

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS**Media Monitoring Report, 18 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:**➤ The UN Support Package to the AMIS**

- Security Council concludes visit to Sudan
- GoS trades accusations with US Permanent Representative to the Security Council
- Opposition forces protest against government to the Security Council
- NCP reiterates rejections to international resolutions that infringe on state independence
- SLM-AbdulWahid reveals reasons for boycott of the Juba talks

➤ GoNU

- Council of Ministers to endorse Police Bill
- VP Salva Kiir to visit Tripoli on Saturday
- Ten NCP parliamentarians step down from parliamentary seats for the Eastern Front
- Governor of Northern State accepts resignations of his deputy governor and a commissioner
- Authorities bar Dr. Turabi from Port Sudan to attend party convention
- Sudan, Somalia sign agreement on information cooperation

➤ Southern Sudan

- Kenyan Bank to open more branches in South Sudan
- Deceased South Sudan leader Garang's widow says he was assassinated

➤ Darfur

- Signing the Darfur Peace Agreement was no surrender, says Minnawi
- Eritrean mediator, Darfur holdout groups discuss resumption of talks
- France begins humanitarian airlift in eastern Chad

➤ Other Developments

- Media fraternity decries prolonged detention of four journalists

Highlights

The UN Support Package to the AMIS

Security Council concludes visit to Sudan

(Local and International news agencies) The Sudanese government and a U.N. Security Council delegation confirmed Sunday that Khartoum has unconditionally accepted a joint U.N. and African peacekeeping force for Darfur.

"I can tell you that the (Sudanese) foreign minister told us in no uncertain terms that the Government of Sudan accepted the hybrid operation without any conditionality," said South Africa's ambassador to the Security Council, Dumisani Kumalo.

"The president himself just confirmed the same thing to us," he told reporters in Khartoum after meeting Sudan's Omar al-Bashir on Sunday.

Emyr Jones Parry, the British ambassador to the Security Council, said the U.N. delegation also held positive talks on furthering the peace process between Khartoum and Darfur's many rebel factions.

"There isn't going to be an enduring peace unless there is a political settlement," Jones Parry said. "The (Sudanese) government confirmed its commitment to pursue that," he told reporters.

He called on Sudanese forces, which have repeatedly breached Darfur cease-fire agreements, to "exercise a measure of self-restraint" even though they are "faced with lots of temptations" in the remote western Sudan region.

"The president of the republic has made it clear that the ball is now in the court of the United Nations," Sudanese Foreign Minister Lam said Sunday, calling on the U.N. to pass a new resolution as soon as possible to fund the operation.

Sudanese officials said earlier this week they expected the new force to be in Darfur by October, depending on how quickly the U.N. and AU are able to get troops and funds.

Jones Parry, the British ambassador, insisted Sunday that all aspects of the force were now agreed upon with the Sudanese, including the command structure. He said the force commander would be an African, jointly appointed by the U.N. and the AU.

"There is a unity of command ... the command and control processes will be those of the United Nations," Jones Parry also said.

"That has been consistently said and is necessary if indeed this operation is to be funded from the peacekeeping budget of the United Nations," he said.

Note:

The issue of command and control of the hybrid operations seems to be a subject of confused interpretations from some of the local newspapers with papers such as *AlKhartoum* daily having in their lead headlines the words: “African will be field commander while the UN will control the hybrid forces”. *AlWan* and *AlSudani* dailies have in their lead headlines, “Government has agreed to a UN command of the joint forces”.

Please refer to the near-verbatim transcript of the press conference attached separately.

GoS trades accusations with US Permanent Representative to the Security Council

(*AlKhartoum*) The visit to Sudan of the members of the Security Council saw yesterday the GoS and the Permanent Representative of the USA trade accusations over issues pertaining to US unilateral sanctions on Sudan.

The US Representative pointed out that his country had no “hidden agenda” over Sudan while the Sudanese side argued that sanctions will never help resolve the problems in Darfur.

Opposition forces protest against government to the Security Council

(*AlSahafa*) Opposition political parties seized the opportunity of the Security Council’s visit here to urge the international community to pay more attention to the situation in the Darfur region in light of the failures of the Darfur Peace Agreement and the deterioration of the situation in the IDP and refugee camps in addition to its impacts on the situation in the neighbouring states.

In a memorandum handed to members of the visiting delegation following meetings of 17 political parties – the Umma and the Popular Congress Parties among them – the political forces also call for the acceleration of the launch of the hybrid operation for Darfur.

NCP reiterates rejections to international resolutions that infringe on state independence

(*AlHayat*) The National Congress Party has reiterated its firm rejections to any international resolutions that infringe on state independence and sovereignty in Sudan, to foreign intervention into the affairs of the country and to a trial of any Sudanese suspect outside the country.

Among recommendations of a meeting of the National Congress Party *Shura* [consultative] Council is that the National Congress Party prop the TDRA in meeting its obligations towards the implementation of the security arrangements of the Darfur Peace Agreement.

The document also recommends a convergence of initiatives on Darfur and firmer coordination with the SPLM in the framework of the GoNU.

SLM-AbdulWahid reveals reasons for boycott of the Juba talks

(*Alwan*) The AbdulWahid faction of the SLM has reiterated it would not participate at the GoSS-brokered talks with the other non-signatory factions of the Darfur Peace Agreement.

AbdelGadir Bakheit Khawaja, the movement's Coordinator for Humanitarian Affairs who also doubles up as Spokesperson for the Council of Elders of the IDP Camps of Darfur accused the SPLM of falling below expectation and pointed out that the SPLM should have coordinated the issue with the movement's political and military leaders. He also pointed out that the agenda for the talks is not clear.

GoNU

Council of Ministers to endorse Police Bill

(*AlRai AlAam; AlAyaam*) The Police Bill is on its way to parliament following endorsement yesterday by the Council of Ministers.

The bill, sources adds, focuses on the national nature of the police forces and its functions across the various levels of the federal, GoSS and regional government.

VP Salva Kiir to visit Tripoli on Saturday

(*AlRai AlAam*) Vice-President Salva Kiir travels to Tripoli next Saturday for talks with President Gadhaffi and other senior government officials.

State minister for the Presidency, Tilar Deng, says that the Vice-President will brief the Libyan leader on progress and challenges in the implementation of the CPA and a possible Libyan role in development in southern Sudan. The state minister denies any knowledge of plans to bring the Vice-President to meet representatives of the non-signatory factions of the Darfur Peace Agreement.

Ten NCP parliamentarians step down from parliamentary seats for the Eastern Front

(*AlSahafa*) Ten parliamentarians on the National Congress Party ticket have step down from their parliamentary positions seeing that parliamentarians from the other political forces are reluctant to relinquish parliamentary seats in favour of the Eastern Front.

Speaker Ahmed Ibrahim el-Tahir says the coming days will see the announcement of procedures for 8 Eastern Front representatives to the parliament as part of measures towards implementation of the ESPA.

Governor of Northern State accepts resignations of his deputy governor and a commissioner

(*AlRai AlAam*) The Governor of Northern State has announced acceptance of the resignations of his deputy and the commissioner for Halfa province.

The two had tendered in their resignations in protest over last Wednesday's violence pitting law enforcement agents against disgruntled citizens opposing the construction of a new dam.

In a press conference held in Dongola yesterday, the government confirmed that studies on the proposed construction would continue.

Authorities bar Dr. Turabi from Port Sudan to attend party convention

(AlSahafa) In what members of the opposition Popular Congress Party describe as leading to a “political crisis”, authorities in Port Sudan barred yesterday the Popular Congress Party from convening its general convention.

The party had to hold an emergency meeting yesterday following the order.

The meeting decided that party Secretary-General Dr. Turabi who was to address the convention at one point would not travel to Port Sudan.

Sudan, Somalia sign agreement on information cooperation

(SUNA via BBC Monitoring, 17 June) Minister of Information and Communications Al-Zahawi Ibrahim Malik stressed Sudan's readiness to provide necessary support for sisterly Somali people in the field of information so that Somalia can play its role in the Arab and African worlds.

Malik made the remark while speaking in a celebration he organized in honour of Somali Minister of Information Madobe Nunow Muhammad at the conclusion of his three-day visit to Sudan.

The Somali minister of information praised the hospitality and warm reception accorded to him in Sudan, expressing his appreciation and happiness with the signing of co-operation agreements between his country and Sudan in the field of information.

Southern Sudan

Kenyan Bank to open more branches in South Sudan

(The Nation, Nairobi) The Kenya Commercial Bank will, in the next 12 months, open five new branches in Southern Sudan, as it prepares to accelerate its regional expansion, the daily Nation reported..

Releasing the news during the bank’s Annual General Meeting held at Nairobi, the chief executive, Martin Oduor-Otieno, noted that the move follows impressive performance of the two branches already reporting profit barely a year after opening.

The subsidiary was budgeted to return loss over the first three years of establishment.

The group’s capital base stands at Sh11.6 billion. "...making KCB the second highest capitalised bank in East Africa," Mr Oduor-Otieno said.

Deceased South Sudan leader Garang's widow says he was assassinated

(*KTN TV, Kenya*) Exactly two years after the death of the late SPLA [Sudanese People Liberation Army] leader John Garang, questions still arise about his death. Garang died in July 2005 after the helicopter he was travelling in crashed in the hills on the Uganda-Sudan border.

His widow Rebecca Garang has said in public that her husband was killed and that it was not just an accident. Rebecca was speaking after receiving an award by the Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Foundation.

Rebecca warned the culprits that she had swallowed her pride at the time. She also recalled at the time that she had vowed only to mourn her husband when his vision is dead.

Darfur

Signing the Darfur Peace Agreement was no surrender, says Minnawi

(*The Citizen*) Speaking on behalf of the SPLM northern sector yesterday, investment minister Malik Agar told a packed stadium in Damazine that the SPLM regards as just the demands of the people of Darfur for individual compensations and a united region. He pointed out at a rally organised by the SPLM that the problem of Darfur was not only humanitarian but also political and security.

Presidential Aide Mini Minnawi who also attended the rally lamented that killing and rape continue in Darfur. He accused parties he did not name of trying to derail the Darfur Peace Agreement but stressed the agreement must remain on track. He said that his signing of the Darfur Peace Agreement should not be interpreted as a surrender. The SLM leader also hailed the initiatives by the SPLM and all other parties for peace in Darfur.

Eritrean mediator, Darfur holdout groups discuss resumption of talks

(*Sudan TV via BBC Monitoring, 16 June*) Dr Nafi Ali Nafi, the deputy chairman of the [ruling] National Congress [NC] for political and organizational affairs, and Yemane Gebreab, the political official in Eritrea's ruling Popular Front for Democracy and Justice, concurred on the need to push forward the peace efforts aimed at incorporating the Abuja non-signatories and coordinating initiatives in this direction.

Dr Nafi reiterated the Government's support and welcome to Eritrea's efforts to induce the Abuja holdouts to join the peace and stability process in Darfur. At a meeting Saturday afternoon with the visiting Eritrean delegation, Dr Nafi was briefed on the details of the Eritrean efforts on the Darfur file, and the meetings held with regional and international bodies on this issue and their views for the coming phase in order to crown these efforts with success.

On his part, Gebreab the head of the delegation, said the Eritrean initiative is undertaken in consultation with Libya and Chad and that its first assignment was to give a chance to the factions to unite and catch up with the peace convoy in the coming negotiations.

France begins humanitarian airlift in eastern Chad

(Reuters via SudanTribune.com) French military planes on Sunday began airlifting tonnes of relief supplies and food aid to refugee camps in eastern Chad in one of the first overseas humanitarian initiatives ordered by President Nicolas Sarkozy.

The operation followed a visit this month to the camps near the border with Sudan's conflict-torn Darfur region by Sarkozy's foreign minister, Bernard Kouchner, co-founder of the Nobel Peace Prize-winning charity Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors Without Borders).

A French army Transall transport plane flew the first cargo of up to 7 tonnes of supplies on Sunday to Goz Beida, where the United Nations refugee agency UNHCR runs camps for displaced Chadian civilians. A second flight was due in the afternoon.

UNHCR and French officials said the logistics operation aimed to put stockpiles of relief items, like blankets, plastic sheeting, buckets, and food in place before the start of the rainy season next month made roads and bush airstrips unusable.

Other Developments

Media fraternity decries prolonged detention of four journalists

(AlAyaam) The General Union of Sudanese Journalists has expressed its total rejection to the arrest of 4 reporters on the grounds the arrests area violation of the Press Laws and the country's constitution.

The head of the union called upon authorities to release the four journalists who were arrested earlier while covering the recent incidents around the proposed site of hydro-electric dams in northern Sudan. He said that the union has not been informed of the where these reporters are being held.

The union head said that the detention of the scribes is pure abduction when looked at from all angles.

On the other hand, *AlHayat* daily reports that representatives of Sudan and Egypt are in consultations over measures to defuse the situation in Nubia land – proposed site of the dam. Sources say this comes as an Egyptian initiative to try to avert the opening of a new front in Nuba lad as the conflicts in southern Sudan and Darfur are simmering out.