



## UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN

## UNMIS

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(By Public Information Office)

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# **Highlights**

## **UN/ Agencies**

### **UNMIS workers strike**

(*Khartoum Monitor*) UNMIS workers of different locations in Khartoum gathered at the UNMIS headquarters premises to protest low pay and ask for an increase.

A representative of the UNMIS cleaners said that they are employed in UNMIS by an unknown company called NAKTAR for General Services which refuses to increase their salaries after an agreement with the company director, a Mr. Hashim.

The representative said that Hashim pays them 250 Sudanese pounds a month and has told them to go anywhere or do anything they wish to do but he will not increase their pay. He further criticised their quality of work.

Among their demands is that they be employed directly by UNMIS and not through a contracting company and that they be granted after-service pension. The representative further pointed out that they are not given allowances and work daily from 8:00 to 1500 hours excluding Fridays. Absence from sickness means a wage cut, he said.

The workers have threatened to leave work if their demand for a pay rise and pension are not met.

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

### **Sudan concerned by U.N.-AU Darfur force mandate**

(*Reuters via Reliefweb*) Sudan said on Sunday it had reservations about the mandate given to a 26,000-strong U.N.-African Union Darfur force under a draft U.N. Security Council resolution.

"At the current stage we do not accept it, we have reservations," said foreign ministry spokesman Ali al-Sadig.

"We are engaged in consultations with the members of the Security Council ... we believe we will come to an agreed language," he added.

He declined to give specifics but said that language in the resolution did not conform to the agreement in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa last month to accept the joint force. [*Follow the link to the full text* [Sudan concerned by U.N.-AU Darfur force mandate](#)].

### **Sudanese president to tour Darfur states next week**

(*Alwan via BBC Monitoring, 15<sup>th</sup> July*) The Sudanese government has begun to race against time in trying to resolve the situation in Darfur, western region of the country, before the deployment of the international force, more than 20,000 soldiers, as part of what is known as the hybrid force assigned for a peace-keeping mission in the war-torn region.

Over the past few weeks, the government had dispatched senior political and executive leaders to Darfur states in order to market its justifications for accepting the hybrid force, which it rejected previously and persisted to keep the AU force on the pretext that it was likely to deal with Darfur problem in a more positive way.

In an attempt to beef up its political and security presence in the area, the government has decided to move the plenary session of the Council of Ministers next Sunday to Al-Fashir town. The meeting will discuss the security, social and political situations in the region.

It is to be noted that President Al-Bashir is to visit Nyala [South Darfur State] and el-Geneina [West Darfur State] and will also chair the meetings of the Council of Ministers next Sunday in Al-Fashir town.

### **Cabinet denounces aborted coup attempt**

(*Khartoum Monitor; AlAyaam et al*) The Cabinet has condemned the sabotage attempt unveiled on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> July by security authorities.

In a report to parliament, interior minister Zubeir Bashir Taha said security and intelligence authorities were tipped since last April on a coup plot supposed to take place yesterday. He said the plotters sought to wrest power or continue carrying out acts of sabotage should they fail to do so and thus create a chaotic situation that would prepare the grounds for an international intervention.

He also said that plotters had contacts with foreign countries. Fourteen persons were detained in connection with the plot. These included Mubarak el-Fadhil (Umma-Reform leader) and his deputy AbdelJalil Basha, a former tourism minister and some retired army officers.

The deputy director of National Security & Intelligence called at a press conference Saturday for improvements to the lives of retired army officers so that they may not easily fall prey to such plotters.

In another story, *Khartoum Monitor* reports that security authorities have continued the detention of member of the Umma-Reform party with Mahdi Bakheit, el-Fadhil's Assistant for Legal Affairs, the latest detained. The legal assistant had just concluded a press conference in which he said the Umma-Reform leader's detention was a violation of the constitution and demanded an immediate trial of the detained when he was arrested.

Security authorities have meanwhile released Ali Mahmoud Hassanein, the deputy leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, after short period in detention because his name had appeared among the list of saboteurs to be.

The Deputy Chief of Security and Intelligence says he was summoned by authorities last Saturday based on a tip-off that he was aware of the attempted sabotage and had contributed in the form of funds for the operations. The deputy head of security said that the DUP number two totally denied the charges and even condemned the attempts. He was later released.

*Rai AlShaab* reports today that PCP political secretary Bashir Adam Rahama said that the government is used to dish out accusation of coup attempt to paralyse the political parties and curb their activities. He said that his Popular Congress Party had been a victim of this before and is opposed to politically motivated arrests. He called upon authorities to hand the detained to the courts.

Former Sudanese Prime Minister and leader of the opposition Umma party Sadiq al-Mahdi expressed skepticism about government announcement of a foiled sabotage plot.

Al-Mahdi who spoke by phone to Sudan Tribune said that “this is the fifth time we hear from the government about an alleged coup attempt through the years that turns out to be nothing”.

The leading opposition figure noted that in each of these instances the Sudanese government talks about “incriminating evidence and stocks of weapons found but no details are provided”.

He added that government statements in this regard are contradictory saying that it is not clear whether this was a “planned act of sabotage or a coup attempt”.

Asked about the motives for the government to make up these accusations against al-Fadil, Al-Mahdi said that “the government is isolated and no one knows how they are thinking”.

Al-Mahdi urged the government to “disclose all evidence and conduct public prosecutions in full transparency of those accused”.

Analysts who spoke to Sudan Tribune suggested that the arrests were meant to block the reunification efforts underway to unite al-Fadil’s faction with mainstream Umma of al-Mahdi but al-Mahdi dismisses these speculations saying that the reunification efforts are “in their early stages”.

### **Juba to host crucial meeting on redeployment of forces**

(*AlSudani*) The Ceasefire Political Committee holds a meeting next Wednesday to clear the differences between the parties to the CPA on the issue of redeployment of forces.

The SPLA maintains that the SAF has not met its full obligations to redeploy its forces from Upper Nile and Unity states while the Office of the Spokesperson of the SAF has refuted attempts to doubt SAF redeployment north of line 1.1.’56. The Office of the Spokesperson says it has no military command in the south of the country.

Elias Waya, the Deputy Chairman of the Technical Committee of the Joint Defence Board, says the SPLA had presented to the Presidency of the Republic a position paper on commitments to

the implementation of the Protocol on Security Arrangements cited in the CPA. He points out that the agreement stipulates that the JIUs will be responsible for the protection of the oilfields. He pointed out that the SAF sees oil as a national wealth and does not trust the abilities of the JIUs in terms of numbers, supplies and ability to protect. Waya said that the SPLA view is that the parties make use of the JIUs deployed to Equatoria and Bahr-el-Ghazal since there is no threat to security in these states.

On its part, the Office of the Spokesperson of the SAF points out that any mention of a SAF redeployment that falls short of 100% is false. The SAF had presented a list of the redeployed, demobilised, or reintegrated forces but the SPLA doubts the numbers. The issue had been referred to a sub-committee of the CJMC and the SAF had been requested to present a full list with names by 23<sup>rd</sup> July.

The SAF Spokesperson said that if there is any SAF soldier remaining in the south, then the SAF considers him as non-existent because the order had already been issued to redeploy north.

The spokesperson further pointed out that the SAF only has 3,000 soldiers protecting the oilfields in the south as part of a political agreement with the SPLA – a reference that the issue was out of the context of the protocol stipulating that it was the responsible of the JIUs to protect the oilfields.

On its part, the UNMIS offices in southern Sudan has revealed that most of the SAF remaining in southern Sudan are deployed in the oilfields. The UN office points out that the SPLA is yet to redeploy its forces from the Blue Nile and Nuba Mountain areas and that the JIUs have not yet started taking over yet.

UNMIS-Juba's Peter Schumann also accused the SAF of continuing to fund in southern Sudan militias that are not officially aligned to them.

The SAF has denied this and says it does not pay personnel not in its ranks. The SAF also says there are no armed militias in southern Sudan that are aligned to them.

Spokesperson Radhia Achouri says ASRSG Taye-Brook Zerihoun will attend the Juba meeting on Wednesday.

### **SPLM studies options on Abyei**

*(AlSudani)* The SPLM has accused the National Congress Party of not being committed to the implementation of the CPA especially in relation to the protocol on Abyei. It also pointed out that the SAF still has a presence in some areas of Upper Nile and Unity states and continues to bankroll militias in southern Sudan and South Kordofan even after the 9<sup>th</sup> July date.

The SPLM, in its final communiqué issued following an emergency meeting of its Interim National Council, dubbed these developments as violations of the CPA.

The communiqué pointed out that the political will for the resolution of the outstanding issues is lacking and that the parties have reached a dead-end on efforts for a political solution the Abyei question.

The Juba meeting, according to the communiqué, also explored a number of options on Abyei that included a referral to the Constitutional Court. Participants also instructed SPLM committees to continue patiently in sustained efforts to convince the National Congress Party until a solution is reached and the protocol on Abyei is fully implemented. Participants also instructed SPLM committees to continue talks with the National Congress Party over the violations to the protocol on security arrangements until the SAF would demobilize and redeploy its forces from the south.

On Darfur, participants called on the SPLM Task Force on Darfur to continue efforts to bring the factions to the negotiations table with the aim of reaching a comprehensive political solution that would realise peace in Darfur and put an end to the largest humanitarian crisis in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### **Khartoum State government liable for floods destruction**

(*Khartoum Monitor*) Khartoum State Legislative Assembly has blamed the state government for the destruction resulting from floods and torrential rains.

Poor urban planning from the part of the state government has been blamed for the destruction that also left several persons killed and many others homeless.

### **Governor of Blue Nile State vows to fight corruption**

(*AlAyaam via BBC Monitoring, 15<sup>th</sup> July*) Governor of Blue Nile State Malik Aggar has said that he would fight corruption and disarm citizens of the state. Aggar also called for the review of the [current comprehensive peace] agreement implementation mechanisms besides the review of educational policies and teachers' qualifications.

Meanwhile, he described the heavy military presence in the state as dangerous. Aggar stressed that the task of the security apparatus was just gathering and analysing information and giving advice.

Upon his arrival in Al-Damazin [the capital city of Blue Nile state] yesterday, accompanied by an official delegation of legislators, executives and journalists, who had travelled in three aeroplanes. Aggar said that according to the agreement, there should be 6,000 soldiers in the state - 3,000 of them from Sudan People's Liberation Army [SPLA] and other 3,000 from the Sudan Armed Forces [SAF]. However, he pointed out that there was heavy military presence which he has described as dangerous.

### **"Large-scale" round up of Eritrean refugees said under way in Khartoum**

(*Asmarino.com via BBC Monitoring, 15<sup>th</sup> July*) According to sources, a large-scale round up of Eritrean refugees is taking place in Khartoum (Sudan) since Thursday, 12 July 2007.

Although the number of the victims is not yet known, sources indicate that "the Sudanese government has so far finalized the necessary preparations to deport 500 Eritrean refugees to Eritrea". According to the information, several Eritrean female refugees have been transferred to a prison camp in Omdurman until they get deported.

"Their deportation is expected to be next week," the sources said.

In light of the harsh treatment awaiting the Eritrean refugees upon their forced return to Eritrea, Asenai.com pledges to all governments, relevant organizations such as the UNHCR and human rights organizations (Amnesty International and so on) to put maximum pressure on the Sudanese government in order to secure their release.

It is known that most of the Eritrean refugees had been interviewed by the UNHCR in a place called "Wadi Sharif" and were granted asylum by the commission. Despite this fact, however, the authorities in Sudan have decided to send them back to their country of origin.

## **GoSS**

### **People in Diaspora to participate in referendum and elections**

*(The Citizen)* The Minister of Presidential Affairs and SPLM National Treasurer Dr. Luka Biong assured a delegation of the Diaspora yesterday that they have the rights to participate both in the 2008 elections and the 2011 referendum as outlined in the Interim National Constitution and the Interim Constitution of Southern Sudan.

He pointed out that Sudan would never be the same again only if people implement the CPA.

More on Southern Sudan: [SSUDA says White Nile has one week to leave South Sudan oil field](#)

## **Darfur**

### **Rwandan army denies peacekeeping funds for Darfur embezzled**

*(New Times online via BBC Monitoring, 15<sup>th</sup> July)* The Rwanda Defense Forces, (RDF) has refuted recent reports by Newline, a weekly newspaper, claiming that the army top officials embezzled funds meant for peacekeeping troops in Darfur, Sudan.

Newline reported in their 9-16 July edition that among other things the army had diverted salaries belonging to the Rwandan contingent in the embattled Sudanese region.

"The RDF is accountable to democratic civilian authority and members of the general public and consequently has the obligation to keep them informed," the statement issued by the RDF spokesperson, Maj. Jill Rutaremara indicates in part.

The article said that among other things, RDF embezzled money 'in millions of dollars' both for salaries and Ration Cash Allowances (RCA).

In the statement, Rutaremara said that it is true that there are some arrears that have not been paid to the soldiers who served in the force but said that the money has not been disbursed. However, "No single salary has ever been transferred from the AU HQ to BNR [National Bank of Rwanda] since January 2007".

In short, the AU ( in charge of Troop Contributing Countries (TCC) mission payments) has not also paid the RDF soldiers for the months of January, February, March, April, May and June," the statement reads.

He said that on a number of occasions, the RDF has raised this problem in meetings between the African Union and TCCs adding that the defence ministry has on more than one occasion written to the AU complaining about the problem of accumulated arrears.

The Newline also reported that some top RDF generals delayed disbursing the money to the bonafide beneficiaries in order to 'make profits' before it reaches the rightful owners.

He also shed light on the claims by the English weekly that the actual amount allocated to each soldier was being cut by the RDF saying that there was a difference between what RDF soldiers get and what is given to other African states that contributed troops to the mission.

Geoffrey Mugumya, the AU Director of Peace and Security was recently quoted as having said that countries that have troops on the mission want different modes of payment. He told Reuters that whereas some countries want AU to pay the 400 dollars directly to the troops in Darfur, others want AU to deduct some amount from the monthly salary to send it to their governments to pay the remaining troops in the field, a fact that he said created heavy accounting paperwork that leads to the delay in payment.

To this effect, the European Union which is the financier of the mission has tasked five lawmakers to tour the region - Darfur - to find out about the cause for the delay in payment that has demoralized troops on the mission, says Darfur mission head, Rodolphe Adada.

**EDITORIAL:***Under the heading, The African Union and the Philosophy of Levies, AlAyaam daily's editorial of today points out that while African Heads of States and Governments meeting in Accra were debating on the establishment of a United States of Africa, the African Union was struggling to pay the salaries of its soldiers deployed in Darfur ... not because of lack of funding but because the funds were held in Addis Ababa pending agreement by the Troop Contributing Countries on modes of payment.*

*The editorial further goes on to say that it seems that some African states wanted to impose levies on the salaries of its soldiers sent on the mission. It laments that no single African state can pay the salaries of its troops on such a mission and when others pay for them, the funds are held up due to wrangling over "accounting problems" related to levies.*

**Political:**

**Envoys from 18 countries, UN meet in Libya on Darfur crisis**



(AP) Representatives from the U.N., African Union and 18 countries were in Libya on Sunday in an effort to promote a political solution to the four-year-old conflict in Sudan's western war-torn Darfur region.

Libyan Secretary of African Affairs Ali al-Treiki, who opened the two-day meeting on Sunday, expressed hope that the representatives would agree on a solution to encourage Sudanese rebels to join a peace agreement with the government of Sudan.

The meeting hopes to "prepare an international vision on how to solve the Darfur crisis," al-Treiki told The Associated Press. He said another conference would be held in September to put the last touches on an agreement.

U.N. envoy Jan Eliasson; his A.U. counterpart, Salim Ahmed Salim; and U.S. envoy to Sudan, Andrew Natsios; were among the representatives at the meeting. Following several opening speeches, representatives went into a closed-door session.

### **Updates on the International Conference on Darfur**

(*Xinhua online; AFP; the local press*) UN envoy for Sudan Jan Eliasson said on Sunday the international community should assume its responsibility for changing the situation in Sudan's Darfur region for the better.

Eliasson told the opening session of an international meeting on Darfur in the Libyan capital of Tripoli that it is time to reopen negotiations, and he called on the parties concerned to cooperate in setting the stage for restarting the talks.

The UN envoy, who has led missions to Darfur, said he had witnessed the worsening security and instability that people in the region have been suffering and the situation hampers humanitarian relief efforts.

"We have an enormous responsibility toward the people of Darfur," Eliasson said.

He called on all parties concerned to assume their own responsibilities for security, stability and development in the region.

The meeting in Tripoli, the second of its kind this year, is expected to focus on unifying competing peace plans and coordinating stands to pave the way for the restart of negotiations.

At the meeting, AU envoy for Sudan Salim Ahmed Salim praised efforts to revive negotiations and called on rebel groups to talk to the government.

Salim described the situation in the camps in Darfur as "disastrous" and said that every passing day carries with it suffering and destruction in Darfur and extremism on the ground. He deplored the growing militarization in the camps and said these further complicate the situation. The African Union envoy underlined the need for the local communities and people of Darfur who feel marginalized to participate in the peace talks.

On his part, AlSammani AlWaseela who led Sudan government's delegation to the talks, confirmed government is of the conviction that there is no military solution to the conflict in Darfur and no way to restore peace and stability except through a peaceful resolutions of the conflict with the participation of all stakeholders.

Government therefore calls for the launch of talks as soon as possible and prefers that the talks take place in Sudan but does not object to its taking place in any other African state, adds AlSammani, a state minister for foreign affairs.

The *AFP* (via NewsEdge) later learnt that the final communiqué of the second international conference on Darfur is out.

International envoys and rebel groups which failed to sign up to a May 2006 peace deal will meet on 3 and 5 August this year in Arusha, Tanzania, to fix a date and venue for the start of negotiations between the warring sides, according to a final statement from the two-day conference organised by the United Nations and the African Union.

"We are very happy that this meeting has concluded with a strong message of peace and beginning of negotiations," said the UN envoy for Sudan, Jan Eliasson.

"I think we now see light at the end of the tunnel. It's the moment of truth and for serious preparations for negotiations," he said. "We have established very strongly the AU/UN lead in this process."

Eliasson's comments were echoed by the African Union's Commissioner for Peace and Security, Said Djinnit, who told *AFP*: "I think that the month of September will be crucial for Darfur."

Djinnit said the Tripoli conference had highlighted the need to move rapidly towards negotiations between the Sudanese government and rebel movements that did not sign the Abuja peace agreement in 2006.

"We have been in the constructive phase for some weeks. We are making progress on the peace process and rebel movements are increasingly showing their willingness to resume dialogue," Djinnit said.

### **Sudanese government, Darfur splinter group sign agreement**

(*SUNA via BBC Monitoring, 15<sup>th</sup> July*) The Government of National Unity and the [Darfur rebel] Justice and Equality Movement, the group led by Ibrahim Yahya Abd-al-Rahaman, on Sunday 15 July] signed an agreement in Cairo according to which leadership of the Justice and Equality Movement would return to the Sudan and engage in dialogue for resolution of issues of difference instead of resorting to the use of arms.

The agreement also includes the return of refugees and internally displaced persons to their villages and action for prevalence of security in the state of Darfur within the context of the government endeavours to close the national ranks.

Dr Mutrif Siddiq, the first Undersecretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs signed on behalf of the government of National Unity while Yahya signed for the movement.

Meanwhile the newly formed United Front for Liberation and Development says it has formed organizations structures and has established a revolving chairmanship under regional sponsorship of Eritrea, Libya and Chad. Members agreed that Khamis Abdullah of the SLM's "Unity faction" would be its first chairman.

The Front, according to *AlAyaam* daily of 15<sup>th</sup> July [*sourced through BBC Monitoring*] has assured its readiness to support the process for a just peace which would fulfill the demands of the Darfur people in accordance to serious negotiations. However, the Front did not declare that it would abandon armed activities.

Meanwhile opposition SLM leader AbdulWahid Mohamed Nur says Tripoli is not in his plans despite his respect for Libyan leader Muammar Gadhaffi.

AbdulWahid told *The Citizen* daily that he does not see the meeting bringing anything new. He said he sees it as a conference involving elements who are partial to the interests of the Sudanese government.

Responding to questions on why he is not participating in the efforts to unify the Darfur factions, AbdulWahid said that there is a problem of the morals of Sudanese political culture whereby politics is used as a means for personal gain in terms of positions and economic opportunity. He said that his faction has however broken off from this cultural norm and has dedicated itself to securing the rights of the people.

### **Arabs pile into Darfur**

(*The Independent*) Arabs from Chad and Niger are crossing into Darfur in "unprecedented" numbers, prompting claims that the Sudanese government is trying systematically to repopulate the war- ravaged region.

An internal UN report, obtained by *The Independent*, shows that up to 30,000 Arabs have crossed the border in the past two months. Most arrived with all their belongings and large flocks. Sudanese Arabs who took them to empty villages cleared by government and janjaweed forces greeted them.

One UN official said the process "appeared to have been well planned". The official continued: "This movement is very large. We have not seen such numbers come into west Darfur before."

The UN refugee agency, UNHCR, sent a team to the border with Chad at the end of May to interview the new arrivals. Fighting in eastern Chad has been steadily increasing and it was thought that many could be refugees. But only a very small number have required support from UNHCR.