



## UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN

## UNMIS

Media Monitoring Report, 10 May 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/ Partners**

- UN Sudan aid chief says Darfur sides ready for talks
- UN envoy disclose road map for peace in Darfur; says numbers complicate Darfur talks
- Sudanese children abducted for fighting and sex-UN

**➤ The UN Support Package to the AMIS**

- Sudan to discuss with UN, AU on hybrid force

**➤ CPA**

- Vraalsen says census in Sudan may take place in January of next year
- 
- Sudan's government joint committees to meet 9 June
- GoNU, GoSS to discuss harmonization of foreign trade
- Ex-southern Sudan rebel movement reportedly threatens to go back to war

**➤ GoNU**

- Sudan to liberalize communication sector
- Authorities launch dragnet for illegal immigrants targeting 1,000 companies
- Dinar circulation deadline drawing close
- Security authorities bar a number of cabinet ministers and governors from a meeting

**➤ Southern Sudan**

- South Sudan army integrates largest militia
- Rumbek students chant "Down, Down SPLM!"
- NGO starts HIV awareness campaign in Juba
- Child Protection workshop in Malakal
- The GOSS calls for the arrest of General Gabriel Tanginya

➤ **Darfur**

- Sudan government, Darfur rebel group sign peace deal
- Darfur rebel leader says wont take part in Juba conference
- Sudan, Chad reportedly agree to deploy joint patrols
- Chadian opposition forces leave Khartoum and welcome Saudi mediation
- Darfurians harass Sudan ambassador to the US at a symposium on Darfur held in Philadelphia
- France to invite Sudan for Darfur conference - Egyptian foreign minister

➤ **Other Developments**

- Sudanese president briefed on return of opposition chief

## Highlights

### UN/ Agencies/ Partners

#### **UN Sudan aid chief says Darfur sides ready for talks**

(*AlSahafa; Reuters via SudanTribune.com;*) United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon says efforts are in progress within the framework of the roadmap for peace in Darfur to bring the non-signatory factions to talks with the government before August this year.

Speaking at a press conference the day before yesterday, the United Nations Secretary-General expressed hopes that the Sudanese government will agree as soon as possible to the joint proposal for a hybrid force for Darfur presented by the Chairman of the African Union Commission. *AlHayat* daily and other local newspapers report that Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon may visit the country next week as part of a delegation of the Security Council.

In a separate development, United Nations humanitarian chief in Sudan said on Friday that all sides in the conflict in Darfur are ready to start talks to renegotiate a year-old peace accord rejected by many Darfuris as inadequate.

On his last interview before leaving his post after three years, Manuel Aranda Da Silva said a descent into anarchy in Darfur is hindering the world's largest aid operation and an African peacekeeping mission.

Previous rounds of talks to end the violence have been stymied by rebel divisions and fighting. But Da Silva said: "I think the moment is the right moment now (for talks)."

"The government will not put any objections to the negotiation process," he said, adding all rebel factions also said they were ready to attend talks under a joint U.N.-African Union mediation.

"It must (start). If it doesn't it's a disaster for Sudan. It must start soon before August."

Da Silva said the more than a dozen rebel factions did not need to unite before talks, but needed to voice a unified position.

Of the DPA, he says, "The document is not a bad document. It will be renegotiated in the sense there will be areas of the (deal) that need to be changed to improve," he said.

Da Silva said cooperation between the government and humanitarian agencies was improving through dialogue although government suspicions remained about the 14,000 aid workers in Darfur.

Da Silva said half a million lives have been saved by the aid efforts in Darfur which have cost billions of dollars.

"Up to now we don't have people starving to death or dying from diseases," he said, adding malnutrition rates were almost as they were before the conflict.

But Da Silva, from Mozambique, said he was most concerned about the violence against civilians, humanitarian workers and even the peacekeepers and government workers in Darfur.

"Even if the leadership of the government or rebels are not promoting these policies it is still happening," he said.

U.S. President George W. Bush said this week he would consider imposing a no-fly zone in Darfur to stop government bombardment.

But Da Silva said he did not think that was seriously being considered by the international community at this time.

"Nobody has approached us and asked us what we think about no-fly zone. We consider this is more speculation than anything else at this moment." [Follow the link to the full text of the story on the DSRSG da Silva interview [UN Sudan aid chief says Darfur sides ready for talks](#)].

### **UN envoy disclose road map for peace in Darfur; says numbers complicate Darfur talks**

(*UN News; AP* – 9 Jun. The UN) The United Nations Special Envoy to Darfur today laid out “a road map towards peace” in the war-ravaged region of the Sudan, calling on all parties to cease hostilities and prepare for forthcoming negotiations.

There are three stages of the road map for the coming months, Jan Eliasson told reporters after briefing the Security Council.

Firstly, “there have been tendencies in the past of initiatives being conducted in parallel rather than in a converging pattern” so such efforts must be united, he said.

The second phase entails pre-negotiation, which will involve “shuttle diplomacy” to both the Government in the capital Khartoum and to non-signatories to last year’s Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA).

Lastly, he said that he hoped invitations to peace negotiations will be issued “during the course of the summer.”

Eliasson appealed to all sides to put an end to the fighting – including the cessation of bombings to create an atmosphere favourable to negotiations and to ready themselves for discussions.

On the Government side, he noted that authorities have already begun conferring on such issues as compensation and wealth-sharing. Other topics which are more sensitive but need to be considered are power-sharing and security, which deals with the disarming of the Janjaweed militia.

Regarding the non-signatories, he observed that “they are fragmenting further,” with their number growing to 12. “That is of course a great difficulty, not only politically but also physically and logistically,” Eliasson said, underscoring the need for the non-signatories to coordinate their positions.

“I was met with great understanding by the Security Council today,” he said to the press. He also thanked Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for making Darfur a top priority. As a result, “we are now given the resources to beef up and strengthen our staff both in Khartoum and elsewhere to prepare for the negotiations.”

He highlighted the importance of the political aspect of bringing peace to Darfur, noting “peacekeeping can never be effective if there is no peace to keep.”

Eliasson welcomed recent regional initiatives to further the peace process, namely the efforts made by Eritrea, Chad and Libya, which will be converged with the UN-African Union (AU) effort.

When asked about the likelihood of all 12 non-signatories attending the planned negotiations, he responded that the parties are aware of the realities on the ground.

“There is a growing frustration, a growing weariness and tiredness for the situation,” he said. “The tribal leaders, the leaders in the camps are very, very vocal and make very strongly the point that this conflict must come to an end.”

Eliasson voiced hope in the role the AU and UN can play in serving as “a catalyst for bringing everyone on-board.” [*Follow the link to the full text [UN envoy disclose road map for peace in Darfur](#)*].

Additional reporting from the *AP* says that the U.N. envoy said the road to negotiations has become even more complicated because of the increasing number of rebel groups.

Jan Eliasson said that just three weeks ago there were nine opposition movements. Now, he said, there are 12 -- and the number could increase.

"They are fragmenting further, and that is, of course, great difficulty, not only politically but physically and logistically," he told reporters after a closed-door briefing to the U.N. Security Council.

Eliasson and his new deputy, Pekka Haavisto, the former European Union envoy for Darfur, have been meeting with representatives of the rebel groups that have not signed the agreement inside and outside Darfur, including in Chad, Europe and Eritrea.

Most have indicated they are ready to come to talks, Haavisto said.

He noted that Eritrea, Chad and Libya are embarking on a regional initiative to promote a political solution in Darfur. Sudan's First Vice President Salva Kiir, a former rebel leader who is now president of the southern Sudan region, is planning a meeting later this month to bring non-signatories together, Eliasson said.

These efforts must all be integrated into the UN-AU peace effort, he said.

"The problem is, of course, that there is such a big competition between different movements and we cannot easily get them all to come to one place for one meeting," he said.

Eliasson said both peace and a political process are essential.

### **Sudanese children abducted for fighting and sex-UN**

*(Reuters via SudanTribune.com; Allintibaha)* Children in Sudan, especially in the Darfur region, continue to be abducted for use in battle, forced labor or sexual exploitation, a U.N. human rights body said on Friday.

The U.N. Committee on the Rights of the Child called on the Khartoum government to intensify its efforts to prevent children being abducted and to help reunify victims with their families.

The body, composed of 18 independent experts, issued its conclusions after holding a three-week session at which it examined the records of 11 countries, including Sudan.

It voiced concern that "abductions of children continue to occur for forced recruitment, forced labour, and in some instances, sexual exploitation, especially in Darfur and South Sudan".

The committee also had information that children may resort to prostitution or be forced into early marriages as "a means for survival in exchange of food, money or basic goods".

Sudan's delegation to the talks said it was illegal to use children in forced labor, sexual exploitation or pornography, and selling children was an offence not known in its society.

A unit for protection of the family and child had been set up 15 months ago, senior Sudanese officials said.

*Note: AlIntibaha* daily prints coverage on the story but cuts out any mention of Darfur in relation to forced recruitment, forced labor or sexual exploitation.

## **The UN Support Package to the AMIS**

### **Sudan to discuss with UN, AU on hybrid force**

(*Xinhua via SudanTribune.com*) Consultations will be held next week between the Sudanese government, the United Nations and the African Union (AU) on a proposed hybrid peacekeeping force to be deployed by the UN and AU in the conflict-torn western Sudanese region of Darfur.

Sudanese Foreign Ministry spokesman Ali al-Sadig told reporters that the tripartite meeting is to be held in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa on Monday, adding the Sudanese delegation is to leave for the meeting on Sunday.

He said that the delegation, led by undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry Mutrif Sidik, would carry the government's vision on the proposals regarding the joint UN-AU peacekeeping mission in Darfur.

Mohi-Eddin Salim, Sudanese Ambassador to the AU, told the official SUNA news agency that the tripartite meeting would be a consultative one on the details of the hybrid operation concerning troops and command.

Salim was quoted as saying that previous meetings or concerned document had affirmed that the troops would be Africans and the commander would be African and the role of the UN would be limited to the logistic, administrative, technical and financial support as well as focusing on supporting the political process.

*AlRai AlAam* meanwhile reports that the Sudan government has concluded its consultations over the amended plan for a deployment of a hybrid force in Darfur. A high-rank government source said that he does not believe the parties will differ over the figure of 23,000 troops. He said that the government delegation goes to Addis to give government consent to the deployment of a hybrid force under the conditions that the majority of the forces be African and that the African Union assume command and control of these forces.

He further pointed out that the government delegation will also seek to sort out issues pertaining to the mandate of these forces and participating states.

Additional reporting from Egyptian news agency *MENA* (*sourced through BBC Monitoring of 9 June '07*) quotes Egypt's foreign minister as saying that Egypt is sparing no effort to activate a planned hybrid United Nations-African Union peacekeeping force in Darfur.

The situation in Darfur requires work on achieving three axes namely, political settlement, security stability in the province and continuation of humanitarian aid, foreign minister Abu-al-Ghayt said.

The political settlement needs different Sudanese parties concerned to sit at the negotiating table to reach acceptable and common denominators that could create an atmosphere conducive to solving the crisis and restoring stability in the province, he added.

The Egyptian top diplomat pressed for continuing humanitarian aid to Darfur, pointing out that Egypt promised to dig 30 water wells in the western Sudanese region.

In another development and ahead of the Addis Ababa consultations, President Bashir has reiterated his government's rejection to the deployment of a hybrid force in Darfur, reports *AlHayat* daily.

Presidential Press Officer Mahjoub Fadhul told *Radio Sawa* in an interview last Friday that the government opposes the deployment of a hybrid force to Darfur but is committed to talk peace with the non-signatory factions in a bid to resolve the crisis in the region.

## **CPA**

### **Vraalsen says census in Sudan may take place in January of next year**

(*Miraya FM website: <http://Miraya>)* The Chairman of the Assessment and Evaluation Commission of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, Ambassador Tom Vraalsen, said he doubts whether the population census will take place in its specified date next November.

Speaking in an exclusive interview with *Miraya FM* in Wau town of Western Bahr el-Ghazal State, Vraalsen said that the preparations currently taking place for the census is not moving as expected.

"The president [*Bashir*] has said that the census has to be done in November; I do not think that is possible, what we hear from the people who are involved in it, is more like January or February," Ambassador Vraalsen said. However, Vraalsen said that there is a possibility that the census would be conducted on schedule.

Concerning the coming elections, Vraalsen said, "on elections, that they are still very much on the preparatory stage, but I pray and hope that they will leave up to the commitment to have elections; and the elections laws are being prepared and the election commission act and so on, so it is moving".

Meanwhile the Director of Census in Western Bahr el Ghazal State, Albert Dimo, has blamed the ethnic formation of the Census office in Wau on the former Census Operation Manager whom he declined to name.

Dimo was reacting to the allegations made by the Speaker of Western Bahr el Ghazal Legislative Assembly Hon. Tingo Peter that the State's Census office is composed of one ethnic group.

### **Sudan's government joint committees to meet 9 June**

*(Sudan Radio via BBC Monitoring, 9 June)* Vice-President of the Government of Southern Sudan Dr Riek Machar has described the meetings of the High Executive Committee between the Government of National Unity [GONU] and the Government of Southern Sudan [GOSS], as important, since they will discuss a number of pending issues. The meetings will start in Khartoum today.

Government of National Unity Vice-President Taha and GoSS Vice-President Riek Machar will co-chair the meeting.

Before he left Juba for Khartoum, Machar said today's meetings would address the pending issues between the two sides, in accordance with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement with the Abyei issue taking main stage position.

Before flying to Khartoum, Riek Machar pointed out that the meetings would examine the report of the legal committee so that all the country's constitutions would conform with the National Interim Constitution. The meetings will also aim at finding an African mechanism for joint powers between the Government of National Unity and the GoSS, as well as examining the report of the committee of Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states.

### **GoNU, GoSS to discuss harmonization of foreign trade**

*(Sudan Radio via BBC Monitoring, 9 June)* A delegation from Government of National Unity's Ministry of Foreign Trade led by Professor George Bureng, minister of foreign trade arrived in Juba yesterday, to discuss with the GOSS ways of coordinating work of border trade, as well as investment issues and criteria for quality control.

According to the agenda, the delegation will today hold a meeting with officials from the GoSS Ministry of Trade and Stores to examine issues of mutual concern.

Deng Alor's statement on a possible return to war invites criticism from southern Sudanese activists (AlWan)

### **Ex-southern Sudan rebel movement reportedly threatens to go back to war**

*(Alwan via BBC Monitoring, 9 June)* Cabinet Affairs Minister Deng Alor has warned that [the ex-southern Sudan rebel movement] the Sudan People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] would go back to war, though it does not want to revert to this due to any circumstance.

Alor accused the [ruling] National Congress Party [NCP] of being behind the numerous provocations by militias in southern Sudan, adding that "patience has a limit" and warned that any security lapses would lead to bigger problems.



He said that there are arrangements being put in place to resolve the militias issue and pointed out that the Abyei issue would affect the Naivasha agreement. He also accused the NC of being short-sighted on a number of issues.

On issues concerning southern Kordofan and the Blue Nile Alor said the NC is responsible for the problems in the two areas. He said that the [SPLM] strongly believes that the [NC] does not want it to be strong and influential in those areas. He said that to date differences between [the NC] and [the SPLM] have not been resolved and that there still other issues still pending.

Alor expressed SPLM fears over the coming elections, saying that it would exert efforts to make sure the elections are free and fair. He said it is imperative that the next stage should witness democratic transformation.

These statements by Deng Alor of a possible return to a war footing has sparked some reaction amongst southern Sudanese political forces with the President of the Southern Sudan Democratic Forum coming forward with a fiercely worded criticism of the SPLM.

Martin Lomoro, according *AlWan* daily of 10 June, likened the SPLM to new colonialists who are working against democracy and seek to strengthen the tenets of totalitarianism. He also criticized the partners in the Government of National Unity and said they stand to blame for secession should it occur.

## **GoNU**

### **Sudan to liberalize communication sector**

*(Bernama via SudanTribune.com)* The liberalization and privatization process of Sudan's communication sector is on the right track, according to the country's Information and Communications Minister Al-Zahawi Ibrahim Malik.

He said the African country which has nine neighbours on its borders had also taken various steps to develop its communication system, particularly with neighboring countries.

Sudan was planning to have fibre-optic cable connection to Eritrea, Chad and Cameroon, Al-Zahawi said at a press conference here.

Sudan currently has fibre-optic cable connections with Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

He said a river cable system to Uganda and from there to Rwanda was also in the pipeline.

Sudan currently has 16,000 kilometres of fibre-optic cable connections with about 13,000 kilometres under Sudanese Telecommunications Ltd (Sudatel). *[Follow the link to the full text [Sudan to liberalize communication sector](#)].*

### **Authorities launch dragnet for illegal immigrants targeting 1,000 companies**

(*AlSudani*) Authorities at the Ministry of Interior have announced they will be inspecting more over 1,000 companies employing foreign workers in Khartoum as part of its dragnet on illegal immigrants.

The press office at the ministry revealed that searches have uncovered illegal immigrants working in a number of companies in the capital and measures taken include deportation for these immigrants while owners of some of these companies have had to sign documents pledging never again to employ illegal immigrants.

### **Dinar circulation deadline drawing close**

(*The Citizen*) Citizens queued up in Bor town last Thursday to exchange their Sudanese Dinar banknotes to the new Sudanese pounds as the 1<sup>st</sup> July deadline for the circulation of the Dinar drew close.

The question that hang in everyone's lips was that will the bank be able to serve everybody before the deadline.

Many citizens complain they have not seen the new currency notes since inception three months ago.

### **Security authorities bar a number of cabinet ministers and governors from a meeting**

(*Akhir Lahza*) Security personnel in charge of presidential protocol barred yesterday evening a number of high rank government officials from a meeting to discuss the national strategic plan chaired by President Bashir.

Those barred include Senior Aide Mini Minnawi, Presidential Advisor Nafei Ali and ministers Lam Akol, el-Zahawi Ibrahim, Babiker Nahar and Azhari el-Tijani as well as governors AbdelHaleem el-Mutaafi, AbdelRahman Sir-el-Khitim and AbdelRahman Khidir.

All were barred for arriving late after the President of the Republic was already in.

---

Other Stories:

- [Malaysia Petronas to decide on Sudan refinery in '07](#)

## **Southern Sudan**

### **South Sudan army integrates largest militia**

(*Reuters via SudanTribune.com*) South Sudan's largest militia has been integrated into the autonomous southern army, a move analysts said was likely to break south Sudan's budget but was vital for political stability.

SPLA spokesman Kuol Diem Kuol said South Sudan President Salva Kiir had named some 3,657 officers leading 31,000 soldiers who would now be integrated into the SPLA.

The 31,000 soldiers belong to the South Sudan Defence Forces (SSDF), loyal to the north during the war and led by Paulino Matip, who signed a deal last year with Kiir.

"Today there is no SSDF," Kuol told Reuters. "The forces will be distributed into the six divisions of the SPLA."

Acting minister for finance Gabriel Changson Chang denied army payment problems came from his office, but added spending may be cut in the face of lower than expected oil revenues.

"We're not going to write any new budget but (are) going to scale down expenditure to tally with cash flow," said Chang. [*Follow the link for the full text [South Sudan army integrates largest militia](#)*].

### **Rumbek students chant "Down, Down SPLM!"**

(*Allintibaha*) Primary school students went on the rampage in Rumbek town yesterday setting fire to a number of government building protesting over no classes as a result of a teachers' strike over delayed pay.

SPLA soldiers, with help from the United Nations military, had to come in to put the situation under control.

Sources say that the violent protests was of an unprecedented proportion in the town.

GoSS President Salva Kiir who was on his way to the town even before the incident occurred held an emergency meeting with officials in the Rumbek and managed to reach solutions to the problem.

Sources say some protestors were chanting, "Down, down SPLM!"

### **NGO starts HIV awareness campaign in Juba**

(<http://Miraya> – 8 June) A non governmental organization, the International Population Service started a four week HIV/AIDS awareness campaign in Juba. The aim of the exercise is to educate the public on how to prevent contracting the disease by practicing abstinence, being monogamous and the proper use of condoms. The HIV facilitator in the organization, Godfrey Ladu, said the campaign will be enacted in public places like bars and restaurants.

### **Child Protection workshop in Malakal**

(<http://Miraya> – 8 June) The Minister of Social Development for the Upper Nile State, Sarah Nyanath Elijal, has inaugurated a workshop yesterday for training on Child Protection in Malakal. The training which is organized by the Child Protection Unit of the United Nations Mission in Sudan is being attended by 60 field commanders from the SPLA and the Sudan Armed Forces. Speaking during the official opening, the Minister urged the participants to pay attention to human rights issues and to put an end to child recruitment.

## **The GOSS calls for the arrest of General Gabriel Tanginya**

(<http://Miraya> – 8 June) The minister of Legal Affairs and Constitutional Development in the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS), Michael Makuei Lueth, said that the government wants the leader of the Southern Sudan Defense Forces, Major General Gabriel Tanginya to be arrested. Makuei said an investigation committee formed on the Malakal incident by the President of the Government of Southern Sudan, Lt. Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit, has written a letter to the Sudan Armed Forces military Headquarters in Khartoum asking it to hand-over General Tanginya.

However speaking to Miraya FM in an exclusive interview after the Council of Ministers meeting in Juba last Wednesday, Makuei declined to give details. "The president of the government of southern Sudan has formed a committee of fact finding to investigate the issue," Makuei said. Makuei added, "the committee asked the headquarters of the Sudan Armed Forces in Khartoum to hand over General Tanginya, but the headquarters refused to hand him over, as such the committee has filed its decision to the president of the government of southern Sudan". Last October, the Sudan People's Liberation Army clashed with the Sudan Armed Forces in Malakal town, Upper Nile State, leading to the killings of hundreds of people

## **Darfur**

### **Sudan government, Darfur rebel group sign peace deal**

(*Sudan TV via BBC Monitoring, 9 June*) A peace agreement between the government and the Popular Movement for Rights and Democracy [PMRD] was signed today in el-Geneina, the capital of Western Darfur State.

The signing of the agreement was witnessed by a delegation from the Government of National Unity headed by Presidential Advisor Dr Majdhub al-Khalifah Ahmad and representatives from the UN and AU.

Dr Majdhub al-Khalifah addressed the celebrations and promised to implement the new agreement that he hailed as a purely Sudanese achievement.

For his part the PMRD leader, Hashim Nur al-Din, said that their joining of the peace process was aimed at ending bloodshed in Darfur.

The agreement has also been welcomed by SLM-Minnawi and described it as a true compliment to the peace process in Darfur and evidence that the people of Sudan can alone reach a peace agreement.

### **Darfur rebel leader says wont take part in Juba conference**

(*AlAyaam via BBC Monitoring, 9 June*) The leader of the [Darfur rebel] Sudan Liberation Movement, Abd al-Wahid Muhammad Nur, has said he will not participate in the Juba conference, called by

the Sudan People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] to unify the non-signatories to the Abuja agreement to persuade them to resume negotiations [with the government].

Meanwhile, Abd al-Wahid has welcomed the [UN] Security Council resolution calling for the hand over to the International Criminal Court [ICC] of Ahmad Harun and [Ali] Kushayb who are accused of committing [war] crimes in Darfur.

Speaking to Al-Ayyam, Abd al-Wahid called on the SPLM and other bodies that have initiatives [for Darfur] to urge the government to implement the Security Council resolutions, as well as provide citizens with security and protect them from attacks by the Janjawid and the government.

Abd-al-Wahid went on to say that the people of Darfur were suffering because of government policies, and the SPLM and other organs had to study how to end this suffering.

"We will never go to Juba because the solution will not come this way," Abd al-Wahid stressed.

"The SPLM is a strategic ally and we appreciate its efforts, however the Juba conference will not solve the problem but will only complicate it" he added.

He went on to say "the solution for the Darfur crisis will not come through the Juba conference or any other conference. We did not want SPLM to fall into the government's trap and we tell them that this is not the way", Abd-al-Wahid added.

### **Sudan, Chad reportedly agree to deploy joint patrols**

*(SudanTribune.com)* Sudan and Chad have agreed to deploy joint patrols to monitor the border between the two countries. The deployment of the joint patrols is considered as an advanced step in the normalization of the bilateral relations after a two-year border tension.

The director for the office of the spokesman of the Sudan Armed Forces, Lt. Colonel Swarmi Khalid Saad, told the UN sponsored Radio Miraya that Sudan and Chad agreed to deploy joint units composed of 2000 soldiers to patrol ten areas at the border.

The Sudanese military official added that it includes five areas inside Sudan and the other five areas inside the Chadian territory.

### **Chadian opposition forces leave Khartoum and welcome Saudi mediation**

*(AlSudani)* Chadian opposition forces have welcomed a Saudi initiative to mediate between them and the government in N'Djamena and have left Khartoum heading for Chadian territory.

The head of the opposition RFC says however that they still hold on to their demands rejected by N'Djamena for talks between the two sides in the presence of the six countries neighboring Chad and representatives of the African Union, the Sahel and Sahara Group and the United Nations and for free and fair elections after the formation of an interim government of national unity.

## **Darfurians harass Sudan ambassador to the US at a symposium on Darfur held in Philadelphia**

(*AlRai AlAam*) The Leo Sullivan center for human rights called off a symposium on Darfur in Philadelphia when Sudan's ambassador to Washington was harassed by Darfurians attending the symposium.

The ambassador has denied rumors that he may have been beaten.

This was an angry reaction to his recent statements in Washington in which he blamed the non-signatory groups in Darfur for delaying the peace process.

## **France to invite Sudan for Darfur conference - Egyptian foreign minister**

(*MENA via BBC Monitoring, 9 June, Cairo*) France is seeking to invite Sudan to a conference on Darfur to be held in Paris on 25 June, Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmad Abu-al-Ghayt said in statements to the press on Saturday.

Abu-al-Ghayt said that Cairo was following up the French endeavour. Efforts have recently been exerted on this score, he added.

The Paris conference aims at solving the Darfur problem, he said, hoping that the conference would not pile further pressures.

He hoped that the conference would contribute to reaching a settlement to the problem. [*Follow the link for a related article [France to host Darfur meeting on June 25](#)*].

---

### **Other Stories:**

- [TEXT: G8 summit statement on Sudan Darfur](#)
- [Darfur reaching 'end game': British minister](#)
- [Refugee situation in Chad 'urgent': France's Kouchner](#)
- [ICC prosecutor urges Sudan war crime arrests](#)
- [Sudan adamant on Darfur 'atrocities' suspects](#)
- [China says strongly opposed to US House resolution on Darfur](#)
- [Darfur is an issue of marginalization not terrorism - SPLM envoy](#)
- [Never too late, Arab pop stars raise funds for Darfur](#)
- [Rights watchdog urges pressure on Sudan to arrest Darfur suspects](#)

## **Other Developments**

### **Sudanese president briefed on return of opposition chief**

(*Sudan TV via BBC Monitoring, 9 June*) The president of the republic, FM Omar al-Bashir, held a meeting today at the Guest House with [opposition Democratic Unionist Party official], Ahmad al-Mirghani. The meeting touched on a number of issues in the political arena and efforts being made to unify the national ranks and unite the internal front.

The secretary-general of the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP], Taj al-Sir Muhammad Salih said the return of the [DUP leader], Muhammad Uthman al-Mirghani was very close.

[Taj-al-Sir] The two sides discussed general issues. The president briefed Ahmad al-Mirghani on the latest developments in Sudan. The return of Muhammad Uthman al-Mirghani is very very near and God willing it will be one of the fruits of this meeting.

---

Other Stories:

- [Appeal to rescue Nubia and to stop building the Kajbar dam](#)