



## UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN

## UNMIS

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(By Public Information Office)

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## **Highlights**

### **UN/ Agencies**

#### **Coverage on the UNMIS regular briefing to the press**

The local press has printed factual reporting on the opening remarks of the press conference.

Transcripts of UNMIS' briefings to the press could be accessed at the website: [www.unmis.org](http://www.unmis.org).

#### **UN requests clarification from foreign ministry over flight ban for non-UN staff on UN aircraft**

(*AlAyaam; Alwan; Rai AlShaab*) UNMIS has requested clarification from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs over last Tuesday's refusal by airport authorities to allow non-UN staff reporters, contractors and advisors travel to Juba on a UN flight.

Spokesperson Radhia Achouri said that they are yet to receive a response from the foreign ministry and will wait to see if this was an exceptional issue or a decision from authorities in government.

The UNMIS spokesperson further pointed out that UN aircraft have facilitated the work of government officials by flying them from Khartoum to Juba in the context of meetings of the Ceasefire Joint Monitoring Committee. She said that such flights also help transport reports "not for the purpose of tourism but to enable them see the facts on the ground".

On the other hand, foreign ministry spokesperson, Ambassador Ali el-Sadig, has denied knowledge of any such request for clarification.

Authorities at the airport in Khartoum had asked UNMIS not to carry any non-UNMIS personnel on its aircraft. Among those affected was a media delegation travelling to Juba on UNMIS's invitation.

The *Rai AlShaab* daily's lead headlines\* for today read in bold: *UN Threatens Suspension of Operations in Sudan*. The paper says in relation to the story above that the UNMIS threat is in protest over refusal by Civil Aviation authorities to allow a media delegation travel to Juba on an UNMIS flight to mark the first anniversary of the mission in Sudan.

*\* The Office of the Spokesperson of the United Nations Mission in Sudan has issued a Letter to the Editor of Rai AlShaab protesting the inaccurate report and requesting a correction. Please see separate attachment for the full text of the said Letter.*

## **Joint African Union-UN Special Representative arrives in Khartoum**

*(The local press; Alwan; AlSharei AlSiyasi; AlSudani)* The AMIS has issued a Press Release announcing the arrival today of H.E. Rodolphe Adada, the Joint Special Representative of the African Union and the UN.

AMIS says Mr. Adada will serve as the AMIS Head of Mission pending the deployment of the hybrid operation. He is expected to meet with high-level government officials in Khartoum before proceeding to Darfur on July 9.

Meanwhile, the new AMIS Force Commander who will be commanding the hybrid forces once deployed arrived in Khartoum and held talks yesterday with the Minister of Interior in the presence of high-rank police staff and Gen Mustafa el-Dabi who heads the Commission on Security Arrangements for Darfur.

The Minister of Interior briefed Gen. Martin Agwai on the reasons for the conflict in Darfur, efforts by the government to restore peace and stability in the region and the role of the police in providing security to the IDP camps, nomad migration routes, trade routes and the voluntary returns program. He also said that 20,000 policepersons are deployed in the region to preserve security.

The Minister also said that Western media is to blame for the blowing the Darfur crisis out of proportion. He said efforts are continuing to bring the non-signatory factions on board the peace process.

The Chief of Police who was also present at the meeting said the police was ready to cooperate and work together to support the peace process and efforts for stability in Darfur.

Gen. Agwai said on his part that he is here to work for peace in Sudan because through it, peace will reign in Africa.

Participants to the meeting also highlighted the need to correct the wrong information on the situation in Darfur and to reflect the positive developments taking place there so that the international community be informed on the facts on the ground.

They also discussed means to hold a workshop as soon as possible to coordinate efforts between the two sides in order to enable Sudan Police identify those areas it may benefit from in police work.

## **West Darfur launches security plan to curb hijackings of agency vehicles**

*(Rai AlShaab)* The Governor of West Darfur State has described the security situation there as relatively stable especially in some localities such as Zalengei. He added however that he does not say that the situation is 100% stable.

Speaking to the *SMC*, the governor unveiled a plan to curb the hijacking of vehicles owned by humanitarian agencies but says some of these issues will only end with the full implementation of the security arrangements.

A delegation of the TDRA has meanwhile concluded a visit to West Darfur during which talks with authorities there focused on the formation of TDRA offices.

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

#### **Karti says government committed to cooperate in the implementation of the Addis deal**

(*AlHayat*) State minister for foreign affairs, Ali Karti, says cooperation continues between the government, the UN and the African Union to implement the Addis Ababa deal and especially efforts to support the Heavy Support Package and the deployment of the Hybrid Operation in Darfur.

Karti who was receiving the Secretary-General of the OIC got assurances that the OIC was committed to meet its pledges of support to Sudan.

#### **President lashes out at some elements of the SPLM**

(*Rai AlShaab*) President Bashir has accused some “hidden elements within the SPLM” of trying to push partisan and political agendas to topple the National Congress Party.

The President was addressing a rally of workers in Khartoum yesterday on the occasion of the opening of new offices for the Federation of Workers’ Union.

He said he hoped he would be given another opportunity to respond to all those who seek to harm Sudanese workers.

### **GoSS**

#### **Tables turned as company seeks summonses for GoSS interior minister over corruption scandal**

(*The Citizen*) The AlCardinal car deal took a new turn yesterday as lawmakers turned their guns on the interior ministers of the GoNU and the GoSS.

Southern Sudanese lawmakers allege that interior minister Paul Mayom and his Khartoum colleague, state minister Alieu Ayeiny played a role in the sacking last month of police chief investigator Lt. Col. Francis Lang who was investigating how AlCardinal bought over 100 vehicles for the GoSS at the cost of \$97,000.

“It seems the cabinet is obstructing the investigations process,” said Richard Mulla, a GoSS MP for Mundri East.

## **GoSS provides 8 million dollars for the people of Abyei**

(*Sudan Tribune*) GoSS' Minister of Presidential Affairs, Dr. Luka Biong, said yesterday that the Abyei issue is one of the files that the GoNU has failed to resolve during its two years after the CPA.

He said that Dr. Riek Machar, GoSS Vice-President, told a recent meeting of the National Congress Party-SPLM joint political committee that the GoSS would provide the sum of 8 million US dollars to the Abyei people as humanitarian assistance until the two parties agree and set up a native administration in the area.

## **Southern Sudan parliament grants new ministers one month to present work plan**

(*Alwan*) The GoSS parliament meeting yesterday under the chairmanship of Deputy Speaker Tour Deng said that the recent reshuffles in the GoSS cabinet have reflected on the timetable set for ministers to come up with their reports.

Ministries not affected by the reshuffle will have to table their reports before parliament on schedule while the new ministers have been granted a month to settle in first.

## **South Sudan spends \$9.5 mln to save biggest bank**

(*SudanTribune.com*) South Sudan has spent \$9.5 million to bail out the autonomous region's biggest bank, privately owned Nile Commercial Bank Plc, after an ambitious expansion forced a restructuring.

NCB has received around 15 million Sudanese pounds (\$7.5 million) from the south's central bank and 4 million (\$2 million) from the government to save it, said NCB Operations Manager Samson Arap Ephraim.

"We lent a lot of money to the public — around 15 million Sudanese pounds — and to state government, which basically bankrupted us," said Ephraim.

He added that NCB had also incurred costs it could not afford to set up 23 branches across the south.

## **Rebecca Garang refuses to be sworn in before GoSS President Kiir on her new position**

(*Alwan*) Rebecca Garang has refused to be sworn in before President Kiir as the Presidential Advisor for Women and Gender Affairs following the cabinet reshuffle.

Sources report that Rebecca has not issued any statement on why she has refused to be sworn in but some believe it is in protest over the ouster from her Roads and Bridges portfolio.

Kiir's cabinet reshuffle has not been received well by some southern Sudanese circles because the decisions were not taken through enough consultations.

## **Uganda says setting up special courts for rebels**

*(Reuters)* Uganda said on Wednesday it will set up a special tribunal to deal with war crimes allegedly committed by northern rebels during a 20-year conflict, but that it would not handle charges of abuse by the Ugandan army.

The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) guerrillas immediately rejected the move as a breach of a deal signed on Saturday that aims to end a war that has killed tens of thousands of people and uprooted nearly 2 million more.

Internal Affairs Minister Ruhakana Rugunda, who has led Ugandan government negotiators at nearly a year of peace talks in neighboring southern Sudan, told journalists both parties would have to agree on the details of penalties for crimes.

"It would be premature for us to give specifics. Sentences, courts, etc, will only be arrived at after consultations by ourselves and the LRA," he said.

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## **Former vice-president calls for independence of south**

*(SRS via BBC Monitoring)* Sudan's African National Congress party chairman and former vice-president of Sudan, George Kongor says no political party, even the SPLM, should try to deny self-determination for southern Sudanese.

Addressing journalists in Khartoum on Thursday [28 June], Mr. Kongor said southern Sudanese will vote for independence in the 2011 referendum because, he says, that's "what they fought for." He said if the SPLM tries to block independence, they will "be at war with southern Sudanese."

Mr Kongor was speaking on Thursday in Khartoum during the launch of his party's platform.

He also urged the Government of Southern Sudan to repatriate southern Sudanese IDP's and refugees to southern Sudan so that they can vote in the referendum.

At the same function, Mr Kongor urged all political parties to get involved in the drafting of laws to guide the general elections scheduled for 2009. He said the general elections can not take place until there is a law to guide the process.

Sources monitoring the development of elections law in Khartoum have told Sudan Radio Service that both the National Congress Party and the SPLM have created drafts that they must now try to reconcile into one document.

## **Darfur**

### ***Political:***

#### **Libya to host Darfur meet; 13 nations to join**

(AP) Libya is to host an international conference on Darfur on July 15 and 16 aimed at consolidating efforts to end violence in the western Sudanese region, the United Nations Mission in Khartoum said yesterday.

"The conference will be co-chaired by the United Nations and the African Union," UNMIS spokeswoman Radhia Achouri told reporters.

The aim of the conference, to be held at a so-far-undisclosed venue in Libya, is to evaluate the progress of the "roadmap" on Darfur, which seeks to converge various diplomatic efforts to end the civil war there into one initiative led by the UN and the AU, Achouri said.

According to a UN source in Khartoum, 13 countries have been invited to attend the conference including Sudan, Chad, Egypt, Eritrea, China, France, Russia, Britain, the United States, Canada, Holland and Norway.

The European Union and the Arab League have also been invited.

### ***Security:***

#### **Sudanese army airplanes provoke daily panic in Darfur – rebels**

(*SudanTribune.com*) Sudan's air force is conducting daily low-altitude flights over displaced camps in South Darfur provoking panic and fears among the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), a rebel leader said.

The leader of rebel Sudan Liberation Movement/Army Abdelwahid al-Nur accused Khartoum of conducting military low-altitude flights over Kalma and Attash IDP camps in South Darfur.

"Reports received from the region indicate that military airplanes identified as Russia's MiG are conducting — since the first of July in the morning between 5 and 6 hour — flights below 3,000 feet above ground level". "These flights provoke panic and fears among the civilians because everyday they give the impression that these planes are coming to bombard them" he said.

Al-Nur Added that a 55 year-old woman has badly broke her hand after falling. "On July 1, when she heard the noise of low altitude flight MiG, the woman then tripped falling awkwardly on her arm. Also the huge noise removes the makeshift tents and clothes of the IDPs".

"They complained to the African peacekeeping force and to the UN officials on the ground but they have no response."

Al-Nur who insists that the protection of Darfur civilians is a prerequisite for holding peace negotiations with the government, condemned these flights describing it as "new form of intimidation campaign aiming to terrorize the IDPs and provoke psychological damage."

He said that traumatized IDPs come to the camps seeking protection of the international community but it seems that Khartoum is determined to harm them and pursue their moral torture."

The rebel leader further said that the Janjaweed militia attacked a SLA position in Ein Seiro in North Darfur and killed four rebels. The militia also attacked at the end of June another SLA position in the West of Jabal Mara, al-Nur said. "Some of our people are just wounded but there are no casualties among our troops."

He reminded that his troops are observing the ceasefire agreement signed with Khartoum in 2004, but this has not prevented the Sudanese army and its backed militia from attacking their positions.

Addressing the international community, the rebel leader wondered "how the world continues to believe the lies of a regime that has a proven track record of ill credibility and known for dishonoring deals."

"The international community has to protect Darfur people if they are genuine in their will to realize peace in Darfur" he urged.

In a position statement for the expected peace talks, al-Nur said that conducive environment should be created before talks through the implementation of: unconditional ceasefire all over Darfur region; a humanitarian intervention, and opening of humanitarian corridors in the region.

He further requested to enforce a non-fly-zone and arm embargo; al-Nur suggested implementation of a oil-for-food programme in order to use the oil revenue to compensate victims of the conflict and reconstruction of the region.

### **No improvement in Darfur security, say EU officials**

(Reuters) European parliamentarians said on Wednesday that Sudan's troubled Darfur region had become no safer since a peace treaty was signed a year ago.



Widespread insecurity in the remote Western region was preventing any development there, the 10-member delegation from the European Parliament's development committee said following a three-day visit there.

They blamed fragmentation of rebel groups and the failure to disarm militias, some of which were being incorporated into the army, for the continued conflict.

### **Beijing says it is trying to keep Chinese-made weapons out of Darfur**

(AP) China's special envoy to Africa pledged Thursday that Beijing will try to prevent the weapons it sells to Sudan from being used in violence-wracked Darfur.

"We will do our best to prevent the weapons from finding their way into the wrong hands and from doing the wrong things," said China's special envoy for Sudan, Liu Guijin, on his country's arms exports to Sudan.

At a press briefing in Beijing, Liu outlined no specific measures but said that the issue of where Chinese arms went and how they were used was something he had discussed with Sudan's government.

Beijing says its "limited" sales do not breach the U.N. embargo on weapons entering Darfur, but human rights activists say there is nothing to prevent the Sudanese army from taking the gear into the region.

Amnesty International said in May that the "the bulk" of the arms in Sudan were transferred from China and Russia, with Sudan importing US\$83 million (€61.22 million) in arms from Beijing and US\$34.7 million (€25.59 million) in military equipment from Moscow in 2005, the latest available figures. Amnesty did not provide specific up-to-date figures.

### **Miscellaneous:**

#### **Mirghani tells Pagan Amoum that he will soon return home**

(AlRai AlAam) Opposition figure Mohamed Osman el-Mirghani held talks with SPLM Secretary-General Pagan Amoum and told him he will soon be returning home, sources in Cairo say.

The two met at el-Mirghani's residence in Cairo and discussed a number of issues pertaining to the current situation in Sudan. El-Mirghani welcomed the SPLM initiative on Darfur says he is ready to cooperate to expedite solutions to the problem. The two agreed that the DUP's Department on Darfur coordinate with the SPLM Darfur Task Force to back the Kiir initiative on Darfur.

#### **Violent students clashes in Abba Island**

(Khartoum Monitor) Students of Al-Imam Al-Hadi University in Abba Island, White Nile State, violently clashed with police yesterday leaving over 16 students injured.

The students had earlier staged a sit-in after they got no response from the Students' Support Fund for a petition requesting protection from harassment by unidentified persons of female university hostel residents.

Security forces intervened causing violence to erupt.

### **Sudanese refugee shot, two arrested**

(AP)Egyptian border guards shot a Sudanese refugee and arrested two others early yesterday as they tried to cross from Egypt into Israel, a police official said. Twenty-six other refugees were successful in their attempt to illegally cross the border, the official said. The Israeli army, meanwhile, said 47 Africans crossed the border from Egypt overnight, without specifying nationalities. The army did not provide more details.

Security officials shot one Sudanese refugee, who did not have a passport, when he did not comply with orders to turn himself over to authorities, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media. The refugee was taken to an Egyptian hospital, and his condition was "very critical," according to the official.

Authorities arrested two other Sudanese refugees, Rawda Abdullah, 25, and her 24-year-old brother Ismail, who were from the war-torn Darfur region, as they tried to cross the border. They remain in police custody. The three were part of a group of 29 Sudanese refugees who paid smugglers \$US500 dollars each to help them sneak into Israel, said the official.