

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS**Media Monitoring Report, 12 June 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 denies sexual abuse against UN peacekeepers in South Sudan
- UNOCHA prepares to assist Sudanese forced out of Ethiopia
- UN rights experts say Sudan should be accountable on Darfur
- Deal between UNICEF and SLM for handing over "children soldiers" in Darfur
- Donors give 18 mln dollars for WFP operations in Darfur
- Sex scandal rock Ghana police in Darfur

➤ The UN Support Package to the AMIS

- Talks on Darfur hybrid force open in Addis Ababa
- Sudan accepts Darfur hybrid force, details being worked out - UN
- Denmark ready to contribute to international force in Darfur

➤ CPA

- SAF confirms commitment to complete redeployment north by next month
- SPLM says it will only call off boycott of the Blue Nile State legislative body if the governor repeals his decision to establish the el-Tadhamon municipality
- National Congress Party accuses SPLM of attempts to annex Abyei to Bahr-el-Ghazal State
- Five SPLA officers injured in clashes with injured soldiers in Kurmuk

➤ GoNU

- President Bashir reiterates government commitments to resolve the humanitarian situation
- Khartoum State requests US Embassy to open AbdelLateef street

➤ Southern Sudan

- Search teams find lost Umbororo children in Muru land in Western Equatoria

➤ Darfur

- Preparations kick off in Juba to bring Darfur non-signatory factions to meet
- Sudan rejects French initiative over Darfur
- Chad, Egypt leaders discuss Darfur humanitarian corridors

Highlights

UN/ Agencies/ Partners

UN denies sexual abuse against UN peacekeepers in South Sudan

(Unattributed) The United Nation Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) denied allegations of sexual abuse against UN peacekeepers in the southern part of the country reported by a local newspaper last month from London based the Daily Telegraph.

The UNMIS has been the target of two false media allegations of sexual misconduct by UNMIS peacekeepers during the course of 2007. UNMIS takes allegations of this nature very seriously as per the UN policy of zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse.

On 8 May 2007, the Sudanese paper Akhir Lahza claimed on its front page that an UNMIS peacekeeper was the perpetrator of a sexual assault against a child in Wau, the western Bahr al-Ghazal state in southern Sudan.

Following a detailed investigation by the independent UN Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), no evidence of an incident of sexual abuse in Wau, as described by Akhir Lhaza, was uncovered. This was confirmed by local police and hospital services.

The UNMIS said that the Sudanese Akhir Laza retracted its story after being unable to provide evidence. "Akhir Laza also issued an apology to UNMIS and to its readers for publication of the original article."

In its apology, Akhir Laza reminded its readers that it published the original story, following a story which appeared earlier in the year, in the UK newspaper, The Daily Telegraph. That story had also alleged that minor age children in Juba had been raped by UNMIS peacekeepers.

UNMIS disclosed that, since this story appeared in January 2007, OIOS investigators have repeatedly requested The Daily Telegraph's editor and lawyers to provide them with evidence of the allegations. "To date, the newspaper has refused to co-operate, leading the investigators to believe that no such evidence exists."

False allegations against the United Nations published in the press "may have a political motive and/intended to discredit the UN and its Mission in Sudan." The UN statement underlined.

UNOCHA prepares to assist Sudanese forced out of Ethiopia

(*Gurtong.org*) The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) are putting preparations in place to assist Sudanese members of the Lou Nuer tribe being pushed into Southern Sudan's Jonglei State from Ethiopia said an official from the organization on Monday.

"Our immediate response is to provide enough assistance for 5,000 people," said the UNOCHA official, "this includes enough food for three months and non-food items".

Alerted by UNOCHA in Ethiopia to what appears to be the forced movement of the Sudanese refugees, the agency has been monitoring the influx since May.

So far some 700 people have been registered to have crossed the border by a UN-led monitoring team, but analysts say the number of Lou Nuer who may flood back into Sudan may eventually reach between 15,000 and 20,000.

UN rights experts say Sudan should be accountable on Darfur

(*AFP via SudanTribune.com*) UN human rights experts warned the Sudanese government on Monday that it will be judged by improvements on the ground in Darfur within months and not by its pledges to improve the situation.

In a report, the group of experts asked the UN's top human rights assembly to adopt what amounted to a draft code of conduct Khartoum should follow immediately to halt massive violations in the Darfur region.

They also urged the 47-nation Human Rights Council to review Sudan's implementation of the set of measures to halt violations in Darfur within three months, and said many of them could be completed within that timeframe. [*Follow the link to the full text [UN rights experts say Sudan should be accountable on Darfur](#)*].

Deal between UNICEF and SLM for handing over "children soldiers" in Darfur

(*Xinhua*) The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) announced on Monday that it had reached a deal with former rebel Sudan Liberation Movement which agrees to hand over all of its "children soldiers" to the UN agency.

Under the deal, the SLM, which signed the Darfur Peace Agreement with the Sudanese government in May last year, has promised to identify soon the children attached to its forces in preparation for the handover.

UNICEF said in a statement issued here that the two sides reached the deal after discussions for several months, applauding the SLM's decision to begin identifying and handing over the "children soldiers".

"Today we are thankful that for many children in Darfur the process of rebuilding their lives can begin," UNICEF Representative in Sudan Ted Chaiban said in the statement, adding that "every day these children have been associated with armed groups has been a day of childhood lost."

"These children are amongst the most vulnerable in Darfur, and they must be given the chance to go home, and take back their childhood," the UNICEF official stressed.

The SLM-UNICEF agreement commits the former rebel movement to identify the children associated with its armed groups as well as their locations within one month, after which a joint verification by the SLM and the United Nations can be carried out.

According to the deal, the UNICEF, in collaboration with the Sudanese government and local and international non-governmental organizations, will support the provision of family tracing and community reintegration programs, along with training of SLM field commanders on international child rights and protection standards.

Demobilized children will benefit from life skills and vocational training opportunities, education support, psycho social activities such as recreation, sports and career guidance, as well as the assistance of social workers who will monitor and ensure follow-up of children during the reintegration process.

Exact numbers of children associated with armed forces and groups in Darfur are unclear, as monitoring and reporting has been difficult due to limited access to conflict areas.

However, UNICEF estimates that at least 7,000 children could be linked to various armed forces and groups in the region, either as combatants or serving in ancillary roles such as porters, cooks, messengers and bodyguards.

"Today's agreement with the SLM is only the start of the process," noted Ted Chaiban, adding that it would take time for children to be properly identified and appropriate reintegration programs to be established.

"But I hope we will now see real efforts to turn this agreement into tangible action for children, and that other armed groups will agree to hand over children that may be attached to their own forces," he said.

Donors give 18 mln dollars for WFP operations in Darfur

(Xinhua via SudanTribune.com) The World Food Programme (WFP) has received 18 million U.S. dollars from several donors to help aid workers keep flying to remote locations in Sudan's region of Darfur.

In a statement issued in Nairobi, the WFP said the donation would enable the agency's Humanitarian Air Service (WFP-HAS) to keep operating until October.

To date this year, the UN says that some 70 cars, belonging to either international aid organizations or African Union peacekeeping troops, have been stopped on the roads by gunmen and frequently stolen.

WFP said 5.5 million dollar donation from the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid department led the package of new financing.

Sex scandal rock Ghana police in Darfur

(Ghanaweb.com) The hard-won reputation of Ghana in International Peace-keeping built over the years by its crop of peace keepers was dented in Sudan last year, when a Senior Police Officer serving in the African Union (AU) Peace-Keeping Mission in Darfur, was caught in a sex and extortion scandal and deported to Ghana.

However, almost one year after the top ranking Police Officer was found guilty of the sex scandal and deported back home, the Police Administration has kept the matter close to its chest and instead of taking punitive action against the sex-crazy cop, has quietly rewarded him with a lucrative position as the head of Motor Traffic & Transport Unit (MTTU) at Akim Oda.

The action by the Inspector-General of Police, Mr. Patrick Acheampong and his men has raised concerns as to whether the Police has a set of laws made for junior officers, and another different set for the senior officers.

Quoting a top-rank African Union officer in el-Fasher who opted anonymity, THE SUN intelligence source at African Union headquarters in el-Fasher indicated that, "Due to the countless complaints against ASP Yakubu, to the AU Commissioner Mr. Parly from South Africa and his deputy Mr. Henry Dadzie, Ghana instituted its own investigations into the matter to ascertain its authenticity."

At the end of the investigations ASP Yakubu was found culpable. A charge of sexual harassment and extortion of money from Police monitors were proffered against him. After preliminary work the case was forwarded to Addis Ababa in Ethiopia, where he appeared before a panel who tried him and pronounced him guilty.

After the trial he was deported back home in August, 2006 for the Police Service to act on his case.

A circular dated September 22, 2006 was issued by the AU at El-Fasher, explaining the circumstances that led to his deportation. Under Police Service rules if an officer was found to have misconducted himself the way Ayamgah Yakubu did, he was immediately sanctioned.

However ASP Yakubu never suffered the fate that should have befallen him instead, he was hurriedly posted to Akim Oda to head the divisional MTTU. When THE SUN reached the Police Public Relations directorate, DSP Kwasi Fori in February this year for his reaction, he requested for a questionnaire to that effect. However after almost five months after the questions were filed, the Police Administration has failed to debunk or confirm the issue.

The UN Support Package to the AMIS

Talks on Darfur hybrid force open in Addis Ababa

(AFP via SudanTribune.com) The African Union, the United Nations and the Sudanese government opened talks here Monday on the deployment of a hybrid AU-UN force of up to 20,000 peacekeepers to Sudan's war-torn region of Darfur.

The talks were preceded by "informal consultations between the UN and the AU on Monday morning," an African Union source told AFP, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The talks are aimed at "paving the way for the speedy deployment of a hybrid AU-UN force," the African Union said.

Earlier in Khartoum, Sudanese Foreign Minister Lam Akol said he expected an agreement to be reached soon.

The talks are being co-chaired by AU's Peace and Security Commissioner Said Djinnit, UN head for peacekeeping operations in Africa Dimitri Titov and Mutrif Seddik, head of the Sudanese delegation.

The delegates ended the first day of talks on Monday afternoon and the negotiations were due to resume early Tuesday.

A senior African source close to the talks said the meeting would also "clarify the mandate of the hybrid force and try and forge a pact ahead of the rainy season," which starts in a few weeks.

The source said "the deployment of 18,000 to 20,000 additional troops to Darfur" was envisaged.

But there were several contentious issues like the zones where the force would be deployed and the conditions of engagement.

Informed sources in Addis said that the United Nations and the African Union are expected to grant Sudan some more time to respond to the proposals tabled, reports *AlSahafa* daily.

AlAyaam reports that the secretary for African affairs at the UK foreign ministry warns that sanctions may be inevitable should the Sudan government refuse to accept the deployment proposal. He also pointed out that no time should be wasted and that Khartoum has limited time to come back with its response to the proposals.

Lord Triesman who was speaking over *Radio Sawa* said that the international community wants to see an improvement in the humanitarian situation in Darfur.

Sudan accepts Darfur hybrid force, details being worked out - UN

(AP via SudanTribune.com) U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon told reporters he received a letter from al-Bashir a few days ago responding to a revised plan for the hybrid force to help end the four-year conflict. He said the United Nations, the African Union and Sudan were holding talks right now in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on the proposal.

"I sincerely hope that we will be able to have early resolution of this issue," he said.

Afterwards, U.N. spokeswoman Michele Montas said Ban considers the letter from al-Bashir "positive to the extent that it does accept the hybrid force" — including the revised U.N.-AU outline for the force.

Asked whether this was unequivocal, she replied: "Yes, I would say that." But Montas said the letter did not go into specifics, which were being discussed in Addis Ababa.

In the June 4 letter, al-Bashir told Ban the relevant departments in his government "are currently busy studying" the U.N.-AU proposal.

"The forthcoming consultations of Addis Ababa scheduled for June 11-12, 2007 represent an important opportunity to demonstrate our commitment to agree on the actions that are required to resolve the conflict in Darfur," the president said.

He said it is important that the U.N., the AU, and the government of Sudan "agree on the details of the hybrid operation" and the way to address other issues including a ceasefire and political talks to bring in all rebel groups.

Asked about the apparent contradiction, Montas said, "It's written in al-Bashir's language. I was comparing it to the other types of letters we've had. I think this is the most positive letter we've had since the beginning of the talks."

French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner, who met al-Bashir for an hour in the Sudanese capital Khartoum, told reporters afterwards that Sudan's president now fully agreed to a "hybrid operation" but wanted them all to come from Africa.

He appealed to al-Bashir to allow deployment of the force to end the humanitarian suffering in Darfur, where fighting has killed more than 200,000 people and displaced 2.5 million.

But whether the vague new language can satisfy potential contributors to a U.N.-AU force who want the United Nations to be in command, and the African Union and Sudanese government, which want the AU to play a major role, remains to be seen.

The agreement appeared to be deliberately opaque to try to win approval from the three major players, and the issue of command and control was likely to be raised in Addis Ababa during their talks on Monday and Tuesday.

The U.N. Security Council will be briefed on the outcome of the Addis Ababa talks on Wednesday, a day before council members head to Africa. The trip includes stops in Addis

Ababa on Friday and Saturday and Khartoum on Sunday, where additional discussions on the hybrid force are expected.

U.S. Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad, who is going on the council's Africa trip, said he had not heard about al-Bashir's acceptance of the hybrid proposal.

Denmark ready to contribute to international force in Darfur

(AFP via SudanTribune.com) Denmark said Monday it was ready to contribute to an international force in Darfur and urged world leaders to pressure Sudan to accept a UN peacekeeping force in the troubled province.

"We need to put a maximum amount of pressure on the Sudanese regime to get them to accept a UN resolution, a solution to resolve this problem," Danish Defence Minister Soeren Gade told AFP.

"And all countries, including Denmark, should contribute to a possible solution to this conflict," he said.

Denmark is "ready to contribute at all levels," Gade said, adding that Danish political parties were following the situation "with growing concern".

CPA

SAF confirms commitment to complete redeployment north by next month

(AlIntibaha) A statement by the Office of the Spokesperson for the SAF said yesterday that the SAF contingency plan to preserve security in the capital should the police fail to do so is already in place.

The statement reveals that the Minister of Defense chaired recently a meeting with the military zone commanders and the chairman of the joint operations' council to discuss plans to preserve security in the capital.

The SAF also denied support for any militia group operating in southern Sudan or in any other part of the country. The army says there are no more militia elements in the capital.

The SAF went on to assure that the SAF will redeploy north according to the timeline set.

SPLM says it will only call off boycott of the Blue Nile State legislative body if the governor repeals his decision to establish the el-Tadhamon municipality

(AlHayat) The SPLM in Blue Nile State says it will only call off the boycott of cabinet and legislative assembly session only if the government repeals his decision to establish the new el-Tadhamon municipality.

The SPLM argues that the formation of the municipality would be an added burden to the resources of the state, a big chunk of which already goes to pay salaries.

A high rank SPLM official who is also a minister at the Blue Nile State government lamented that there is disharmony of late in the relations between the parties to the CPA.

National Congress Party accuses SPLM of attempts to annex Abyei to Bahr-el-Ghazal State

(Alwan) A high rank member of the NCP has accused some SPLM members who hail from Abyei of exerting efforts to annex the Abyei region to Bahr-el-Ghazal State

Ahmed el-Saleh Salouha who is also a member of the Abyei border demarcation commission told the Sudan Media Service that SPLM members who hail from the Abyei region such as Francis Deng and Deng Alor had better opportunities of education by virtue of their presence in the north as compared to their other countrymen and therefore seek to annex Abyei to Bahr-el-Ghazal in order to emerge as the elite and thus rule the region.

Five SPLA officers injured in clashes with injured soldiers in Kurmuk

(AlSahafa; Alwan) About 300 SPLA casualties of the war who had not received their pay for the last 7 months staged a protest before the SPLM offices in Kurmuk, Blue Nile State.

The protestors threw stones at the SPLM offices and 5 SPLA officers inside sustained injuries as a result. Authorities arrested 200 of the protestors.

[AlSahafa daily cites the United Nations Mission in Sudan News Bulletin as the source of this story while Alwan gives no attribution].

GoNU

President Bashir reiterates government commitments to resolve the humanitarian situation

(AlSudani) The Sudan government has renewed its commitments to exert more efforts to resolve the humanitarian problems in Darfur and to continue in implementation of the voluntary returns program for southern Sudanese IDPs and those from the Three Areas.

President Bashir who was addressing yesterday a ceremony to mark the National Day for Volunteerism said that the government is also determined to increase efforts on mine-action, rehabilitation and reconstruction and the implementation of the peace agreements signed by the government.

Khartoum State requests US Embassy to open AbdelLateef street

(AlAyaam) Khartoum State formally requested yesterday the US embassy to reopen the Ali AbdelLateef street that passes before the said embassy.

The Governor of the Khartoum State held talks with the US Charge d' Affaires yesterday and the two sides agreed that embassy and government officials sit to decide on measures to provide protection to the Embassy.

Other Stories:

- Parliament calls for disarmament and border control with Chad (*AlAyaam*)
- Company involved in revoked lawsuit on money-laundering demands compensations for damages (*AlAyaam*)
- National air carrier is privatised (*AlSahafa*)

Southern Sudan

Search teams find lost Umbororo children in Muru land in Western Equatoria

(*Allintibaha*) Search teams have managed to find the whereabouts Umbororo herdsmen who were separated more than one year ago from their families following an attack by the tribes of Western Equatoria.

Among them were two children who were found speaking the local Murle language of their hosts.

In November 2005, about 83 Umbororo tribespeople in an attack by Western Equatoria tribes on allegations that they were foreigners and loyal to Ussama Bin Laden. Many others fled into the bushes and got separated from their families as they sought refuge.

Other Stories:

- Upper Nile University suspends classes (*Khartoum Monitor*)

Darfur

Preparations kick off in Juba to bring Darfur non-signatory factions to meet

(*AlRai AlAam*) Mediators are preparing for the forthcoming meeting in Juba this month to unify the initiatives on Darfur.

SPLM Secretary-General Pagan Amoum gave mediators yesterday an overview of the SPLM initiative on Darfur.

Sudan rejects French initiative over Darfur

(*SudanTribune.com*) Sudan has rejected on Monday a French initiative to hold a conference in Paris on the crisis in western Sudan with the participation of international and regional officials.

"It is not the time to talk about new initiatives," Foreign Minister Lam Akol told reporters.

He stressed that all the parties concerned should focus at the present stage on the initiatives which had been agreed upon by them for a mediation role of the African Union (AU) among the conflicting sides in Darfur with the cooperation of the United Nations.

Presidential Adviser Ghazi Salah Eddin Atabani reiterated after a meeting with the visiting French Foreign Minister that "we do not favor new initiatives or new mechanisms contradicting the existing ones." [Follow the link for the full text of this and a related story [French FM raises 'emotional nature' of Darfur with Basher; French FM seeks to boost France's role in solving Darfur crisis; Sudan rejects French initiative over Darfur](#)].

Chad, Egypt leaders discuss Darfur humanitarian corridors

(AFP via SudanTribune.com) Chadian President Idriss Deby Itno met his Egyptian counterpart Hosni Mubarak on Monday to discuss a proposal for humanitarian corridors between Chad and Sudan's troubled Darfur region.

"Mubarak and Deby examined certain proposals concerning the deployment of an international force on the Sudanese-Chadian border, as well as the creation of humanitarian corridors between Chad and Darfur," Egyptian presidential spokesman Suleiman Awad told a news conference.

Other Stories:

- [JEM/NRF commends new SPLM stance on Darfur](#)