



## UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN

### UNMIS

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(By Public Information Office)

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# Highlights

## UN/ Agencies

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

(*The local press* – July 26, KHARTOUM) The United Nations Mission in Sudan regular briefing to the press on July 25<sup>th</sup> was widely covered in the print media today.

Most of the reporting has been factual with a slight exception of the coverage from the *Sudan Tribune* daily. The Office of the Spokesperson has written to the daily requesting corrections. [*for details, see attached Letter to the Editor*].

Transcripts of United Nations Mission in Sudan press conferences and briefings could be accessed through the website: [www.unmis.org](http://www.unmis.org).

### **Adada wants force with a mandate that “commands respect”**

(*AlAyaam*) Speaking to the *AFP* in Paris, Joint African Union-United Nations Special Representative Rodolphe Adada expressed wishes that the joint African Union-United Nations force for Darfur, once finalized, would have a mandate that would enable it “command respect”.

The joint representative who was in Paris as part of a European tour said that the over 20,000-strong force, once deployed, should have the capabilities to enable implementation of its mandate.

He pointed out that the envisaged troop deployment does not target the Sudan, whose sovereignty is not in question, but is rather in support of the Sudan government. He said that the Sudan government has the responsibility in principle to ensure that chaos and killings do not occur within its territories and that role of the international community only compliments the Sudan government’s endeavors.

### **Sudan to study revised UN text on Darfur force**

(*SudanTribune.com* – July 26, KHARTOUM) Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, Ambassador Ali al-Sadig, told reporters that various government agencies will study the text and provide feedback a formal response in the coming 2 days.

The U.K. and France dropped a threat of sanctions against Sudan in the revised U.N. Security Council (UNSC) resolution that would authorize an expanded peacekeeping force in Darfur but Sudan’s U.N. ambassador, AbdelMahmood AbdelHaleem Mohamad, blasted the new document calling it “ugly” and “awful”.

However Al-Sadig appeared to be softening his government's stance on the new text calling the revisions "positive".

The Sudanese government main objection is the mandate allowing the force to "use all necessary means" to protect civilians. Khartoum also rejects any resolution under Chapter VII of the UN charter.

An unidentified government official speaking to Al-Hayat newspaper published in London said that Sudan is in contact with UK and France to convince them to drop the reference to Chapter VII and limiting the mandate of the force.

### **Gordon Brown backs down on Darfur sanctions**

([www.telegraph.co.uk](http://www.telegraph.co.uk) – July 26) Gordon Brown's threat to impose sanctions on Sudan's regime was called into question yesterday after all references to penalties were removed from the latest United Nations resolution on Darfur.

Although the British-sponsored resolution provides for Ban Ki-Moon, the UN secretary-general, to report any breach of that agreement to the Security Council, it does not specify any penalties for Sudan.

Sir Emyr Jones Parry, Britain's ambassador to the UN, said that after "discussions" with the "African members of the council", Britain had "changed the text quite considerably", removing "threatening language". [[Full Text ...](#) ]

### **U.S. wants earlier transfer of force in Darfur**

(*Reuters* – July 25, WASHINGTON) The United States wants a combined U.N.-African Union force to function in Darfur from Oct. 1, three months earlier than proposed in a draft U.N. resolution, a senior U.S. official said Wednesday.

"People are dying, there is no reason to wait until December 31st," U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Jendayi Fraser said in an interview with Reuters.

Fraser said about 7,000 African troops in Darfur should transfer to the joint force by Oct 1 rather than the target date in the draft resolution, which may be voted on in the coming days.

"They are fully qualified to be the first element of the hybrid force," Fraser said. "We have the forces on the ground, why don't we get started with this?" She said African capabilities were consistently underestimated and the United Nations did not need to wait for Asian troops to sign on before the handover began.

"Essentially they are saying these African forces are not good enough and that is a huge problem. It is just not correct. I don't know where that prejudice is coming from. These are U.N. qualified troops."

Fraser said the AU forces currently in Darfur were not being paid and were poorly equipped, problems that could quickly be rectified once the U.N. was on board. "They are basically sitting ducks in Darfur and I think it is irresponsible not to bring them in early as the first phase of the hybrid." [[Read more ...](#)]

### **AU calls all Darfur rebels to Tanzania talks**

(*Reuters* – July 26, DAR ES SALAAM) Salim Ahmed Salim, the AU's special envoy for Darfur, said the Aug. 3-5 conference in Arusha would discuss when and where the rebel groups might hold talks with the Khartoum government, and how to forge a common negotiating position between them.

"We would like everybody big or small to be part of it. We want the agreement to be accepted by all stakeholders," Salim told reporters in Tanzania's commercial capital Dar es Salaam.

"The Arusha meeting will be the last before the commencement of the final talks toward resolving the Darfur conflicts."

The meeting, which is also being organised with the help of the United Nations, will be co-chaired by Salim and the U.N. special envoy to Darfur Jan Eliasson. Salim said the Sudanese government would not be represented in Arusha.

### **ICRC quitting south for Darfur**

(*The Citizen* – July 26, JUBA) The ICRC yesterday announced plans to move out of Juba Hospital as it shifts a chunk of its activities to Darfur.

The international humanitarian agency leaves the hospital in December after training humanitarian officials to handle the disabled people in Juba Hospital, ICRC Field Delegate, Claire Servoin, said at a media workshop, Wednesday.

The organization's Darfur operation is already bigger than the operations in Southern Sudan and Northern Sudan combined.

The ICRC is also planning to intervene in the flood-relief effort to help hundreds in Unity State.

### **CRS reduces services for IDPs**

(*Juba Post* – July 26, JUBA) Christian Relief Service has downsized services it normally offered to IDPs at Lobone, Eastern Equatoria State, the executive director of the SRRC reports.

Shortage of funds has been cited as the reason for the decision.

The CRS has been rendering services such as feeding centers, provision of scholastic materials, etc. in conjunction with the Jesuit refugee Service.

### **GoNU (CPA; Darfur Peace Agreement; ESPA)**

## **Defense minister says 24 Jewish organizations fueling the conflict in Darfur**

(*AlHayat/ Agencies* – July 26, ALRIYADH, KSA) The Minister of Defense says 24 Jewish organizations are to blame for fueling the conflict in the Darfur region. He also blamed the Western media for wrongly portraying the situation in Darfur as near bursting.

Speaking to Saudi-based *AUkazz* daily, the minister said that the rebel movements in Darfur are tools for the implementation of the objective of other states.

The minister stressed that Sudan has never and will never consent to the deployment of international troops to Darfur.

He went on to speak on the various areas of military cooperation with the KSA.

## **Growing concern for safety of Sudan opposition leader in custody**

(*SudanTribune.com* – July 25, KHARTOUM) Supporters of an opposition party in Sudan expressed concern over the well-being of their top leaders arrested by security services two weeks ago amid allegations of torture.

A statement issued by Al-Fadil office slammed the government for not allowing his family and attorney to visit him in prison.

According to the statement three requests have been made to the authorities requesting permission to visit Al-Fadil but that they have received no response as of yet. Several members of the ruling National Congress Party (NCP) sought to assist Al-Fadil's family in securing a visit but were turned down as well.

Sudan banned all media reporting on the case of 17 people accused of trying to overthrow the government.

The government issued a decree establishing a commission to investigate the allegations against Al-Fadil and the other detainees. [[Read more ...](#)]

## **Court orders Sudan to pay Cole families \$8 million**

(*The Charleston Gazette online*) Sudan must pay nearly \$8 million to be split among the families of 17 sailors killed in the 2000 terrorist attack it aided against the USS Cole, a federal judge ordered Wednesday.

The families had asked for \$105 million, but U.S. District Judge Robert G. Doumar rejected their plea for pain-and-suffering damages — “although it gives the court no pleasure to do so,” he wrote — because the case falls under the 87-year-old Death on the High Seas Act.

## **Kibaki appoints Moi peace envoy**

([www.Eastandard.net](http://www.Eastandard.net)) President Kibaki has announced the appointment of former president, Daniel arap Moi, as a Special Envoy of Peace and Goodwill to Sudan.

The announcement follows consultations between President Kibaki and President Omar Hassan Al Bashir of Sudan.

While making the announcement, Kibaki noted that the former president had vast experience and knowledge on African affairs, and that his stature as an elder statesman made him well suited for the role. [[full story](#)]

### **Sudanese president, deputies discuss progress of south peace implementation**

(SMC via BBC Monitoring – July 25, KHARTOUM) President Bashir and Vice-Presidents Kiir and Taha have agreed to form a committee to oversee and evaluate the implementation of the agreement on Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan states as stipulated in the Comprehensive peace Agreement.

They also formed a National Commissariat for Civil Service after the legislation on its formation was passed by the parliament.

### **SPLM says "registered two million members"**

(*Akhir Lahza* via BBC Monitoring – July 25) The leader and the former head of intelligence of the [ex-rebels] Sudan People's Liberation Movement [SPLM], Edward Lino, has said the SPLM had registered two million members countrywide.

He pointed out that the registration process took place in two weeks.

"Our membership scares all the political parties including the [ruling] National Congress" Lino said in an interview with *Akhir Lahzah*.

Lino further revealed that the Government of National Unity owes the Government of Southern Sudan [GoSS] one billion dollars due to the suspension of the Abyei Protocol implementation and freezing of disbursement of area oil revenues to the GoSS in the last two years.

### **SPLM MPs boycott Khartoum Assembly session**

(*Khartoum Monitor*) SPLM MPs at the Khartoum State Legislative Assembly announced a boycott of sessions of the regional legislative body until the suspension of colleague Khalid Mohammed AbdelJadein is reversed.

The MPs have threatened to take legal action in response to the suspension of the MP who was also banned by authorities from traveling for treatment outside the country and his passport seized. The MP says authorities told him that his particulars have been circulated to all points of exit in the country and a travel ban imposed on him.

### **Health ministry says water supply responsible for spread of diarrhea**

(*Khartoum Monitor*) The Federal Ministry of Health holds the National Water Supply Corporation responsible for the spread of diarrhea in some regions in the states.

Director of the Plagues Department at the ministry said in a press release that some water sources have been closed down by health authorities in Gedharef because they caused the spread of severe diarrhea in various regions in the state. He also warned about the possible spread of plagues in the country this year stating that there is a big challenge that demands preserving the environment and permanent precautionary measures be put in place.

### **Governor says airdrops to villages "face exceptional circumstances"**

(*SMC via BBC Monitoring – July 24, ATBARA*) Governor Ghulam al-din Osman of Nile River State has disclosed the resumption of airdrops of food supplies to dozens of villages isolated by water and face exceptional circumstances of extreme complexity.

He said in a statement that the internal convoys of food and medical supplies in support of the state and what is expected from convoys by Arab brothers, would enable them to form an air bridge between them and the hundreds of families and villages along the Atbara River and Abu Hamad locality.

He stressed that the situation is currently under control of the state agencies.

He pointed out that solidarity and joint efforts to anticipate the crisis led to a reduction in the disaster that could have been incurred by the state, which is currently plagued by a wave of torrential rains and floods.

## **GoSS**

### **Southern Sudan government promises help for flood victims**

(*SRS via BBC Monitoring – July 25*) GoSS Vice-President Riek Machar, who visited Renk County on Monday to assess the situation following floods that have devastated the area in the past few weeks, has pledged GoSS assistance to victims of the flood in Upper Nile.

The floods, caused by nearly non-stop rainfall in this part of southern Sudan, have destroyed houses and displaced many people from their homes. They have also increased the spread of waterborne diseases, such as acute diarrhoea, because the floods have contaminated drinking water.

Dr Machar assured people affected by the floods that the government will supply them with food and shelter until the situation improves. He also urged oil companies working in the area to construct bridges and canals to help drain flood water from residential areas as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, Upper Nile state has formed a government committee to assess the situation and distribute mosquito nets, plastic tents and medicine to the affected communities. Minister of Health and Committee Chair Kueth Kang told Sudan Radio Service in Malakal on Monday that

## **Search is on for female MP**

(*The Citizen* – July 26, JUBA) Lawmakers were, Wednesday, sent home indefinitely with reports that one of the Assembly committees was in a behind-the-curtains meetings to find a female lawmaker to fill the vacancy for Ikotos Constituency.

The seat fell vacant when GoSS President Kiir issued a decree dismissing Henry Odur Delilah from the Assembly because that seat was support to be occupied by a female.

## **SPLA said not to blame for insecurity**

(*Juba Post* – July 26, JUBA) “People should not blame SPLA soldiers for the current insecurity in Juba,” SPLA Spokesperson Kuol Deim Kuol says.

Last week three people were shot dead by unknown gunmen in the customs areas along the Juba-Yei road and others are nursing injury in hospital. Last Sunday a dead body was found at the Konyo-Konyo area. people suspect SPLA soldiers for these incidents.

The Spokesperson pointed out that most people have armed themselves with guns in Juba for self-defence since criminals from neighbouring Kenya and Uganda have come to Juba. He said that the town will only see security when completely disarmed. He agreed however that SPLA soldiers are no angels.

## **Tensions up in Bor, two dead**

(*The Citizen* – July 26, JUBA) One man died in clashes and tens were injured as tensions cropped up over a border dispute in Jonglei State.

Citizens blame the incident on a Prison’s Department officer at Terekeka who wanted to take over a plantation in Bor County to use for his office.

This is the second time in less than a month that the road is blocked. An SPLA mutiny at Pariak over delayed pay earlier left hundreds stranded in Juba.

## **Returnees overcrowd orphanage in Yei**

(*Juba Post* – July 26, YEI) Returnee IDPs and refugees are overcrowding the Yei Orphanage School.

The headmaster reports that 200 orphans are staying at the school’s boarding facilities while 190 others are day students due to lack of facilities.

Some of these orphans are brought in by chiefs and others by the Southern Sudan Relief and Rescue Commission. They range from barely 3 weeks old to 18 years.

## **Rebels say lack of funds delays Uganda peace talks**



(Reuters – July 25, KAMPALA) A failure by Ugandan rebels to raise \$2 million to fund foreign travel and reach commanders in their forest hideouts will delay the planned resumption of peace talks next week, participants said on Wednesday.

Discussions between representatives of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) guerrillas and Ugandan government officials had been due to resume in Juba, southern Sudan, next Monday but Martin Ojul, head of the LRA delegation at the talks, said his group had been unable to raise enough money from donors to organise a visit by 500 people to meet rebel leaders. [[Read more ...](#)].

## **Darfur**

### **Governor says lack of water becoming a crisis in Darfur**

(AlHayat) The Governor of North Darfur says there is a water shortage of about 55 million cubic meters.

He says this water shortage is becoming a big problem in the state and especially el-Fasher, the seat of government.

### ***Humanitarian:***

### **Race to position food in CAR for Darfurian refugees**

(ReliefWeb – July 26, SAM OUNDJA, CAR) Refugees fleeing Darfur are moving across the border into Central African Republic opening another front in the complex and deadly crisis, WFP spokesperson Marcus Prior reports.

On May 23 this year, a column of people from the town of Daffak in south Darfur started arriving in Sam Ouandja.

They had walked for almost two weeks to escape the bombs which fell on their settlement soon after five o'clock one clear afternoon.

The mothers carried their babies on their backs and their meagre belongings on their heads. There was no shelter on their 100 kilometre journey and little food. It was the first time victims of Darfur's bitter conflict had crossed into neighbouring CAR, adding a new and worrying dimension to perhaps the world's largest humanitarian crisis. [[Read text ...](#)]

❖ [Darfur refugees tap the sun's power to cook \(The Christian Science Monitor\)](#)

### ***Security:***

### **North Darfur governor, UK minister discuss security, support**

(SUNA via BBC Monitoring) Governor Muhammad Yusuf Kibir of North Darfur State has confirmed that the security situation in the state is stable.

During a meeting today with the British minister of international development, he praised the efforts of the British Government in the area of humanitarian action in the Darfur states.

He called upon the international community, especially France, Great Britain, and the United States, to play a vital role in the peace process in Darfur, instead of sending negative signals about the situation in Darfur, which leads to complicating the problem.

The British minister confirmed that the state is seeing more stability in the security situation and said that he inspected a number of refugee camps in the state. He stressed his government's commitment to provide the necessary support for those affected in all of the states of Darfur and called for the implementation of the hybrid operation and political dialogue to move the peace process forward.