



## UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN

## UNMIS

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(By Public Information Office)

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- Foreign minister says government to present to the United Nations its plan to improve the situation in Darfur
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- Mujahideen vow to crush international forces
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## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

### **United Nations**

#### **UNMIS says protection of civilians is the responsibility of the government**

(*Akhbar Alyaum* – 20<sup>th</sup> Jul. **Khartoum**) The United Nations says the GoSS is responsible for the protection of the civilian population in southern Sudan and preventing tribal violence.

UNMIS Spokesperson Radhia Achouri told *Akhbar Alyaum* that UNMIS' mandate as provided by UNSC Resolution 1590 does not allow it to intervene militarily to stop tribal violence.

She pointed out that security and the protection of civilians in southern Sudan is the responsibility of the GoSS.

She further explained that the Chapter VII referral in the UNSC resolution is conditional and in the event that civilians are directly subjected to violence.

On the other hand, UNMIS has denied recent reports that the Sudan government has barred humanitarian coordinator Jan Egeland from visiting Darfur.

Achouri said that Mr. Egeland has not requested such a visit.

UNMIS has also welcomed the start of the second round of talks between the Sudan government and the Eastern Front in Asmara and described it as an advanced step towards a final solution to the crisis in eastern Sudan.

#### **United Nations doctors provide free medical services in Sudan**

(*Sudan Tribune* – 20<sup>th</sup> Jul. **Khartoum**) A team of doctors from UNMIS has this week conducted eye examinations and provided free medical advice and medicines to more than 250 patients in ed-Damzaine, Blue Nile State.

Two eye specialists and one general surgeon from UNMIS' Pakistani Hospital in Ed-Damazine have set up a medical camp for the public at Al-Da'wa el-Islamia School as part of a continuing program for community services there.

This was the fourth in a series of Eye Camps conducted by UNMIS in the Ed-Damazine sector during which 10 major eye surgeries were also performed without charge by the doctors from the Pakistani contingent of the UNMIS military.

“As much as we are proud of performing our mandated tasks and functions in monitoring and helping in the implementation of the CPA, we are also delighted to be able to engage in such community service projects and programs that bring to people some direct dividends of peace,” said Lt. Gen. Jasbir Lidder, the UNMIS Force Commander.

Lidder explained that each one of the seven UNMIS contingents has been carrying out different outreach programs within their sectors that are designed to have immediate impact on the society and to benefit the neediest segments of the population.

These projects include the renovation of an orphanage and opening of emergency clinics in Juba and Malakal after those areas were plagued by a cholera epidemic.

### **Foreign minister says government to present to the United Nations its plan to improve the situation in Darfur**

(*AlAyaam* – 20<sup>th</sup> Jul. **Khartoum**) The Minister of Foreign Affairs says the Sudan government will present to the United Nations early next month its plan to improve the situation in Darfur.

The foreign minister who is just back from Brussels where he attended a donors' conference said that dialogue still continues between the government and the international community especially with regards the implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement.

He said donors have pledged more than 200 million US dollars and said he believes this money will be enough to cover the needs of the AMIS for until beyond 30<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Government denies having changed its position with regards international forces**

(*AlRai AlAam* – 20<sup>th</sup> Jul. **Khartoum**) Sudan's Ambassador to Holland says the Sudanese government still sticks to its position against the deployment of international troops to Darfur.

Ambassador AbdelGassim AbdulWahid was commenting on recent statements attributed to the Dutch Minister for International Cooperation in which she was quoted as saying that there is some flexibility in the government position on the issue.

The ambassador said however that dialogue continues between the government and the international community on these issues.

### **Mujahideen vow to crush international forces**

(*AlIntibaha* – 20<sup>th</sup> Jul. **Wad Medani**) The Coordinator-General of the Popular Defence Forces says the PDF will convene its bi-annual conference in Wad Medani, Gezira State, next Saturday.

Kamal-el-deen Ibrahim said that the bi-annual conference will also see 5,000 *Mujahideen* give a “pledge of allegiance to the death” to President Bashir in rejecting the deployment of international forces to Darfur.

He pointed out that the President's vows to lead the opposition against international forces was a warning to those who think that the days of *Jihad* are over.

Coordinator-General Ibrahim further disclosed that Gezira State has prepared 140 PDF divisions, Special Forces and *Dabbabeen* to crush out the international forces should they set foot in Darfur.

“The *Dabbabeen* and *Mujahidden* will sever the limbs and behead all these conspirators”, he vowed.

### **United Nations aircraft gone commercial, says deputy Secretary-General of aviation chamber**

(*AlWatan* – 20<sup>th</sup> Jul. **Khartoum**) The Deputy Secretary-General of the Aviation Chamber says United Nations aircraft that are originally not supposed to carry passengers have been noticed carrying passengers for a fee.

Omar Ali AbdelMajid said that United Nations aircraft have been granted many privileges including exemptions from airport, landing and takeoff fees and pointed out that United Nations air operations run by aircraft leased from foreign companies reflect negatively on the aviation industry in Sudan and allows these foreign airlines to compete over internal and foreign air routes under cover of the United Nations.

He said that the chamber has filed protests with copies to the Civil Aviation Authority, the Office of the SRSG (6 months ago according to the paper) through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to the National Assembly and to the ministries of humanitarian affairs and labour but have received no response to date.

## **CPA**

### **Government of Unity State hires river barge for returnees**

(*AlAyaam* – 20<sup>th</sup> Jul.) The Government of Unity State has admitted there are real difficulties faced in returns of IDPs from Khartoum back home to Unity State.

The state's official spokesperson and information and communications minister, James Lele Koual, said that IDPs hailing from Unity State number to about 13,000 of which only 5,000 have been returned.

The spokesperson said that lack of appropriate means of transporting these returnees compounded by the rainy season are the main challenges facing returns to Unity State.

He said that Unity State has decided to hire a barge to transport some 2,000 IDPs from Fanjak and that the first batch of 700 returnees (of the 2,000) will be ferried across next week.

He said that the state government has also bought 40 farm machinery to assist in farming in a bid to contribute to stability of the population.

## **GoNU**

### **Vice-President Salva Kiir asks President Bush not to escalate the issue of international forces**

(*AlRai AlAam* – 20<sup>th</sup> Jul. **Washington**) An SPLM source in Khartoum says Vice-President Kiir who is currently on a one-week visit to the US carries along a letter from President Bashir clearly underlining Sudan's opposition to any international military presence in Darfur.

V-P Kiir is due to hold talks in Washington with President Bush later today.

The source said that the Vice-President will be briefing the US Administration of the SPLM position in support of the deployment of international forces to Darfur but will also stress the need for the consent of their GoNU partners.

The V-P will also brief the US Administration of the risks to the Darfur Peace Agreement and the CPA in the event the international community should opt for a Chapter VII deployment of a United Nations force.

A statement issued by the White House yesterday said that the US Administration welcomes Kiir's visit and that the two leaders will hold talks on the implementation of the CPA, the GoNU, the GoSS, Darfur and the deployment of United Nations troops to Darfur.

### **Police chief to present report next Saturday before Khartoum Legislative Assembly on the role of the police**

(*AlAyaam* – 20<sup>th</sup> Jul. **Khartoum**) The Director-General of Police will present a report next Saturday before the Khartoum State Legislative Assembly on the powers of the police force.

The report comes in response to a query by a member who claimed the police employed excessive use of force in its round-up of peddlers in central Khartoum, its roadblocks and its crackdown of crime in the peripheries.

## **Southern Sudan**

### **GoSS officially inaugurates the Bank of Southern Sudan**

(*Khartoum Monitor* – 20<sup>th</sup> Jul. **Juba**) The Bank of Southern Sudan has officially opened its doors for business in Juba.

Officiating at the opening ceremony was GoSS Vice-President Dr. Riek Machar who said the BoSS would be receiving money transfers through the Central Bank of Southern Sudan and demanded that southern Sudanese banks be supervised by the BoSS instead of the Bank of Sudan.

He lamented the lack of southern Sudanese bankers and the poor banking system in southern Sudan and called upon the banks operating in southern Sudan on the Islamic banking system to readjust and adopt the conventional system which allows for interest on deposits.

### **Unity State to form commission of enquiry on recent violence**

(*AlAyaam* – 20<sup>th</sup> Jul. **Bentiu**) The Government of Unity State has formed a commission of enquiry into the recent events sparked by an argument that left 12 people killed and others injured.

The spokesperson for Unity State said that the violence was sparked when a SAF soldier on a bicycle knocked down a child and an SPLA soldier on the main road causing a fistfight between the two soldiers that later developed into more violence.

But the Office of the Spokesperson for the SAF said the violence in Rabkona was sparked by an argument between soldiers loyal to the South Sudan United Movement (SSUM) and the South Sudan Independence Movement (SSIM) militias that are both aligned to the SPLA.

## **Other Developments**

### **Council for the Defence of Religion and State to embark on “grand fury protest”**

(*AlHayat* – 20<sup>th</sup> Jul. **Khartoum**) The Popular Council for the Defence of Religion and State has announced it will be holding a “Grand Fury March of Protest” on Monday to protest Israeli attacks and atrocities on Lebanon and Palestine.

The march will start from Martyrs’ Square and move to the United Nations offices in Khartoum.

The Secretary-General of the Popular Council called upon all Arab states to stop normalization of relations with Israel and impose a comprehensive economic embargo that will include petroleum to pressure Israel to halt these actions.