



## UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN UNMIS

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(By Public Information Office)

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## **HIGHLIGHTS :**

### **UN/ Agencies**

#### **UN refugee agency appeals for \$19.7m**

(AP; *UNHCR/ST*) The U.N.'s High Commission for Refugees appealed Tuesday for US\$19.7 million more to help millions displaced by the "continuing state of emergency" in Darfur.

The additional money would cover most of the UNHCR's costs for 2007 in Darfur, said Annette Rehrl, UNHCR spokeswoman for Sudan.

Violence is spreading throughout the region, and the UNCHR says it helps more than 200,000 Darfur refugees in neighbouring Chad.

Meanwhile, the agency says it also provides relief to 20,000 Chadians who recently fled attacks by Arab militias and now live in Darfur.

On the other hand, more than 100,000 refugees have returned to southern Sudan since the launch of a voluntary repatriation programme two years ago, including some 30,000 with the help of UNHCR.

The milestone was passed at the weekend with a flight from the Central African Republic to the southern Sudan town of Juba and a road convoy from Kakuma refugee camp in north-west Kenya to Kapoeta in Sudan's Eastern Equatoria state.

These brought the total number of returns to South Sudan from seven neighbouring countries to 100,574 since January 2005. More than 30,000 were helped by the UN refugee agency, including the latest returnees.

"This just shows that despite the volatile security situation, which still remains a huge concern in South Sudan, people are very determined to come back and rebuild their country," said Chrysantus Ache, UNHCR representative in Khartoum. "They have been in exile for so many years, sometimes for two decades, and they are longing to come back."

More than 100,000 Sudanese refugees are expected to return home from this year. But this depends on an improved security situation, progress in peace talks between the Lord's Resistance Army and the government of Uganda, which hosts the largest

Sudanese refugee population (156,000), and unforeseen events that can affect returns such as a recent meningitis outbreak in northern Uganda. Movements from northern Uganda have been suspended for several weeks pending the vaccination of potential returnees.

UNHCR has held a series of cross-border meetings with neighbouring countries to firm up repatriation plans for 2007. This includes establishing new calendars for resumed operations from areas such as north-eastern DRC and opening new return routes such as the Dimma/Gambella (Ethiopia) to Pagak corridor in Upper Nile.

Repatriation from Ethiopia will be discussed further at meetings on Thursday and Friday in Addis Ababa between UNHCR and the governments of Ethiopia and Sudan. An estimated 340,000 Sudanese refugees remain in exile, mainly in Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia.

*\* Click on the below links for the above stories sourced from the SudanTribune.com*  
[UN refugee agency appeals for \\$19.7m in Darfur aid](#)  
[100, 000 refugees return to southern Sudan](#)

### **UNICEF launches appeal**

*(AlAyaam)* UNICEF has launched an appeal for \$635 million for 2007.

The organisation says \$121 million of this amount will go to the UNICEF's Sudan plan where, it says 4 million people including 1 million children are affected by the war in Darfur and 2.5 million, half of them children, have been forced into displacement.

### **Some foreign agencies are a security threat, says head of parliamentary fact-finding team on Darfur**

*(AlSahafa)* At a press conference yesterday, Mjr. Gen. Jalal Tawer said\* that some aid agencies operating in Darfur are a "security threat".

Tawer who heads a parliamentary fact-finding team on Darfur, pointed out that some of these agencies operating in W. Darfur do not adhere to the instructions from state security organs and the regional government and cross the border to and from Chad without papers. This, he says, makes of them a security threat in the W. Darfur.

The fact-finding committee has on the other hand renewed its calls for a review of the AMIS's role in Darfur and pointed out that the mandate of its troops needs to be expanded to allow them to intervene to protect civilians in Darfur as requested by AU officials they met in Darfur.

Mjr. Gen. Jalal Tawer who heads the committee told a press conference yesterday that there is a new wave of displacement around el-Geneina following tensions in the Sirba area.

He also said that the IDPs have expressed wishes to return to their homes but say they will do so only when security is guaranteed.

### **ICRC warns of shortage in food supply in Gereida camp**

(*AlHayat*) The ICRC has warned of a shortage in food supplies at the Gereida camp raising concerns from camp residents that current stores may barely be enough for two weeks.

In a statement issued recently, the ICRC attributes this to the unstable situation in the urban and rural areas, obstruction of aid agencies, restriction of movement and minimal use of basic medical services.

### **France responds to NGO's withdrawal from Sudan**

(*AFP via BBC Monitoring, 30 Jan.*) France regrets "the spread of violence and crime" against NGOs in Darfur, the Foreign Ministry said today, Tuesday, the day after Medecins du Monde-France announced it was suspending its activities in this area of Sudan.

"We note that NGOs are facing a spread of violence and crime and that more and more frequently they are becoming direct targets," ministry spokesman Jean-Baptiste Mattei told the press.

"We believe that this violence is unacceptable. It compromises the provision of humanitarian aid on which the bulk of the population of Darfur depends in camps for displaced persons and the most far-flung places," the spokesman added, hailing the "entirely unique work" of humanitarian staff in Darfur.

Mr Mattei called for a "hybrid force" to be situated in Darfur, bringing together elements of the African Union and the UN, and for an "international force" to be deployed on the border with Chad and the Central African Republic.

### **UN assessment mission travels to the CAR**

(*AlSahafa*) A UN mission to assess possibilities for the deployment of a UN force between Sudan's borders with Chad and the CAR is in the CAR capital for a second time.

A source at the UN offices in the CAR told the *AFP* that the mission would focus on assessing the situation the north-eastern part of the CAR

## **The Transition Debate**

### **UN's Ban says delays on Darfur force unacceptable**

(*Reuters/ST; the local press*) U.N. chief Ban Ki-moon said on Tuesday unacceptable delays were preventing help reaching millions of victims of Darfur's bloodshed, but negotiations on deploying U.N. peacekeepers were making only slow progress.

"No more time can be lost. The people of Darfur have waited far too long," Ban said. "This is just unacceptable."

Ban met Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir on the sidelines of an African summit on Monday but failed to get approval for details of the deployment of 3,000 U.N. personnel to support a struggling African Union mission in Darfur.

"I hope and look forward to a positive response from President Bashir," Ban told reporters on Tuesday. "While the progress may be slow we are moving on two tracks, a political process track as well as a peacekeeping process track."

U.N. peacekeeping chief Jean-Marie Guehenno said the Sudanese had not yet agreed to the U.N. support package for the 7,500-strong AU mission, let alone the joint force former U.N. chief Kofi Annan proposed last year.

"The Sudanese government didn't balk at the proposal but there was no agreement," he said. "The devil is in the details."

Ban gave Bashir a letter on January 24 detailing a U.N. support package, called the second phase, which would include more than 2,200 soldiers, 75 civilians, 300 security forces and 600-700 police as well as six light tactical helicopters to move troops quickly when attacks are reported, Guehenno said.

"It's very important to have military helicopters which fly come hell or high water," he said, adding any force in Darfur — the size of France — had to be mobile to respond to attacks.

Two sources in the Sudanese delegation to the summit said there were "serious reservations" about the package. Sudan rejects deploying significant numbers of U.N. peacekeepers to Darfur.

Critics say Bashir fears U.N. troops would arrest any officials likely to be indicted by the ICC for alleged war crimes. The ICC has said it would present its first Darfur case in February.

### **UN chief, Sudanese leader to "speed up" joint efforts to resolve Darfur crisis**

*(AlMashaheer via BBC Monitoring, 30 Jan.)* UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon on Monday [29 January] in Addis Ababa urged Sudanese President Umar Al-Bashir to cooperate with the UN and the AU in Darfur, where a civil war is currently taking place.

In a press statement after his meeting with Al-Bashir, which lasted approximately one hour and half, Ban Ki-Moon said: "We agreed to speed up joint UN and AU efforts with regard to the political process and cooperation with the AU peacekeeping mission in Darfur".

Ban said the Sudanese president "had reiterated his firm commitment to implement [all] agreements", especially the Abuja Peace Agreement signed in May 2006, which remains ink on paper.

Ban said the Sudanese president had agreed that UN and AU envoys should go to Darfur, western Sudan and Khartoum in the coming weeks and had also invited him [Ban Ki-Moon] to visit Sudan on an unspecified date.

At the same time, Ban Ki-Moon voiced his deep concern over the escalating violence in Darfur and the deterioration of the human rights situation there. He said that Al-Bashir had agreed to facilitate humanitarian operations in the region.

He pointed out that on 24 January 2007 he had sent a letter to Khartoum suggesting to deploy more than 2300 UN civilians and military officers in preparation for a joint UN-AU joint force needed to replace the AU mission, which lacks equipment and funding.

Answering to a question on whether a joint UN-AU force would be deployed during the year, head of UN peacekeeping operations Jean-Marie Guehenno, who was accompanying Ban Ki-Moon, said: "At the moment, I cannot specify a date".

The Darfur civil war started in February 2003 and experts estimate that 200,000 people have been killed and 2.5 million forced from their homes.

### **China hopes for consensus on Darfur issue - spokesperson**

*(Xinhua via BBC Monitoring 30 Jan.)* Replying to a question raised by a reporter on 30 January on Sudan's Darfur issue, China's Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Jiang Yu said that the Chinese side hopes various parties would seize opportunities, maintain the dialogue momentum, and reach consensus on an early and proper resolution of the Darfur issue.

Jiang Yu said the Chinese government is always concerned about the Darfur issue, and hopes this issue can, through political talks, find a proper resolution on the basis of taking into consideration various parties' interests. The Chinese side holds that the UN Security Council should adopt a resolution as soon as possible to authorize the UN to provide funds for the African Union troops.

She said: "The Chinese government will continue to play a constructive role on the Darfur issue."

### **Egypt ready to take part in international, African support package for Sudan**

*(MENA via BBC Monitoring 30 Jan.)* Addis Ababa, 30 January: - Egypt's foreign minister, Ahmad Abu-al-Ghayt, Tuesday [30 January] said Egypt has informed the African Commission of its readiness to take part in the African and international support package for Sudan within the framework of promoting African peacekeeping troops.

In statements to the press, Abu-al-Ghayt said Egypt informed the UN of its intentions in this respect, pointing out to an agreement reached last year between the African Commission, Sudan and the UN on an African and international support package on boosting the peacekeeping troops in Darfur.

## **CPA**

### **River transport workers threaten to suspend operations on the Kosti-Juba route**

(*AlSahafa*) Citing insecurity concerns, the General Union of River Transport Workers issued a statement yesterday has granted the competent authorities one week to resolve issues along the Kosti-Juba route or else it will suspend operations.

The fraternity says in its statement that insecurity matters have become more serious with the recent spate of looting, harassment and attacks on the river barges by armed groups donning SPLA uniforms.

They have threatened to suspend operations for five days if these issues are not resolved by 5 February.

### **Deputy Speaker accuses the NCP of using the CPA against the SPLM**

(*AlAdhwa*) The Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly has accused the National Congress Party of using the CPA as a tool against the SPLM and politicizing the administrative and executive organs of government.

Deputy Speaker Atim Garang said while addressing a group of SPLM supporters at the SPLM's Secretariat for Youths and Students that the SPLM has a more nationalist vision than the other political forces in the country.

On the Abyei issue, he said that the Dinka and the Misseriya will co-exist in peace. He pointed out that the Abyei question is an age-old problem and added that Sadiq el-Mahdi, during his tenure in government, backed the Misseriya against their Dinka neighbours.

On Yassir Erman, he rebuffed reports that Yassir has been stripped of SPLM membership and pointed out that Mr. Erman is among the founders of the movement. He further assured that Erman has travelled to follow up on his higher education and will soon return and hold a press conference.

## **GoNU**

### **Interior Minister says Africa has failed to live up to its promises on the AU presidency**

(*AlSahafa; AlAyaam*) The Sudan delegation to the African Union summit meeting returned yesterday before the closing session of the Addis meet.

Speaking to the press in Khartoum, foreign minister Lam Akol said the talks were a success and that it was wrong to describe the fact that the Sudan did not gain the AU presidency as a diplomatic failure.

Of the major gains, the minister pointed out that during his meeting with the UN Secretary-General, President Bashir did request the UN to issue a new resolution to support the African Union in Darfur and affirmed Sudan's commitments to all resolutions issued by the African Union Peace & Security Council.

The foreign minister pointed out that the Sudan had enough legal grounds to claim the African Union presidency but relinquished the position for a greater purpose which is for the sake of African unity. He further pointed out that this decision by Sudan to relinquish the position helps preserve the opportunity for an east African chairmanship of the regional body next year.

He also rebuffed reports of growing tension with Libya.

But Sudan's interior minister, lamenting the loss of the bid for presidency, told the BBC that the development was a sad phenomenon because the African Union had not to renege on its pledges to grant the chair to Sudan, reports *AlAyaam* daily.

The minister described this as another example of how the political leadership in Africa is being pegged on the “neo-imperialists and neo-colonialists”. He said however that the Sudan was not surprised by the African Union decision.

### **Sudan's Eastern Front reportedly allowed to engage in political activities**

(*Akhir Lahzah via BBC Monitoring, 30 Jan.*) The Registrar of Political Parties and Organizations, Muhammad Ahmad Salim, has issued a certificate to the Eastern Front [the Front was created in 2005 by the Rashaidah Arabs and the region's largest ethnic group, the Beja, after 11 years of low-level insurgency against the Khartoum government] allowing it to practice political activities, as of yesterday, in accordance with clause 21-A of the 2001 political organizations and parties law.

### **Southern Sudan/ GoSS**

#### **SPLM advised to hold meeting on internal differences including the \$60 mln. issue**

(*Akhbar Alyaum; AlRai AlAam*) In a statement issued yesterday, SPLM Secretary-General Pagan Amum strongly responded to former SPLM finance secretary and GoSS finance minister to publicise the documents he claims to be in his possession that show that high rank figures in the SPLM and the GoSS are aware of what became of the \$60 million handed to the SPLM by the then GoS.

In his statement, Amum gave details of how the SPLM leadership, after much discussion, managed to pressure finance secretary Arthur Akouein to hand over the balance of \$30



million dollars which he had deposited to the SPLM bank account in Kenya which he still controlled and to close that account and deposit the sum to the movement's account at Nile Commercial Bank in Juba.

The former finance secretary had then promised to clear the growing suspicion over the credibility of the SPLM leadership starting by briefing the SPLM parliamentary bloc at the GoSS of what had become of the amount of \$60 million that President Bashir said had been given to the GoSS. He then failed to appear in that session which was scheduled for 13 January 2007.

He challenged Akouein to produce the documents that he said supported his statements.

On the other hand, *AIRai AlAam* reports that influential southern Sudanese figures have called upon Vice-President Salva Kiir to call for a meeting of SPLM and SPLA leaders and of the party's politburo to end the argument over the issue of the \$60 million so as to end the trade in accusations within the party's leadership.

Sources say that Juba was the scene of a heated meeting between Kiir and a select group of key SPLM figures who criticised the manner in which the head of the GoSS runs the affairs of the SPLM and the GoSS. They called upon their leader to show more strength towards what they described as "waywardness of some leaders" and their trade in accusations through the media.

These select SPLM figures pointed out that corruption within the GoSS does not exceed 1% but is depicted as being at 100% due to the exchange of accusations by leading SPLM figures.

They also pointed out that this has also caused grumbling within the ranks of the SPLA.

The SPLM leader promised to take those views into consideration and pointed out that he had opted not to intervene because some enemies may use his intervention to further push home the theory of "Garang's boys ... Salva Kiir's boys".

### **Machar says LRA is not causing atrocities**

*(The Citizen)* GoS Vice-President, Riek Machar, says the atrocities taking place in Eastern Equatoria and near Juba of late were committed by Sudanese and Ugandan criminal elements.

He cleared Lord's Resistance Army of blame for attacks on highways in southern Sudan.

### **Darfur/ DPA**

#### **SPLM, NRF to hold Darfur common ground meeting in S. Sudan**

(*SudanTribune* - 30 Jan. **London**) The Sudan people's Liberation Movement and the National Redemption Front have agreed to hold a meeting in southern Sudan in a bid to find a common ground between Darfur forces to negotiate with Khartoum.

In a meeting held in London between the SPLM Acting Deputy Secretary General, Yasir Arman, and the NRF spokesperson, Ahmed Hussein Adam, it was agreed to accelerate preparations for the hold of a meeting in Southern Sudan Yei town with the participation of the SPLM chairman Salva Kiir Mayadrit in the near future.

The objective of Finding Common Ground meeting is to demonstrate that Darfur rebel groups can reach agreement on common political objectives and elaborate on the topics that need attention during the coming talks with Khartoum.

### **Darfur rebels says Sudanese army attacks and bombs villages**

(*SudanTribune.com* – 30 Jan. **Jebel Marra**) Sudanese troops has carried out today a ground and air attack against Villages in Jebel Marra in South Darfur state, a Darfur rebel group said

The Sudan Liberation Movement faction led by Ahmed Abdelshafei said Tuesday that the Sudanese army troops and military airplanes attacked villages in Eastern Jebel Marra and Rokiro area.

The spokesperson of the SLM/A group, Jaffer Monro, said the SLA forces repelled the assailant troops "Our troops (SLA) repulsed the GoS troops as the protection of the people of Darfur is our sole duty."

Menro denounced the silence of the international community over the organized killing of the civilians in western Sudan. He urged pressure on Khartoum to abide by the ceasefire agreement signed in the Chadian capital in April 2004.

*\* Refer to the SLM-AbdelShafei statement in separate attachment*

### **Chad says world has "head in sand" on Darfur**

(*Reuters/ST* – 30 Jan. **Akar**) Chad President Idriss Deby accused Sudan on Tuesday of waging a genocidal "racial war" in Darfur and complained that African and international leaders were shying away from confronting Khartoum squarely on the issue.

In an interview with RFI French radio, Deby criticised what he called the world's "head in the sand" attitude over Sudan's actions in its Darfur region, where tens of thousands of people have been killed in ethnic and political conflict since 2003.

He welcomed the decision by African Union leaders on Monday to withhold the AU chairmanship from Sudan because of the international outcry over the Darfur bloodshed, which Chad says is spilling over the border into its territory.

"I think (the decision) could be seen as a relief for the whole continent," Deby told Radio France Internationale (RFI).

*Click on the link below for the full text of this Reuters story sourced from the SudanTribune.com*  
[Chad says world has "head in sand" on Darfur](#)