

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS**Media Monitoring Report, 8 July 2007

(By Public Information Office)

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IN THE NEWS TODAY:**➤ UN/ Agencies**

- Achouri denies reports of arrival of international fact-finding team on the hybrid operations
- UN envoy for Darfur says Darfur is a purely Sudanese affair
- Libya meeting to focus on Darfur road map - UN

➤ GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

- Sudan's president welcomes new chief of African peacekeeping force
- Head of Darfur hybrid peacekeeping mission optimistic
- Gen. Agwai to travel to el-Fasher
- President Bashir says hostile parties fuelling conflict in Darfur
- Sudanese president meets international envoy on Darfur Politics
- Sudan's al-Bashir appoints new governor for South Darfur
- Salva Kiir may reshuffle SPLM-appointed ministers in the north
- SPLM Secretary-General says southern Sudan bound for secession
- Sudan asks White Nile to withdraw from Block B
- Misseriah and Dinka agree to coordinate Abyei annual migration
- Joint committee formed to monitor the implementation of the ESPA
- SLM-appointed ministers and representatives in N. Darfur stage sit in pending response to their demands
- Arab League chief hold talks with ICC General Prosecutor Politics

➤ GoSS

- GoSS authorities hinder good reception of South Sudan radio
- Juba comes to standstill as soldiers deploy to demolish markets
- Rumbek Senior secondary school close for 15 days

➤ Darfur

- African officials tour Darfur for good cooperation with peacekeepers

- Minnawi says all stakeholders should be represented in committee investigating Gereida
- Red Cross steps up presence in Darfur ahead of summer rains
- Darfur peace talks will fail to start in August deadline
- Darfur's Abdelshafi, Diraij agree to unify political efforts
- AbdulWahid wants Salim Ahmed Salim off the Darfur case
- Rebel groups step up kidnaps and attacks on aid workers in Darfur
- Security authorities ban conference to form Darfur Peace Caucus

➤ **Miscellaneous**

- Chadian rebels confirm talks with government still on track
- Tribal leader of the Chat tribe killed by unidentified murderers
- Floods update

Highlights

UN/ Agencies

Achouri denies reports of arrival of international fact-finding team on the hybrid operations

(*AlSharei AlSiyassi* – 6 Jul.) Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs Dr. Muttrif Sidiq says the Sudan government has no reservations at all towards field visits conducted by representatives of potential Troop Contributing Countries as they study the situation to determine the requirements.

He said that the Executive Council of the African Union has practically launched contacts with African states wishing to participate in the hybrid operation.

On the other hand and speaking to the *SMC*, Spokesperson Radhia Achouri of the UNMIS has refuted recent reports on the press of the arrival of international assessment missions to assess the situation in Darfur ahead of the launch of the Hybrid Operation.

She explained that visits by potential Troop and Police Contributing Countries to the Darfur region will take place later to assess the field requirements in order to facilitate their missions. “I have never talked of international teams to assess the situation in Darfur before the start of the Hybrid Operations”.

In another development related to UNMIS, *Rai AlShaab* daily prints in its front page of its issue of Friday 6th July the full text of the “Letter to the Editor” from the Office of the Spokesperson in response to an earlier article by the paper titled: “UNMIS threatens suspension of operations in Sudan”. [*The article and full English text of the Letter to the Editor by the Office of the Spokesperson appeared in the MMR of 5th July and the UNMIS website at www.unmis.org*].

UN envoy for Darfur says Darfur is a purely Sudanese affair

(*Akhbar Alyaum, Sudan Vision et al*) The UNSG Envoy to Darfur, Jan Eliasson, has stated that, despite the efforts made by the UN and the AU, the Darfur problem remains a purely Sudanese affair that can only be resolved by the joint efforts of the Sudanese people. At the meeting he held with the Foreign Minister, Dr. Lam Akol, Eliasson indicated that it was time for negotiations with the opponents of the Abuja agreement to kick off, stressing that they are now passing a critical stage in the process of realizing a peaceful political solution for the problem.

He added that the time and place for the impending negotiations between the government and the Abuja non-signatories will be decided following a meeting to be held in the Libyan capital, Tripoli, during 15-16 June. He revealed that he was in the process of a shuttle diplomacy to address an invitation to the UNSG and the chief of the AU Commission to partake in the negotiations.

Eliasson disclosed that the mediation team, which includes himself and Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim, has been supplemented by two additional mediators and that the team will within the coming days intensify communications with the Abuja non-signatories, the government, the signatory factions and the governments of Eritrea and Libya, expressing his hope that the regional initiatives for settling the Darfur problem would be coordinated under the AU umbrella.

The government meanwhile explained that Eliasson's visit comes within the context of intensifying shuttle diplomacy prompted by the fact that the negotiations are now close at hand. The official spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Ali Al-Sadig, said that the Tripoli meeting will enable the parties to set a date for initiating the negotiations as well as signal the extent to which the non-signatory factions have managed to unify their visions. He denied that the Abuja file will be reopened, affirming that the DPA will remain valid and in force, though he added that the negotiations will decide whether the results reached will be annexed to the agreement or not.

On the other hand, the Presidential Advisor, Dr. Mustafa Osman Ismail, reaffirmed at the talks he held yesterday with Eliasson in the NCP headquarters the government commitment to the Addis Ababa deal and revealed that the new proposals submitted by Eliasson would be discussed at the forthcoming meeting with the UN Chief and the AU envoy. He expected the Tripoli meeting to lay down a detailed road map for the negotiations, noting that the meeting will embrace, beside the government, the AU, UN, regional countries and some other players such as the EU and the United States.

Eliasson for his part disclosed that the contacts he made within the framework of resolving the Darfur issue had also included civil society organizations and tribal leaders, and, in conclusion, he conveyed the condolences of the UNSG on the grievous loss of Dr. Majzoub Al-Khalifa who was in charge of the Darfur file following a traffic accident.

Libya meeting to focus on Darfur road map - UN

(*AP et al*) The U.N. and African Union envoys trying to promote a political solution to the four-year-old conflict in Sudan's western Darfur region have invited key regional and international players to a meeting in Libya in mid-July to discuss how to launch new negotiations.

U.N. Deputy Spokesperson Marie Okabe said Thursday that the July 15-16 meeting in the Libyan capital, Tripoli, will focus on a road map prepared by U.N. envoy Jan Eliasson and his AU counterpart Salim Ahmed Salim aimed at reviving peace talks and reaching an agreement to end the conflict.

Invitations to the ministerial meeting have been sent to Sudan, Chad, Egypt, Eritrea, and the Arab League; the five permanent Security Council nations — the U.S., Britain, France, Russia and China — and key donors, including Canada, the Netherlands, Norway and the European Union, Okabe said.

Last month, Eliasson said the road to negotiations has become even more complicated because of the increasing number of rebel groups. In just three weeks, the number of opposition movements jumped from nine to 12, and he said that number could rise.

Okabe said "the purpose of the Tripoli meeting is to take stock of the progress achieved over the last two months, assess the implementation of the road map, and review proposals on the way forward, especially on how to launch the negotiation phase of the road map."

The meeting is a follow up to a meeting on Darfur held in Tripoli on April 28-29 which explored ways to persuade all the groups fighting in Darfur to sign a comprehensive peace agreement.

At that meeting, Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi urged African, Arab and Western diplomats to work with Sudanese rebels to find an immediate solution to the crisis in Darfur.

Eliasson arrived in the Sudanese capital, Khartoum, on Wednesday evening and flew to el-Geneina, the capital of West Darfur, for a series of meetings on Thursday. Salim is scheduled to arrive in Khartoum on Saturday, Okabe said.

Eliasson also held talks in Khartoum last Saturday with senior officials in the hybrid African Union-UN peacekeeping force, proposed to be sent in Darfur region.

Jan Eliasson, the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Darfur, met Rodolphe Adada, the new AU-UN Joint Special Representative for Darfur serving as head of the existing AU Mission in Sudan (AMIS) and will then head up the hybrid force once it starts operation.

Mr. Eliasson also met AMIS Force Commander Gen. Martin Agwai, who will become the Force Commander of the hybrid operation as well, spokesperson Marie Okabe told reporters in New York. Mr. Eliasson was also scheduled to hold talks Saturday with ambassadors of the countries and organizations that are participating in the international meeting later this month in Tripoli, Libya, on the Darfur peace process.

Ms. Okabe said Mr. Eliasson is also meeting representatives of the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the Senior Assistant to the Sudanese President, Minni Minawi, who is also head of a faction of the Sudan Liberation Army/Movement (SLA/M).

Mr. Eliasson is expected to hold talks with senior Sudanese Government figures, including Foreign Minister Lam Akol, as well as with civil society groups, tribal leaders and Mr. Salim.

GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

Sudan's president welcomes new chief of African peacekeeping force

(Xinhua via NewsEdge) Sudanese President Omer al-Bashir on Saturday met with and expressed his welcome to Rodolphe Adada, the new chief of the African peacekeeping force in the western Sudanese region of Darfur, state media reported.

Adada arrived in the Sudanese capital on Friday to take his post, the official SUNA new agency said.

Adada, who was foreign minister of the Republic of Congo (Congo- Brazzaville) before being appointed as the joint special representative, delivered a written message from Congolese President Denis Sassou Nguesso.

The Congolese president expressed his appreciation in the message for al-Bashir's approval of the nomination of Adada, the SUNA said.

Adada told reporters after the meeting that he came to Khartoum to assume his task as the head of the AU Mission in Sudan (AMIS) before commencement of the hybrid operation agreed upon by Sudan, the AU and UN.

Adada is to be assisted by AMIS Force Commander Gen. Martin Luther, a Nigerian who had been slated as the military commander of the UN-AU hybrid force.

Head of Darfur hybrid peacekeeping mission optimistic

(AFP) "This is a major mission and a challenge for Africa ... a heavy operation," said Rodolphe Adada, the former Republic of Congo foreign minister who in May was named the special AU and UN representative for Darfur.

In an interview with a group of journalists including AFP, Adada also said that despite everything, he is looking to tackle his new mission with "enthusiasm and hope."

Adada, who arrived in Khartoum on Friday, will head the African mission in Sudan (AMIS) while the new force is put into place and will be working to save the foundering mission that is in danger of losing its largely European funding.

"The support for AMIS, which we already have from our partners, is today indispensable to the success of the mission," he said amid African fears the Europeans are reluctant to continue financing the operation.

"The most important thing today is to support AMIS because this will guarantee the continuation of the operation and the success of the hybrid mission," he said. "This is the message we must convey to our generous partners."

The other major challenge, he said, is to reach a political solution to the Darfur crisis which has been complicated by the fact that rebel groups who did not sign a 2006 peace agreement are fragmented into many small groups.

"It is clear that a peacekeeping mission will only work backed by a political accord," he said, adding the efforts of the UN and AU could well make the agreement succeed.

Adada, who will be visiting the AU force in Darfur in the coming days, said he will also be counting on the cooperation of the Sudanese government for the success of his mission.

"In a mission like this, nothing can be done without the support of the Sudanese government," he said.

Adada told reporters at the Hilton Hotel on Friday that the African element will be the mainstay of the hybrid operation. He pointed out that an African has been appointed as military commander of this operation and a joint African Union-United Nations Special Representative will head the operation.

He also said that the Tripoli conference due to be held mid this month is a conference to evaluate the achievements of the past stages and is channeled towards talks resumption that will lead to a comprehensive peace in Darfur. Special Representative Adada further pointed out that it was a good thing that the Sudan government consented to the support packages and the hybrid operation. He also said that the briefing he received from United Nations Darfur envoy Jan Eliasson on Friday evening was very important and reassuring.

Gen. Agwai to travel to el-Fasher

(*AlWihda* – 7 Jul.) The Commission on Security Arrangements has sent a committee to Darfur to carry out a detailed assessment of the situation on the ground.

Gen. Mohamed Ahmed el-Dabi told the *SMC* that this month will be decisive with regards to many aspects of the commission. He pointed out that the team will report to the Commission within one week and that its findings will be discussed with the head of the TDRA.

On the other hand, Gen. el-Dabi revealed that African Union Mission in Sudan Commander Gen. Martin Agwai travels on Saturday (yesterday) to el-Fasher for a series of talks with state officials there. He is expected back in Khartoum on Monday for further talks with the political leadership in the country.

The EU says meanwhile that the deployment of a hybrid force is not a "miracle solution" to the crisis in Darfur. The Permanent Rapporteur for the EU has called for real contemplation over the feasibility of deploying 20,000 peacekeepers and spending 2 billion dollars for the deployment.

President Bashir says hostile parties fuelling conflict in Darfur

(*AlAyaam*) President Bashir says that a number of hostile parties are trying to fuel the conflict in Darfur, to sow sedition and portray the conflict sometimes as of a religious, tribal or other grounds in order to realise their agenda.

The President who was addressing a conference of Islamic Reporters at the Friendship Hall last Thursday called on reporters to bear their national and religious obligations in support of faith and nation. The President also reiterated his government's commitments to proceed ahead with the peace process in all parts of the country and to the provision of services and development.

Sudanese president meets international envoy on Darfur Politics

(*KUNA*) President Omar Bashir held talks here Saturday with Rudolph Adada, the Special Envoy of the UN and African Union (AU), on preparations for deployment of a hybrid force in Darfur.

Adada, a former foreign minister of Congo, handed to Bashir a message from the current AU chairman, and discussed with him the deployment of the UN-AU force in the western province in line with an agreement reached in Addis Ababa on June 12, according to the Sudanese radio.

Sudan's al-Bashir appoints new governor for South Darfur

(*SudanTribune.com*) The president Omer Hassan al-Bashir, has issued a presidential decree relieving the governor of Southern Darfur State, Eng Atta al-Mannan from his position as governor of South Darfur State.

Meanwhile Al-Bashir has appointed Ali Mahmoud, former state minister at the ministry of finance, as the governor of Southern Darfur State.

Mahmoud was relieved yesterday from his post at the ministry of finance and national economy.

Mahmoud was a member of the Sudanese government delegation to peace talks with the of Eastern Sudan rebels. He signed a protocol on wealth sharing with the former rebels in the Eritrean capital Asmara in October 2006.

Salva Kiir may reshuffle SPLM-appointee ministers in the north

(*Alwan – 7 Jul.*) Vice-President Salva Kiir is expected in Khartoum in the next two days. Informed sources expect the VP to bring with him some surprise changes to SPLM-appointed ministers in the Government of National Unity.

Despite the tight muzzle over the new list, pundits point out that Mansour Khalid or Deng Alor (currently Advisor at the Presidency and State Minister at the Presidency respectively) are strongly tipped for the foreign ministry slot while Dr. Lam Akol may take over as Advisor at the Presidency.

Kual Manyang of the transport ministry is tipped to take over the investment portfolio and be replaced by Zayed Eisa who was deputy governor for Blue Nile State. Tabitha Boutrous, health minister, is strongly tipped for the Higher Education portfolio. Edward Lino, veteran intelligence star is set to take over as State Minister for the Ministry of Interior but some say he may be posted to the volatile Abyei region.

SPLM Secretary-General says southern Sudan bound for secession

(*AlSahafa* – 7th Jul) The Secretary-General of the SPLM has confirmed elections will take place as scheduled. Pagan Amoum called on Sudanese in the Diaspora to head home to participate in the process.

Amoum who was addressing a rally at the Meridien Hotel in Cairo last Friday said that southern Sudan is headed for secession but pointed out that the referendum will have the final say. The south, should it secede, would have good neighborly relations with the north, he said. He further pointed out that southern Sudan currently enjoys independence in governance without hindrance from the north.

Of relations with the DUP, the SPLM Secretary-General said that the SPLM enjoys strategic relations with the DUP.

Sudan asks White Nile to withdraw from Block B

(*Reuters*) Sudan has asked Britain's White Nile Plc to withdraw from oil block B in the south and will assess compensation to the firm, southern Sudan's industry minister said on Friday.

"White Nile is to pull out from Block B, and its properties will have to be assessed by a technical committee appointed by the ministry of energy and mining to be refunded," Albino Akol Akol told Reuters.

The block was disputed between French oil giant Total SA <TOTF.PA> and the British exploration company, which is 50 percent owned by the semi-autonomous southern Sudan government.

Misseriah and Dinka agree to coordinate Abyei annual migration

(*SudanTribune.com*) Leaders of Misseriah and Dinka Ngok have agreed in Abyei to coordinate the annual migration movement of Misseria nomads. The agreement was signed between the two communities under the auspices of the United Nations.

The UN radio Miraya reported today that UNDP described this agreement as “a step forward for peace and reconciliation between the two communities.” The traditional leaders from Masseriya and Dinka agreed to form the Leaders’ Committee.

Last April, the UN sponsored the set up of a single Chamber of Commerce in Abyei for Misseriah and Dinka Ngok traders to look after the welfare of the traders, liaise with the

authorities, advise on tax spending, and serve as the leading body on major projects related to health, education, water, sanitation, electricity, roads, and market access.

Due to the refusal of the National Congress Party of Omer al-Bashir to implement conclusions of Abyei Boundary Commission (ABC), the disputed oil rich area is still without administration since the signing of the CPA in January 2005.

The Misariyah Arab tribes reject ABC report and blame it for the administrative deterioration and security instability in the area.

Observers consider the NCP's rejection of Abyei report as a blatant violation of the CPA, creating perhaps the most volatile element of the entire agreement right now.

The two partners of the government of national unity are regular holding talks on the issue of Abyei. The first vice-president Salva Kiir Mayardit had listened yesterday in Juba to an integral report on outcomes of the partners' discussions on the Abyei.

Salva Kiir Mayardit has pledged to provide all efforts which might help the executive committee of the partners in their endeavors to reach into an agreement on the issue of Abyei.

Joint committee formed to monitor the implementation of the ESPA

(AlSahafa) The President of the Republic has issued a decree for the formation of a joint committee to monitor the implementation of the Eastern Sudan Peace Agreement.

The committee will be co-chaired by VP Ali Osman Mohamed Taha and Presidential Advisor Musa Mohamed Ahmed.

The President also issued another decree appointing members to the Eastern Sudan Development and Rehabilitation Fund.

SLM-appointed ministers and representatives in N. Darfur stage sit in pending response to their demands

(AlAyaam) Ministers appointed on the SLM-MM ticket in the Government of North Darfur Stat have staged a sit in demanding that the state government meet their demands that include demands that the position of Vice-Governor be separated from that of Minister of Social Affairs currently being held by their colleague.

This is to enable the Deputy Governor step in as Acting Governor in the absence of the Governor.

Also among their demands is that representatives of the movement participate in the parliamentary committees.

Arab League chief hold talks with ICC General Prosecutor Politics

(KUNA) Arab League Secretary-General Amr Moussa held talks on Saturday with the International Criminal Court's (ICC) General Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo on developments on Darfur.

Ocampo, responsible for the Darfur case, said in a press release after the talks that he informed Moussa on the latest developments in Darfur, noting that the court was responsible for achieving justice in the troubled region and said investigation have shown evidence of involvement of Ahmed Haroun and Ali Kosheib. He underlined the Arab League's decisive role in the region and added that a major task rests upon the Sudanese government in protecting civilians.

Moussa however commented on another topic regarding ICC's rulings, and cited Israel's illegal separation barrier that reflected poorly on the international arena.

GoSS

GoSS authorities hinder good reception of South Sudan radio

(*SudanTribune.com*) Gumbo transmitter will be on use anytime from tomorrow if the ministry of Finance and Economic Planning in the government of southern Sudan (GoSS) release funds for purchase of fuel, the Director General of Southern Sudan Radio and Television, Arop Baggat Tinglot has said.

Speaking in an exclusive interview with Sudan Tribune, today afternoon in his office, Tinglot said he has submitted financial request through his ministry headquarters to GoSS Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning seeking approval for purchasing fuel and lubricant in accordance with the new set up procedure of releasing money.

Adding that he has submitted three quotations from potential supplier of fuel and lubricant for gumbo transmitter station and hope it will be approve but denied having received specification of needed items from Ministry of Housing, Public Land and Public Utility.

“I am aware that there are a lot of blames on performance of Southern Sudan Radio and Television, but we in the administration are also facing problems of timely release of fund from ministry of finance and economic planning” However, am confident that every thing will be in place within the next three months, he assured.

Meanwhile the Director of power supply in the Ministry of Housing, Public Land and Public Utility, Kazi Tombe, said 80 per cent of electricity distribution re-connection in Juba town has been completed, adding that the reaming twenty per cent are mainly from Kator, Malakia, Atlabara, Maya and Thaura residential areas and hopes to also complete it within the next few days.

Juba comes to standstill as soldiers deploy to demolish markets

(*The Citizen*) Residents in Juba woke up on Saturday to blocked roads as hundreds of soldiers descended onto one part of the town to demolish a market.

SPLA troops were deployed covering around two square kilometers directing vehicles to turn back.

Rumbek Senior secondary school close for 15 days

(*SudanTribune.com*) Most remembered secondary school in South Sudan, is Rumbek Senior secondary school which was temporarily close down yesterday by school administration due to the shortage of school feeding to students.

This afternoon H.E. Agok Manyiel Dhieu, Commissioner of Yirol West County hired the truck that carries his boys/Girls back home for the period of 15 days according to the announcement of School administration. [*Follow the link to the full text [Rumbek Senior secondary school close for 15 days](#)*].

Darfur

African officials tour Darfur for good cooperation with peacekeepers

(*SudanTribune.com*) During a recent month-long tour of Darfur, two African Union officials have called for peaceful co-existence and urged the different parties to cooperate with African Union peacekeepers in order to achieve peace in the region.

Two senior AMIS officials, Deputy Head of Mission, Ambassador Hassan Gibril Alieu and the Head of the Darfur Integrated Taskforce, Ambassador Mahmoud Kane have emphasised the need to restore confidence, re-establish an atmosphere of peaceful coexistence and cooperation between the African Mission in the Sudan, the peoples of Darfur and everyone living in the Darfur region.

The Deputy Head of Mission addressed these issues during a recent one-month visit, which took him to Ummbarru, Graidia, Nyala, Sortony and Haskanita. He said he had come to meet and reason with the people, in a bid to seek lasting and mutually satisfactory solutions to all issues between them and the AU peacekeeping mission.

While the Head of the Darfur Integrated Taskforce, Ambassador Mahmoud Kane visited Labado, Ummbarru, Graidia, Sortony and Muhajerria, where he met with the local population, tribal leaders and representatives of various political Movements. [*Follow the link to the full text [African officials tour Darfur for good cooperation with peacekeepers](#)*].

Minnawi says all stakeholders should be represented in committee investigating Gereida

(*AlKhartoum*, 7 Jul.) Senior Presidential Aide, Mini Minnawi, has called for representation of all stakeholders of the peace process for Darfur – including the UNMIS - in the commission of inquiry into the Gereida mass graves issue.

But, UNMIS Spokesperson Radhia Achouri has denied knowledge of preparations for the commission of inquiry or of any other issue in this regard. Speaking to *AlKhartoum* daily, the

UNMIS spokesperson referred to an earlier statement by the UN Commissioner for Human Rights, Louise Arbour, calling for an independent investigation into the Gereida incident.

On the other hand, the head of the Directorate of Legal Affairs at the TDRA has blamed the AMIS for delays in launching the work of the committee because the mission is yet to name its representative to the commission.

Humanitarian:

Red Cross steps up presence in Darfur ahead of summer rains

(AFP) The international Red Cross said on Friday it is stepping up its humanitarian operations in the strife-torn Sudanese region of Darfur ahead of expected heavy rains later in the month.

Some 40,000 people have fled the city of Tawila in the north of Darfur following repeated clashes between rebels and government-backed forces, and are now based in three camps for displaced persons, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said in a statement.

"Owing to the prevailing insecurity, most of the humanitarian organizations that had been providing much-needed basic assistance to people living in the camps have left the area," it said.

"The ICRC has therefore taken it upon itself to meet short-term medical and sanitation needs in the camps and to monitor respect for the lives and property of displaced persons," it added.

In addition, the ICRC said it is completing a large humanitarian operation to deliver aid to rural areas before the rainy season reaches its peak in July, with around 830 tonnes of aid distributed so far to villages in north, south and west Darfur.

It also sees to the needs of over 100,000 people in the Gereida camp for displaced persons in the south of the region.

Political:

Darfur peace talks will fail to start in August deadline

(Reuters) Darfur peace talks will fail to start by an August deadline but the contentious issue of which rebel groups to invite may have been resolved by then, the U.N. envoy to the region said on Saturday.

"We are hoping that we will be at a stage (by the end of August) where we will be ready to take a decision on sending invitations," Jan Eliasson, the U.N. Darfur envoy, told reporters at the end of a visit to Khartoum.

Eliasson said the choice of which rebel groups to invite was a difficult one, adding: "We are right now in the process of choosing the ones we are contacting."

The venue, the date of talks and which points could be reopened of the unpopular peace deal signed last year were also still to be agreed upon, Eliasson said.

The government has made clear it will not reopen the 2006 peace deal during new talks, leaving little diplomatic space for the fresh peace process.

Eliasson said the new talks were aimed at achieving only "amendments to the last agreement", something that will upset many rebel groups who want more than what the 2006 deal offered.

The invitations, once sent, would be the first major test of the political will of the parties to the conflict to find a negotiated settlement, Eliasson said.

It could then take months to convince rebels leaders to attend, drop any preconditions to talks and agree on a venue.

Eliasson warned those hindering the peace process.

"If there is no progress, if there is lack of cooperation, the signs are very clear from the international community not least the (U.N.) Security Council that there is a price to be paid for non-cooperation."

Seven months and four visits after his appointment, Eliasson, with his African Union counterpart Salim Ahmed Salim, still have many obstacles ahead.

"The main obstacle is to achieve the coordination of the positions among the rebel movements," he said.

Darfur's Abdelshafi, Diraij agree to unify political efforts

(*SudanTribune.com*) The Sudan Liberation Movement of Ahmed Abdelshafi and the Sudan federal Democratic Alliance of Ahmed Diraij have agreed to conjugate their political, diplomatic and negotiating efforts, a press release said today.

The two groups announced, after a meeting held in London, they would continue "the dialogue with all groups from other marginalized areas in Sudan and with all Sudanese political groups willing to create a new Sudan based on new foundation of peace, democracy and development." [Follow the link to the full text of the MoU [Darfur's Abdelshafi, Diraij agree to unify political efforts](#)].

AbdulWahid wants Salim Ahmed Salim off the Darfur case

(*The Citizen*) Opposition SLM leader AbddulWahid Mohamed Nur says African Union envoy Salim Ahmed Salim is the person responsible for the killing of thousands of people in Darfur.

"During the signing of th DPA, I gave a supplementary paper that included very simple demands of my people but Salim Ahmed Salim threw the paper in my face and threatened to sanction me.

Today the same person is coming as a mediator for the African Union to resolve the Darfur conflict," he said.

He accused Salim Ahmed Salim and the Government of Sudan of every time creating new illusive movements and say all people want peace except himself. If these movements could bring peace, why then do they ask AbdulWahid to sign their peace deals, wondered AbdulWahid.

He advised the African Union to keep Salim out of the issue "because he has become part of the conflict".

Security:

Rebel groups step up kidnaps and attacks on aid workers in Darfur

(The Independent) Aid workers in Sudan's Darfur region are coming under increasingly frequent and savage attack, with June among the worst months recorded, according to a confidential security report compiled by an international charity.

Thirty serious incidents took place in the last month alone - up from an average of 10 per month one year ago - as armed bandits and militia groups launched daily violent attacks.

The report, by a charity working in Darfur, which cannot be identified for safety reasons, reveals that 28 people working for international aid agencies were abducted, while more than 35 vehicles were either hijacked, shot at or stolen. Two people were shot dead and five were injured during attacks. In one of the most daring incidents, a convoy of 37 UN vehicles was ambushed near Kebkabiya in North Darfur. Two of the vehicles were hit by bullets and one of the drivers was injured . Three days later, 15 armed men forced their way into an aid agency compound, assaulting a guard and stealing a vehicle.

Dawn Blalock, spokeswoman in Sudan for the UN's humanitarian co-ordination body, OCHA, said: "Security has always been an issue but what has changed in the last year is that humanitarians are now direct targets. It is now a daily occurrence."

Ms Blalock said the fragmentation of the rebel groups had led to a deterioration in the security situation. "Before, we dealt with one clear interlocutor. If we were delivering aid, we made one phone call to one rebel group. That is no longer the case because there are so many different groups," she said.

It has become more difficult for aid agencies to know which groups are in control of which areas. Insecurity has increased costs - much of the aid delivered now has to come by air because the roads are too dangerous.

There are around 14,000 people working in Darfur for more than 80 international aid agencies. A spokesman for Médecins Sans Frontières, which has more than 2,000 staff on the ground in

Darfur, said security problems were preventing them from providing the standard of medical aid that is required.

"It is very difficult for aid workers to move outside the camps, which means it is hard to do exploratory missions to areas where we think there is a need. The situation is very bad and is not getting better," he said.

Security authorities ban conference to form Darfur Peace Caucus

(*AlSudani* – 6th Jul.) Security authorities in Khartoum yesterday blocked a conference to mark the launch of the Darfur Peace Caucus from taking place but did not give clear reasons for the action.

A member of the organizing committee said authorities approached them late to demand a permit for the convention despite the fact they had already booked the Friendship Hall where the event was to take place.

Chadian rebels confirm talks with government still on track

(*AlHayat* – 7th Jul.) Representatives of Chadian opposition forces have refuted any move to suspend ongoing talks in Tripoli with the Chadian government.

A representative of the Chadian opposition told the *SMC* that they expect the African mediators to help make a breakthrough on the outstanding issues especially with regards constitutional amendments and compensations for IDPs. He confirmed that the talks are still on track and that the government side has reinforced its delegation with specialists in a number of fields.

Miscellaneous:

Tribal leader of the Chat tribe killed by unidentified murderers

(*Khartoum Monitor*) The Mek (tribal leader) of the Chat tribe was killed in Kadugli by unidentified murderers, *Khartoum Monitor* reports.

Kadugli police said that Mek Ali Kuwa AlNabag was found dead in his house on Thursday 5 July.

The Mek was at loggerheads with local leaders in the area and their dispute was brought before the courts.

Floods update

(*The local press*) The White Nile State has formed an emergency cabinet to deal with the crisis following the heavy rains and floods that recently swept the state leaving behind 3,180 houses destroyed and about 3 billion pounds in estimated damages.

Citizens are complaining of a lack of food and request authorities to build bridges to enable them move from place to place.

Authorities in Kassala have meanwhile noted a serious rise in levels of the waters of the Gash River. They say the levels are above those of the last floods. A government official says the Kassala is full prepared for any eventuality but does however need supplies of sheltering material such as tents and plastic sheeting.

Kassala State has however declared a maximum mobilisation and closed the schools to an indefinite date so they could serve as shelters for the flood-affected.