



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN

UNMIS

Media Monitoring Report, 24 July 2007

(By Public Information Office)

NOTE: Reproduction here does not mean that the UNMIS PIO can vouch for the accuracy or veracity of the contents, nor does this report reflect the views of the United Nations Mission in Sudan. Furthermore, international copyright exists on some materials and this summary should not be disseminated beyond the intended list of recipients.

IN THE NEWS TODAY:

➤ **UN/ Agencies**

- UN says SPLA still maintains troops in Sudan's Blue Nile and Nuba Mountains
- UN reports new displacement in West Darfur
- UN resolution to speed up Darfur troops deployment - US
- Sudan submits observations, reservations on French-UK draft resolution to UN
- US senators call for immediate deployment of Darfur force
- WFP hails largest Australian donation to Sudan's Darfur

➤ **GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)**

- Sudan's Al-Bashir vows to restore peace to Darfur
- Khartoum State Legislators want squatters to be demolish
- Interior minister says suspected saboteurs have filed confessions
- Sudan to focus on Darfur IDPs voluntary repatriation
- Over 77 Maridi IDPs willing to go back home, says MP
- Looming crisis in South Kordofan State

➤ **GoSS**

- New Sudan laws replace Sharia in Southern Sudan
- The SSLA approves for the improvement of education in the south
- GoSS calls for intervention of all sectors to rescue flood-affected states

➤ **Darfur**

- AMIS commends Deputy Police Commissioner in Darfur
- Deby says Sudan fails to implement reconciliation agreements
- Libyan, Chadian leaders discuss Darfur
- US urges rebels participation in Darfur talks without preconditions
- Rebel umbrella urges recognition of new balance of power in Darfur
- EU asks Darfur non signatory rebels to attend Arusha meeting
- 20,000 policepersons to be deployed to Darfur
- Unidentified group abducts leader of Free-Will faction in Toweela

➤ **Miscellaneous**

- Conference on Islam and terrorism begins in Khartoum 24 July
- AlQaeda vows to launch violent campaign in northern Africa

Highlights

UN/ Agencies

UN says SPLA still maintains troops in Sudan's Blue Nile and Nuba Mountains

(SudanTribune quoting Radio Miraya – July 23, KHARTOUM) Reacting to the current controversy between the Sudan Armed Force and the Sudan People's Liberation Army, the UN has stated that the SPLA didn't complete its withdrawal from Blue Nile and Nuba Mountains.

The Force Commander of the UN Mission in Sudan, Lt. Gen. Jasbir Lidder, said that the SPLA has begun withdrawing its forces from the two regions but there are still some troops in those regions, the Radio Miraya reported on Monday.

According to the UN sponsored radio, Gen. Lidder further said that a monitoring team will be sent to those regions to verify the situation on the ground.

The SPLA and the SAF have been trading accusations and doubts on the statistics of deployment and both claim their figures could be verified through the United Nations.

UN resolution to speed up Darfur troops deployment - US; US: Darfur Plan Has Force Timeline; France maintains position on Chapter VII resolution for Darfur (*SudanTribune.com; The Guardian; KUNA*)

UN reports new displacement in West Darfur

(UN News – July 23, UN) The United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) today reported new population displacements in West Darfur, where it says an estimated 12,000 households were on the move.

The newly displaced people said that they were fleeing prevailing insecurity in their areas and in anticipation of a rumored attack by Government forces, UN spokesperson Marie Okabe told reporters in New York. [Read more on the situation on the ground [UN reports new displacement in West Darfur](#)].

UN resolution to speed up Darfur troops deployment - US

(AP – July 24, UNITED NATIONS) Zalmay Khalilzad, US ambassador to the United Nations, said the U.S., U.K. and France had met with African nations and military planners to discuss a timeline for how quickly the 26,000-strong "hybrid" force could replace the undermanned and poorly equipped A.U. force currently in the region.

"The planners are here looking at the timeline issue and whether things could happen at a faster pace because it's in our interest to have it effective on the ground as soon as possible," he told reporters at U.N. headquarters.

He said the U.S., U.K. and France hope to have a draft resolution ready to circulate to Security Council members this week, although they are still making changes to alleviate the concerns of some countries on the 15-member council and Sudan.

A previous draft resolution by the U.K., France and Ghana earlier this month ran into stiff opposition from South Africa, whose ambassador called it "totally unacceptable."

Sudan's U.N. ambassador, Abdalmahmood Abdalhaleem Mohamad, told The Associated Press in an interview that Khartoum still has "some problems regarding the mandate" of the force. He said Sudan wants to guarantee there will be an African commander of the force and an exit strategy for the troops to ensure "they do not stay forever."

Khalilzad said that while the U.S., U.K. and France were willing to negotiate on minor issues in the draft, the countries were adamant about maintaining three core elements: that a single commander controls the force, a timeline be set for deploying the force as expediently as possible, and the resolution be mandated under Chapter 7 of the U.N. Charter.

Furthermore, *Kuwait News Agency* reports that France said Monday that it was maintaining support for a strong, Chapter VII resolution from the UN Security Council to govern the deployment of a UN-African Union force to end the crisis in Darfur.

French Foreign Ministry Deputy Spokesman Denis Simonneau noted that France was continuing to co-sponsor the draft text in the UN and he added that this document was in line with what was agreed between the UN and the African Union, particularly concerning the juridical basis for the resolution and the chain of command for the military deployment.

The French official said that his government wanted to reinforce "the message of unity and determination of the international community" as was expressed during an international meeting on Darfur held in Paris last June 25.

Asked whether Sudan would agree to referring to Chapter 7 in the draft, Abdalhaleem said: "We are still discussing that with them. We would love to see the limits of the mandate."

Meanwhile, a congressional delegation led by U.S. House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer and Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, the ranking Republican on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, met with Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and Khalilzad in New York to urge them to move quickly on the Darfur crisis.

Hoyer said the group also consulted with the Chinese and Egyptian ambassadors to the U.N. on using their influence with Sudan to push the country to allow the hybrid force to enter Darfur.

Sudan submits observations, reservations on French-UK draft resolution to UN

(*SUNA via BBC Monitoring*, July 20, NEW YORK) Ambassador Abd-al-Mahmud Abdel-Halim, Sudan's representative to the United Nations, expects that the draft resolution on the hybrid operation will be submitted to the UN Security Council after amendments next week.

He added that the Sudan mission had made observations and reservations on some items of the project sponsored by Great Britain and France.

He said in a statement that the mission held meetings with representatives of all the member states in the Security Council on components of the draft resolution, and consultations are still going on between experts in the corridors of the Council and in state capitals about the project and the amendments proposed by the Sudan.

Abd-al-Halim said that Sudan's observations and reservations on the draft resolution do not concentrate only on the mandate and funding of the hybrid operation, but restores the many contentious issues, which were issues of conflict between some of the Council countries and Sudan.

He added that some paragraphs do not fit with the hybrid operation, some lack of clarity, and others do not abide by the references.

He said that the Sudan mission is seeking to reach an agreement on the draft resolution, pointing out that many countries warned that the lack of compatibility with Sudan will lead the project to the same fate as UN Resolution 1706.

Sudan's representative said that Sudan wants the resolution to contain an exit strategy for the troops following the conclusion of its tasks and the ending of the operation in a manner to be agreed upon.

He confirmed at the conclusion of his statement that the achievement of peace on the ground reduces the importance of the presence of a peacekeeping force.

US senators call for immediate deployment of Darfur force

(*SudanTribune.com* – July 23, WASHINGTON) Two US senators introduced a new resolution to the senate calling for immediate deployment of UN peacekeepers to Darfur amid growing frustration with the delay by the UN Security Council (UNSC) in authorizing the force.

The resolution co-sponsored by Senator Joseph Biden, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and Senator Richard Lugar call on the US and the international community to provide logistical support for the proposed force.

The UN Security Council (UNSC) is working on a resolution authorizing up to 26,000 troops and police in Darfur.

But several council members and Sudan expressed reservations on some parts of the resolution particularly the threat of further measures" if any of the parties "fail to fulfill their commitments or cooperate fully." [*Read more:* [US senators call for immediate deployment of Darfur force](#)].

WFP hails largest Australian donation to Sudan's Darfur

(*SudanTribune.com* – July 23, KHARTOUM) The UN World Food Programme (WFP) today welcomed the Australian Government's donation to its operation in Sudan's troubled region of Darfur.

The WFP described this donation as Australia's largest ever one-time contribution through WFP to a single country.

The donation of US\$14 million (AUD\$16 million) is part of a US\$17.5 million pledge to the war-ravaged western region of Darfur announced earlier this month by Australia's Foreign Minister, Alexander Downer.

Plagued by persistent insecurity, Sudan remains one of the most challenging countries in which to distribute humanitarian assistance: since 2003, the conflict in Darfur has uprooted a third of the region's population and violence has intensified, despite last year's peace agreement.

"This generous donation from the people of Australia will help millions of Darfurians, many of whom have been displaced by fighting and are completely reliant on food aid for their survival," said Kenro Oshidari, WFP Sudan Representative. [*Read more:* [WFP hails largest Australian donation to Sudan's Darfur](#)].

GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

Sudan's Al-Bashir vows to restore peace to Darfur

(*The Local Press* – July 23, DARFUR) President Bashir wound up his tour of Darfur with a visit yesterday to el-Geneina, West Darfur, where he and his delegation held talks with the regional government and addressed a mass rally.

Addressing the mass rally, the President reiterated the commitment of the Government of National Unity to bring peace to Darfur and to work to achieve security and development in the Darfur states. He declared this year as a year of peace as a result of the efforts being made by the government. He said the government would work to achieve sustainable development and harness the capabilities of the inhabitants in the interest of reconstruction and renaissance.

He said a global power [oblique reference to USA] that was experiencing successive setbacks in Iraq and Palestine was working to overcome these setbacks through propaganda and alleged Egypt foils attempt by two Sudanese to infiltrate into Israel.

In talks with the government, the president said that Darfur was now witnessing the start of true development. He pledged support from the federal government to efforts by the regional government to realise equitable development and stressed the need to curb displacement through such development.

He pointed out that the 1,200 kilometre Western Salvation Highway requires external funding to complete while the World Bank institutions and Asian and Arab financial institutions want guarantees for implementation of the project but, he adds, the highway will be constructed using the Chinese grant.

Khartoum State Legislators want squatters to be demolish

(<http://www.MirayaFM.org> – July 24, KHARTOUM) The Legislative Assembly of the Khartoum State has directed the ministry of the Engineering Affairs in the State to demolish all the squatters along side of the water banks.

The chairman of the engineering and agricultural committee in the Assembly, Gadallah el-Tayeb, said that large portions of the residential areas around the water banks have been badly affected with floods. el-Tayeb said that floods have destroyed the road between Jebel Tina and areas of south Omdurman and destroying 23 houses.

Interior minister says suspected saboteurs have filed confessions

(*AlHayat* – July 24, KHARTOUM) The Minister of the Interior says investigations still continue on the case of the foiled attempt at sabotage.

He said that some of the suspects have filed confessions and authorities will let the public in on details as soon as possible.

Sudan to focus on Darfur IDPs voluntary repatriation

(*Xinhua* – July 23, KHARTOUM) Sudan reiterated on Monday its rejection to all attempts to trade in the issue of refugees in the country's restive western region of Darfur.

President Omer al-Bashir voiced the rejection while addressing a huge mass rally in el-Geneina the capital city of West Darfur State, reported the official SUNA news agency.

Al-Bashir was quoted as affirming that the Sudanese government would focus on voluntary repatriation of the displaced people to their home villages after securing these areas and providing them with services. He urged the local citizens to participate in securing their state in a view that security was necessary for development and provision of services.

"Despite the reports that show that the region has not witnessed any insecurity, the Western media still speak about alleged deterioration of security situation only for political propaganda," the president denounced.

Al-Bashir called again on the rebel movements in Darfur to join the peace process and to contribute in the development of the region, highlighting the new development projects such as the International Airport in El-Geneina which will not only serve Darfur but also the neighboring countries.

Over 77 Maridi IDPs willing to go back home, says MP

(*Khartoum Monitor* – July 24, KHARTOUM) The MP for Maridi at the National Assembly has disclosed that more than 77 IDPs from Maridi residing in Khartoum are now willing to return to their original homes in Maridi County.

He said that the people were registered and verified by the IOM but unfortunately had to spend 7 days at the departure center in Jabarona waiting for repatriation. The delay, he says, is due to the collapse of the Tore Bridge on the Yei-Maridi road. He described their conditions as appalling due to the nature of the place and that their tents are flooded with rainwater.

The MP said that this was the first batch of Maridi IDPs to return home since the returns program was launched last year. He also expressed concerns that the long delay in returns to the south will frustrate their endeavor and might in the long run have an effect on development and especially the forthcoming census and elections.

Looming crisis in South Kordofan State

(*AlAyaam* – July 24, THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY) Activists in South Kordofan State warn that the situation in the state is near bursting point and have called on the new governor to devise means to resolve the status of the Popular Defense Forces and the *Mujahideen* who still roam around with arms in the state.

The activists have called for their reintegration into civil society or the regular forces.

GoSS

New Sudan laws replace Sharia in Southern Sudan

(*Khartoum Monitor* – July 24, JUBA) The Judiciary in Southern Sudan on Monday issued a circular marking the beginning of the judicial functions and directing all courts in Southern Sudan to follow and execute this order in handling criminal or civil cases in territories within GoSS jurisdiction. Other relevant national laws could also be applied by the court or judge subject to review and decision by the National Supreme Court.

Addressing the ceremony, the President of the Supreme Court of Southern Sudan said that the GoSS will enforce these existing laws within the boundaries of the “New Sudan” until they are replaced with new laws. According to this constitutional arrangement, the GoSS is entitled to make its own laws.

The SSLA approves for the improvement of education in the south

(<http://www.MirayaFM.org>; *The Citizen* – July 24, JUBA) The South Sudan Legislative Assembly (SSLA) has passed an education policy paper, which seeks to improved education in south Sudan.

The 2006-2007 education policy paper, which seeks to provide affordable and accessible education, was passed into law by one hundred and twenty members of the Assembly.

"We want to close that gap between women and men," said Micheal Milly, the minister of Education, Science, and Technology in the government of southern Sudan. "We are also going to focus on basic, as far as higher education as well and that is the universities, the poli-technique, and the technical education," emphasised Milly adding, "in order to do this we need quality education then we must have quality teachers".

The minister said that intensive teacher's training program is highly needed saying that the the issue of curriculum is the most important of all the others. Meanwhile, the chairman of the education committee in the southern Sudan Legislative Assembly, Nartisios Loluke, said the education system will be based on eight years in primary school, four in Secondary and four in tertiary Institutions, depending on faculties, instead of the current eight, three and four-year system.

Primary and secondary school teachers in Southern Sudan will receive no pay for the next five months unless the ministry receives a supplementary budget, lawmakers heard yesterday.

Lawmakers also heard the GoSS Minister of Education, Science and Technology tell the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly Monday that the ministry needs a supplementary budget of \$20 million. The minister said that the number of teachers has been increasing in the last two years which made the ministry to spend much of its budget on them.

GoSS calls for intervention of all sectors to rescue flood-affected states

(*Khartoum Monitor* – July 24, JUBA) The Vice-President of the GoSS has called for urgent intervention of all levels of governance in Sudan and non-government organizations operating in the humanitarian doman to contain the flood-affected states of Southern Sudan.

The GoSS Ministerial Disaster Management Committee led by Vice-President Riek Machar on Sudan carried out air surveillance on Upper Nile region to assess the damage and to verify the number of villages leveled by the floods nearly two weeks earlier.

At Koch County, Upper Nile, the VP witnessed massive displacements of the locals moving the highlands and climbing trees for fear of being swept away by the floods. Mayom is one of the hardest hit areas with six Payams floating on the water. Similar floods threaten Warrap, Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal and Jonglei states.

The Vice-President has described the flood that affected Unity State as the worst in fifty years.

Darfur

AMIS commends Deputy Police Commissioner in Darfur

(African Union Mission in Sudan – July 23, EL-FASHER) The outgoing Deputy Commissioner for the Civilian Police component of the African Mission in the Sudan (AMIS), Assistant Commissioner of Police Henry Dadzie has been commended and honored for his distinguished service to the African Union and the people of Darfur.

In a farewell ceremony to Mr. Dadzie in el-Fasher on 22 July attended by the AMIS Deputy Force Commander, EU and UN representatives, AMIS Deputy Head of Mission, Ambassador Hassan Gibril paid glowing tribute to the outgoing Deputy Commissioner for his professional competence, perseverance and courage in spite of the challenging environment and difficult terrain in which he operated.

Ambassador Gibril assured Mr. Dadzie that his contribution as a gallant man who worked to ensure genuine and lasting peace in Darfur, and as a worthy ambassador of his country, Ghana, will figure prominently in the annals of AMIS.

“I therefore fully appreciate and recognize your selfless and untiring efforts, as the Deputy Police Commissioner, to improve the security situation in the Mission theatre. You have contributed your quota to the overall initiative to ensure global peace and make our world a better place,” Ambassador Gibril declared.

A citation from the Civilian Police component of AMIS described Mr. Dadzie as “a very diligent Police Officer who devoted most of his time to his work.”

Assistant Commissioner of Police Henry Dadzie joined the African Union Mission in the Sudan in June 2005 as the Civilian Police Regional Commander for West Darfur state until April 2006 when he was appointed as the AMIS Deputy Civilian Police Commissioner.

Political:

Deby says Sudan fails to implement reconciliation agreements

(Radio Africa #1 via BBC Monitoring – July 20, LIBREVILLE) Negotiations between the Chadian Government and various rebel movements hidden away in eastern Chad which were taking place in Tripoli, Libya, have failed following rejection by President Deby to a demand by the rebels for the formation of a new cabinet led by a rebel leader.

President Idriss Deby Itno blames Sudan for the failure of the talks and preventing the two parties from reaching a compromise.

The Chadian president also accuses neighbours Sudan of not fulfilling their side of obligations to the May 3 Riyadh Agreement. He called upon the international community to pressure Sudan to respect its commitments.

Libyan, Chadian leaders discuss Darfur

(*JANA via BBC Monitoring* – July 23, TRIPOLI) President Gadhaffi received yesterday afternoon his Chadian counterpart with whom they discussed, among other issues, efforts made to establish permanent peace and stability in Darfur and the need to implement the Tripoli peace agreement between Sudan and Chad that the two countries signed on 8 February 2006 under Gadhaffi's brokerage.

The talks were also meant to follow up the work of the mechanism in charge of the implementation of that agreement and ensure compliance with all its clauses.

US urges rebels participation in Darfur talks without preconditions

(*AFP* – July 23, WASHINGTON) "The United States urges all invited participants to attend the Arusha conference without preconditions, and calls on the rebel participants to include field commanders in their delegations," State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said.

He said that refusal to participate in the meeting "would demonstrate a lack of commitment to solving the crisis in Darfur and would impede the peace process."

The United States also urged all the parties to the Darfur conflict, including rebel groups and the Sudanese government, to cease hostilities and pursue a "peaceful resolution."

"We look forward to the deployment of the UN/AU hybrid peacekeeping force in Darfur, the cessation of hostilities in the region and a political settlement that leads to a sustainable peace in Sudan," McCormack said.

Rebel umbrella urges recognition of new balance of power in Darfur

(*AFP; AlAyaam* – July 23, ASMARA) The newly-formed United Front for Liberation and Development (UFLD) demanded on Monday an equal representation in the forthcoming peace talks sponsored by the African Union and the UN. The new group said that the international community must "recognize the changed and new balance of forces".

It also condemned the demand formulated by the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) to resume the peace talks with them and their opposition to the inclusion of new groups.

The UFLD is largely seen as an Eritrean creation in order to encircle the two main rebel groups which declined an Eritrean mediation to hold peace talks with Khartoum. The main groups are worried by the new rapprochement between Sudan and Eritrea.

The group's statement came after a weekend meeting between a joint U.N.-AU delegation led by Pekka Haavisto and Ambassador Sam Ibok and the group in the Eritrean capital.

The group confirmed it will attend talks in Arusha, North Tanzania, scheduled early next month. [*Read the full text [Rebel umbrella urges recognition of new balance of power in Darfur](#)*].

EU asks Darfur non signatory rebels to attend Arusha meeting

(*SudanTribune.com* – July 23, BRUSSELS) The European Union has urged the Darfur non-signatory rebel groups to attend the Arusha meeting organized by the AU-UN envoys to find out common ground agenda and prepare for peace talks with the Sudanese government.

The rebel Sudan Liberation Movement demands the deployment of Darfur peacekeeping force and the return of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) to their village before the starting of the political process.

The Justice and Equality Movement, which agreed to attend Arusha, has asked to limit the participation on the same groups participating at Abuja talks. The SLM also launched a similar call.

The EU further said it renews its strong support for the AU/UN mediation under the leadership of the UN and AU Special Envoys.

After calling on all the parties in the conflict, the EU warned that "In line with Security Council Resolution 1591, the Council will consider any party failing to constructively engage in the peace process as an obstacle to peace and will promote appropriate further measures against them, notably in the UN framework."

The statement also said that the EU remains ready to consider further measures, notably in the UN framework, against any party which obstructs the implementation of the UN support package, including deployment of the Hybrid Operation.

Security:

20,000 policepersons to be deployed to Darfur

(*AlSudani* – July 24, KHARTOUM) The Minister of Interior has announced that his office will be sending 20,000 policemen to beef-up security in Darfur. This batch, once deployed, will bring to 40,000 the number of policepersons deployed in Darfur.

The ministry will also be sending 75 police cars to patrol Darfur towns and trade routes.

Unidentified group abducts leader of Free-Will faction in Toweela

(*Alwan* – July 24) An unidentified armed group has abducted Osman Yahya Adam, the top representative of the SLM-Freewill faction at the African Union in Toweela, North Darfur.

The abduction took place last Saturday and his whereabouts remain unknown.

The SLM faction has strongly condemned the abduction and has asked for the immediate release of their representative.

Miscellaneous

Conference on Islam and terrorism begins in Khartoum 24 July

(*SUNA via BBC Monitoring* – July 23, KHARTOUM) The conference on terrorism and extremism, which is organized by the Centre for Islamic Studies and the Contemporary World, will start its sessions tomorrow at the Martyr Al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih Conference Hall. The conference will last for two days during which a number of papers will be presented by a big number of scholars from inside and outside Sudan. The papers will tackle such issues as the concept and definition of terrorism, motives and reasons, terrorist groups, exploitation of religion, terrorism patterns, as well as solutions.

It is worth recalling that the centre, which is an institution engaged in research and studies on the vision of Islam regarding the problems of the contemporary world, inaugurated its activities recently.

AlQaeda vows to launch violent campaign in northern Africa

(*AlAyaam* – July 24, AGENCIES) The AlQaeda, Northern Africa wing, said Monday it is planning a violent campaign against “infidels” and government forces in the regions and has called upon Muslims to avoid potential targets.