minni Arko Menawi will travel on Thursday to N'djamena on a two-day visit seeking to use his relations with the Chadian president to ease the current tension between the two neighboring countries.

"Relations between Sudan and Chad must return to normal because of the neighbourliness and social link," said Menawi today.

He further said he would discuss with Chadian President Idris Deby the relations between the two countries because they are associated with the efforts of resolving Darfur issue, hoping that the efforts will succeed to serve the interests of the two countries.

Following a meeting with the French Ambassador to Sudan, Christine Robichon, the Sudanese official also expressed appreciation to France's efforts to defuse tension and normalise relations between the Sudan and Chad.

The Chadian minister of Interior Ahmat Mahamat Bachir said N'djamena would not discuss with Sudanese president Al-Bashir "because he just speaks but does not implement what he says."

These accusations could complicate the task of the former rebel leader who was a close ally to the Chadian president.

On 27 January, the Libyan leader Muammar Gadhafi, tried with the Egyptian and the Eritrean presidents in a meeting held in Tripoli to reconcile the two presidents but their efforts have failed.

Sudan says Chad didn't implement Tripoli agreement signed in February 2006 and asks Chad to provide troops for the agreed joint patrols to monitor the border.

Earlier in January, AU-UN joint envoy for Darfur expressed concern over the growing tension between Sudan and Chad saying it could affect the displaced, refugees in the region and the deployment of the hybrid peacekeeping force.

Rodolphe Adada said that IDPs and refugees would be the first victims of the ongoing tension between Sudan and the neighbouring Chad; where there are around 230 000 Sudanese refugees settled in 12 camps along the 700 kilometre border with the Sudan.

(ST)

## **GoSS**

### **Mayardit tells Upper Nilers to respect democratic choice (vote of no-confidence against the Assembly Speaker) – (Sudan Tribune)**

President of the GoSs and FVP, Gen. Salva Kiir has asked the Governor of Upper Nile State and its Cabinet to respect the people's democratic will they expressed against the Speaker. The Upper Nile Legislative Assembly on Monday impeached in a meeting attended by two-third of its members of Parliament Charles Yot Odhok, Speaker with a majority vote of no-confidence.

### **Uganda, rebels extend ceasefire in Juba (The Citizen)**

The Government of Uganda and the LRA Wednesday signed an extension of the ceasefire agreement that was due to expire at the end of this month. The signing of the agreement was witnessed by Chief mediator of the Uganda peace talks Dr. Riek Machar.

"The agreement is hereby extended to 29<sup>th</sup> February 2008", reads a communiqué issued out after the signing of the agreement.

### **South Sudan army Kill cattle rescuing men – Victim (ST)**

## **Darfur**

### **BREAKING NEWS: China issues a warning to Sudan over Darfur crisis (ST)**

### **Ambassador Abdel-Halim on Sudanese-Chadian relations (SUNA)**

Addis Ababa, Jan. 30 (SUNA) - Sudan Permanent Envoy to the United Nations Ambassador Abdel-Mahmoud Abdel-Halim has affirmed that Sudan would continue to adhere to the method of dialogue and importance of commitment to implementation of the signed agreements between Sudan and Chad, top of them Tripoli and Riyadh agreements. Responding to a question by SUNA on the negative developments in the Sudanese-Chadian relations, Ambassador Abdel-Halim added that dialogue is the sole option as the peoples of the two countries constitute a one family. He affirmed that at the same time sisterly Chad should stick to good neighbourliness and stop its aggressions on Sudan. He pointed out that President Al-Bashir's participation in the mini African summit, which was held recently in Tripoli, proves Sudan's intention to improve its relations with Chad. BT/BT

**Chadian rebels claim capture of key village (ST)**

**Miscellaneous**

**Uganda peace talks resume in Sudan with US, EU participation (ST)**