

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS**Media Monitoring Report, 31 July 2007

(By Public Information Office)

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# Highlights

## UN/ Agencies

### **UK, France modify UN text on new Darfur force**

(Reuters) Britain and France have modified a U.N. resolution authorizing up to 26,000 troops and police in Darfur by narrowing the scope of where force can be used and dropping some language offensive to Sudan.

The draft, the third one this month, obtained by Reuters on Monday and distributed to U.N. Security Council members over the weekend, is expected to be adopted this week, but further changes are possible.

"We are very close and our expectation is to finalize the text in the next 24 hours," U.S. Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad said after council consultations. But he said some discussions were still needed before a vote could be called.

The draft leaves intact a tough mandate, Sudan's biggest complaint, that would allow the use of force to ensure the security and movement of the mission's personnel and humanitarian workers and "to protect civilians under threat of physical violence." [[Read more ...](#)].

Meanwhile, China's Permanent Representative to the UN Wang Guangya said his government supports the inclusion of Chapter VII mandate in the draft resolution on Darfur peacekeeping force.

"Some elements of the mandate I think probably there is a need for it to be under Chapter VII" Wang told reporters at UN headquarters today.

This is the first time a Chinese official explicitly expresses support for the tough mandate as outlined in the draft resolution. [[Read more ...](#)]

### **UN human rights official hails Sudan's efforts in Darfur**

(Akhbar Alyaum via BBC Monitoring, July 30) The governor of North Darfur State, Yusuf Muhammad Kibr, has called for pressure on non-signatory factions of the DPA to bring them on board. In a meeting with visiting United Nations Human Rights Special Rapporteur on Sudan, the governor also outlined efforts by the government to foster the peace process and maintain security in the region in order to encourage returns.

For her part, Sima Samar hailed efforts made to improve the situation in Darfur, saying that the UN will support this efforts aimed at restoring peace and fostering the peace process in Darfur.

She said Sudan's observation to human rights stems from the beliefs of its people.

She said her visit was aimed at acquainting herself with the situation in Darfur and urging all parties to work towards achievement of comprehensive peace in Darfur.

She pointed out that the international community will support efforts being made to return the IDPs and refugees to their homes

### **Joint Special Representative holds talks with Egyptian foreign minister**

(*Khartoum Monitor*) Joint Representative of the African Union and the United Nations, Rodolphe Adada, held talks with Egypt's foreign minister on the issue of the hybrid force to be deployed to Darfur.

The Egyptian foreign minister reaffirmed Egypt's support to the Envoy's mission and its readiness to extend all possible assistance to make the mission of the hybrid force a success.

Egypt will support the hybrid force with two infantry battalions and three engineering, signals and communications companies. Egypt also said it is ready to build another field hospital and to provide military observers and staff officers.

Egypt also stressed the need to maintain the African nature of the hybrid force and for its commander to work in full partnership with the Sudan government in order to realize peace and restore security and stability in Darfur at the earliest possible time.

### **Activists petition President Bashir to allow ailing Jamous travel abroad for treatment**

(*AlAyaam*) Some ten lead activists have petitioned President Bashir to allow ailing Sulaiman Jamous travel out of Kadugli for medical treatment.

"We have come to know and respect Sulaiman Jamous for his work in the humanitarian domain and for the sake of the good of the people of Sudan. He represented the best in Sudanese civic activities," the petition read in part. It goes on to point out that he has been unable to leave Kadugli where the hospital there cannot provide him the necessary treatment for his ailment and his health condition has been deteriorating for the year he has spent there.

Signatories to the petition included Reverend Desmond Tutu of South Africa, Juan Mendez (anti-genocide advisor to the Secretary-General of the United Nations), Richard Holbrook (former US ambassador) and others.

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

#### **Tens of thousands remember John Garang**

(*SUNA via BBC Monitoring, July 30, the local press*) The Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) commemorated last Monday evening at Khartoum Stadium the second anniversary of death of

Dr. John Garang. The ceremony was under the theme: "Two Years for Peace and Democratic Transformation," and was attended by members of the SPLM, the NCP, political forces, political parties and a number of members of the diplomatic corps accredited to Sudan.

Addressing the ceremony, SPLM Secretary General Pagan Amum greeted the masses and called for implementation of the CPA [Comprehensive Peace Agreement] for the sake of unity and stability. He affirmed commitment of the SPLM to all provisions of the CPA.

Others who addressed the occasion included the Governor Malik Aggar of Blue Nile State (who also doubles up as the National Deputy Secretary-General of the SPLM and the head of the movement's North Sudan Chapter) and Salah Mohamed Adam for the NCP.

In his speech, Governor Aggar reviewed the stances of late Dr Garang towards the process of peace, unity and justice equality for creating a new Sudan. He pointed out that late Dr John Garang had called for solution to the Darfur problem, pointing out that the SPLM endeavors for the realization of stability in Darfur.

The NCP representative said the memory of late Dr Garang will remain in the hearts of the Sudanese people. He pointed out that the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) will remain the candle that lights the way for overcoming difficulties. He affirmed commitment of the National Congress to implementation of the CPA. [[Read more ...](#); [Amum on unity](#)]

### **Sudan's former rebels accuse government of "genocide" in Darfur**

*(Al-Mashaheer via BBC Monitoring, July 30)* The Secretary-General of the SPLM has accused the Khartoum government of committing genocide in Darfur, western Sudan, speaking of "ethnic cleansing" in the region which has witnessed a civil war since 2003.

Saturday newspapers quoted Pagan Amum's statement on Friday [27 July], in which he said "The government had committed crimes of genocide, ethnic cleansing, forced displacement on the inhabitants and arming tribes against each other in Darfur."

Amum was speaking on the second anniversary of the death in an helicopter crash of the historic SPLM leader, John Garang.

### **Southern Sudan movement official warns of separation from the north**

*(AlWan via BBC Monitoring, July 30)* The Sudan People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] said that Sudanese people's ambitions have not been realized since resources were not utilized properly; despite simplicity of the people's ambitions.

[The deputy secretary-general of the SPLM in the northern sector and governor of Blue Nile state], Malik Agar, said during the ceremonies on the occasion of the second commemoration of late Dr John Garang that Sudan would split into smaller countries and it is now unstable economically and politically.

Aggar added that southern Sudan would separate if there would be no free and fair elections.

Agar strongly criticized the recurring notion which says Sudan was targeted by powerful countries, saying that was a game of interests and has nothing to do with being targeted; "lets stop being tricky".

Meanwhile, Agar called upon the opposition and the ruling political forces for unity based on clear principles that would lead the country to peace and development.

### **Sudanese ruling party leader slams ex-rebel official over statement on Darfur**

(*AlRai AlAam via BBC Monitoring, July 30*) Dr. Qutbi el-Mahdi says SPLM Secretary-General Pagan Amum still has the mentality of a reel and bushman.

Qutbi, a senior official in the ruling National Congress Party, said that Amun did not understand the current changes in the arena, which required national responsibility. He described the statements made by the secretary-general of the SPLM as expressing the agenda and stance of those countries opposed to Sudan and representative of a dark page on Sudan's history that does not serve public interest after the realization of peace and stability.

He called upon Pagan to stick to the peace agreement, and not to adopt the stances of the countries opposed to Sudan, and who hatch conspiracies of hostility and hatred against Sudan.

### **Darfur accord follow-up team hails Al-Bashir visit**

(*SUNA via BBC Monitoring, July 29*) The higher committee for following up implementation of Darfur Peace Agreement, chaired by the President Bashir, Sunday [29 July] held a meeting at the Secretariat General of the Council of Ministers and appreciated the outcome of the President's recent tour of Darfur. The tour reflected the stability of the security situation in the region and the efforts of the national unity government for implementing a number services and developmental projects in Darfur.

The meeting heard a detailed report on the implementation of Darfur Peace Agreement, and underscored the importance of the ongoing voluntary return of the displaced people to their home areas, besides provision of security and services at the home areas of the displaced people.

Meanwhile, the higher committee heard a report of the minister of foreign affairs, Dr Lam Akol, on the situation of the Security Council and the external contacts regarding the Darfur issue. The minister underscored the importance of exerting efforts for realization of security and stability in Darfur through the mechanisms and agreements which were made with the African Union and the United Nations.

In a separate development, *Akhir Lahza* reports that President Bashir has issued a decree on the formation of a compensation commission for war-affected victims in Darfur.

The committee will be headed by Abd-al-Qasim Muhammad Abu al-Qasim and membership of three representatives of Darfur states, three representatives from the national government, three representatives from the Sudan Liberation Movement/ Army [SLM/A] and three representatives of the Justice and Equality Movement [JEM] in addition to five representatives of the displaced people and three representatives of the refugees.

### **Sudanese government honors journalists for covering Al-Bashir's visit to Darfur**

*(SUNA via BBC Monitoring, July 30)* The Minister of the Presidency Gen Bakri Hasan Salih has praised the local press for their outstanding coverage of President Bashir's recent tour to the Darfurs.

In a ceremony organized by the Presidency of the Republic at the Republican Palace Monday in honor of the journalists and pressmen who accompanied President Al-Bashir during the visit, the Minister said that the reason behind involving journalists in such visits was to provide them with the opportunity to have a close look at the situation on the ground so that they would reflect it in a realistic national spirit.

Also addressing the ceremony was Minister of Federal Government Abd al-Basit Sabdarat who stressed the importance of reflecting the developments achieved in Darfur to refute the baseless allegations claiming marginalization of the region. He commended the active role of the Sudanese media in this respect.

Minister of Information and Communications Al-Zahawi Ibrahim Malik has on his part, affirmed readiness of the Government of National Unity to build a partnership with the media so as to serve national issues.

Meanwhile, a number of Editors-in-chief also spoke during the ceremony and expressed their visions on how to achieve sustainable development in Darfur and thanked the Presidency of the Republic for honoring them.

### **Sudanese leader's aide says Darfur tribes to "reconcile"**

*(Akhbar Alyaum via BBC Monitoring, July 30)* Senior Presidential Assistant and Chairman of Darfur Interim Authority Mani Arkoi Minawi has said he supports all movements who favor peace, especially those who are ready to sign an agreement with the government.

In a press statement after completing a visit to Darfur, he said there were official and local efforts being made to reconcile tribes of the Darfur region to reach comprehensive peace.

The visit of the senior assistant to the president took a week and included several localities. He held consultation meeting on the progress of development and reconstruction [of Darfur] and fulfilling of the projects of the Interim Authority.

### **Ministry of Health declares free pediatric treatment**

(*AlAyaam*) The Federal Ministry of Health has unveiled plans for free pediatric treatment and deductions in hospital charges on Caesarean Section operations by the year 2008.

Addressing the ceremony held in commemoration of the late Dr. John Garang, Health minister Tabitha Boutrous said that her ministry was committed to implementing the strategies laid down by the fallen hero especially with regards to free medical care.

### **Alor holds talks on CPA with US Cd'A**

(*AlSudani*) The Minister of Cabinet Affairs received yesterday the Charge d'Affaires of the US Embassy in Khartoum.

Talks between the two focused on progress in implementation of the CPA, the outstanding issues and means to bridge the gap in views of the Parties over these issues.

### **Governments says channels of dialogue with the US remain open**

(*AlWihda*) Commenting on recent statements by the Charge d'Affaires of the US Embassy in Khartoum, state minister Al-Sammani Al-Waseela said that channels of dialogue with the US will remain open.

He praised the Cd'A's speech and said it could form a basis towards serious dialogue between Khartoum and Washington. He praised the spirit the US diplomat has shown and his continued efforts to bridge the gap in views between the Parties to the CPA.

## **GoSS**

### **Salva Kiir declares July 30th National Martyrs day in Southern Sudan**

(*SudanTribune.com*) Sudan's First Vice President and President of the government of Southern Sudan (GoSS), Salva Kiir Mayardit, has, today, declared July 30th to be observed annually as a National Martyrs' Day in Southern Sudan.

Addressing hundreds of thousand people at the late John Garang Mausoleum during the Second Anniversary Commemoration day of Dr. John Garang de Mabior's death in Juba, capital of southern Sudan, President Salva Kiir Mayardit announced that the July 30th day will be a national holiday in entire southern Sudan to be observed annually.

He also called upon all members of GoSS governments and every house hold in southern Sudan to take the coming population census seriously by ensuring that people of southern Sudan are all counted in order to disapprove those who used to estimate southern Sudan population at only eight million. [[Read more ...](#)].

### **Flooded south Sudan declares disaster, 12,000 hit**

(Reuters) More than 12,000 people have been affected by flooding in southern Sudan, emerging from decades of civil war, and six of the region's 10 states have been declared a disaster zone, officials said on Monday.

GoSS Vice President Riek Machar declared the disaster zone. At least two people have been reported killed by the rains and flooding, said Lydia Poole, a U.N. emergency response official.

Poole said the final figure of flood victims would likely be much higher.

"Responding is going to be extremely challenging logistically and very expensive," said Poole, adding at least 1,000 people were stranded in one hard-to-reach area.

In northern Sudan, the central government said 59 people had been killed and more than 100 injured in flash floods, which have spread to most parts of the country.

U.N. stockpiled resources in poorly accessible areas are dwindling and new appeals for help are being written.

Despite a lack of information from the vast reaches of the swampy south, dotted with villages, the United Nations and the southern government are braced for more flooding.

The Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) has allocated \$1 million to the worst two affected states said James Kueth, relief director for the GOSS humanitarian wing.

U.N. analysts say new road construction following the signing of a north-south peace deal in January 2005 has changed drainage patterns and is partly responsible for changed water movement.

### **Commissioner for Wau accuses the NCP of inciting insecurity in Southern Sudan**

(Khartoum Monitor) The commissioner for Wau County says the NCP is to blame for hindering the implementation of the CPA and inciting security problems in Southern Sudan. He further pointed out that the NCP is violating the peace agreement by not withdrawing its troops from Hufat el-Nahas and Kafi-Kangi in Bahr-el-Ghazal State.

Addressing the rally to commemorate the death of John Garang in Wau town, the Commissioner said that Southern Sudan secession from the north is only a matter of time as the unity advocated for by the CPA is not attractive.

### **Minister of Environment graduates 1st batch of SPLA wildlife protection forces**

(<http://MirayaFM.org>) The Minister of Environment and Wild Life Conservation in the Government of Southern Sudan, James Loro, graduated yesterday the first batch of SPLA-trained wildlife forces in Wau.



Mr. Loro called on the graduates to practice what they have learned in order to protect the animal resources of Sudan.

Meanwhile, the Governor of Western Bahr el-Ghazal State, Mark Nyipouch, said that anyone found killing wild animals in the state would be punished.

### **Catholic University to be opened in southern Sudan**

(SRS via BBC Monitoring, July 30) To help improve educational standards in Sudan, Catholic bishops will open the first Catholic University in Sudan.

The Sudan Bishops' Conference meeting in Khartoum last week resolved to open a Catholic University in Sudan. No word yet on where exactly the university will be founded or when.

Bishop Akiyo Mutek of Torit Diocese also told Sudan Radio Service producer Nichola Mandil in Khartoum that the Catholic Institute in Wau, which was transferred to Medini in Al-Jazirah state during the war, will be returned to Wau.

The 10-day conference ended in Khartoum last Friday 27 July.

### **Interpol Probes Illegal Use of Uganda Code**

(The Monitor – July 30, KAMPALA) The Ugandan parliament has ordered an immediate investigation into Gemtel, a Southern Sudan company that is using Uganda's international dialing code (+256).

This followed a curious revelation by Works and Transport Minister John Nasasira yesterday that the Uganda government does not have any information about the company's directors.

Mr Nasasira's denial of knowledge of the company directors' identities prompted MPs to order a special investigation by the International Police (Interpol). The parliamentary committee on Commissions, Statutory Authorities and State Enterprises is currently investigating circumstances under which the Uganda telecom (Utl) gave a communication-free-way to Gemtel.

According to MPs on the committee, the government is losing millions since Gemtel uses Uganda's code without paying anything to the government. ([Read more ...](#))

## **Darfur**

### **Sudan says 45% of displaced people in Darfur return home**

(Xinhua) Sudanese General Commissioner of Humanitarian Aid Hasabo Mohamed Abdel-Rahman announced on Saturday that 45 percent of displaced people in the western Sudanese region of Darfur had returned to their villages.

He told a press conference that the number of returnees in North Darfur State reached 81,762 households, in West Darfur State, 78,846 and in South Darfur State, 76,841.

Describing the humanitarian situation in Darfur as stable, the Sudanese official noted that his government undertook the rebuilding of 200 villages in Darfur.

Hasabo indicated that a number of factors contributed to the voluntary repatriation of displaced people, including tribal reconciliation and the efforts exerted by national and international organizations and facilities by the government.

### ***Political:***

#### **Minnawi in Darfur to urge non-signatory groups on board**

(*AlSudani*) Senior Presidential Aide Mini Minnawi will be traveling from Juba to Darfur to follow upon on an initiative of his movement to bring on board the DPA some non-signatory factions of the Muhajeriya area.

Senior movement member Mustapha Jameel reports that contacts by the SLM-MM with the non-signatory factions of the Muhajeriya area. He further revealed that a large group of the JEM and other Darfur factions are facing tough conditions as a result of the cut in supplies and funds. This, he adds, has led some of them to contact SLM-MM and express willingness to join the peace process.

On the other hand, the political secretary of the Justice and Equality Movement under Idries Ibrahim Azraq has called on the United Nations and the African Union to allow opposition figures such as Sadiq el-Mahdi, Dr. Turabi, Mohamed Nugud and el-Haj Warraq to attend as observers the envisioned talks between the Government of Sudan and the non-signatory factions. He said that the issue of Darfur is of a national interest and that these leaders are influential figures and have political maturity.

#### **Darfur movements to form a coordinating council for talks with the government**

(*AlSudani*) Non-signatory factions to the DPA have unveiled agreement between them for the formation of a coordinating council for forthcoming talks with the Government of Sudan under a unified position.

Ahmed Hussein, a spokesperson for the JEM, says JEM, SLM-Unity (of Abdulla Yahya), SLM-AbdulShafie and the Federal Coalition of Ahmed Direij reached agreement at a meeting held in Tripoli the last few days to harmonize their negotiations position.

Their declaration calls upon government to depart from “its policies of divide-and-rule”.

### ***Security:***

#### **New breakaway rebel faction claims removal of Darfur JEM group**

(*SudanTribune.com*) A new breakaway faction of the rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) has announced the removal of the leader of the movement accusing him of hegemony and use of force to eliminate members of the group.

A new splinter faction called "JEM – Eastern Command" denounced, in a press statement issued on Sunday July 29, the dictatorial leadership of Khalil Ibrahim, the leader of the JEM since his return to Darfur. They also blamed Khalil of using violence against his comrades-in-arms.

They also contested the removal of Abdalla Banda Abbaker from his position as Commander General of JEM Forces on July 1, 2007.

The JEM- Eastern Command said in a statement, signed by 10 commanders, that a conference would be held within 15 days to address the situation and to study the exclusion of Abbaker Banda.

But Nourein Adam Abdel Gaffa, spokesman of the faction told Reuters that they decided to sack Khalil Ibrahim “from his leadership position and wanted members of JEM’s army to represent the group at the rebel meeting in Tanzania beginning on Aug. 3.”

However JEM spokesperson Ahmed Hussein Adam denied in a statement to Reuters the removal of Khalil Ibrahim indicating that he would lead the JEM delegation to Arusha talks. [[Read more ...](#)]

### **34 killed, 58 injured in new clashes between the Turgum and Abbala**

(*AlAyaam; Rai AlShaab*) Clashes yesterday between the Abbala Rizeigat and the Turgum in the Bulbul and the Abu-Jazu areas and their environs in South Darfur left forty-three people dead killed and fifty-eight others injured.

The injured have been taken to Nyala Hospital for treatment. The state government held an emergency meeting chaired by the deputy governor to discuss the necessary security precautions to be taken.