

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS****Media Monitoring Report, 19 June 2007**

(By Public Information Office)

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# Highlights

## UN/ Agencies/ Partners

### **UNMIS says not aware of memorandum by opposition forces to the Security Council**

(*AlKhartoum*) Sudanese political opposition forces have failed to send a memorandum they had drafted to the Security Council delegation that left Sudan last Sunday.

Opposition figure Dr. Turabi told a press conference yesterday that 27 political organizations had drafted the memorandum and sent it to the United Nations Mission in Sudan. Spokesperson Radhia Achouri however told *AlKhartoum* daily that the mission has not received such a memorandum and had no idea of the same save from the press.

Sources say the memorandum had underlined the need to expedite implementation of the three-phase support package, the need to protect the civilian population, to curb the crisis that is pouring out to the neighboring states and a trial for perpetrators of war crimes in Darfur.

### **Security situation still volatile in south Darfur's Gereida - UN**

(*United Nations News*) The security situation in the southern Darfur town of Gereida has not improved and militia attacks against civilians, especially women, are continuing, the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) said today after wrapping up a four-day visit to the town.

UNMIS conducted the visit to Gereida to follow up on the Darfur Peace Agreement's (DPA) effect on the overall security situation, livelihoods and tribal reconciliation, according to a news bulletin issued by the Mission. Gereida is a key town about 90 kilometers south of the provincial capital, Nyala.

The UNMIS team found that Janjaweed attacks outside towns were ongoing and women were still subject to rape and harassment. [*All UNMIS News Bulletins are available at the website [www.unmis.org](http://www.unmis.org)*].

### **Car-jackings, abductions hinder Darfur aid efforts**

(*Reuters via NewsEdge*) Car-jacking, abductions and ambushes are hindering aid workers involved the world's biggest humanitarian relief effort in Sudan's violent Darfur region, a U.N. report obtained by Reuters on Monday said.

A record 68 aid vehicles were ambushed in the first five months of 2007 and 23 of those attacks involved abductions, the U.N. security report said.

"The trend is still going upwards," it added. "Altogether 77 humanitarian workers have been abducted in that way."

## **Human rights group reaches compromise**

*(Associated Press)* Members of the U.N.'s new human rights watchdog agreed in principle Tuesday to a compromise on how to launch investigations into some of the world's worst rights offenders, sparing the body from the potentially embarrassing prospect of failing to set its own rules.

The Human Rights Council, which was formed last year to replace the discredited U.N. Human Rights Commission, has faced widespread criticism from activists who say it is dominated by its large African, Arab and Asian blocs, and spends much of its time singling out Israel and fending off criticism of countries such as Sudan and Zimbabwe.

## **Australia provides \$4 million to support the displaced in the Sudan region**

*(via the NewsNow website)* Australia will provide assistance of \$2 million for Sudan, \$1 million for Chad and \$1 million for the CAR. Australia's contribution will assist the ICRC to distribute food and improve water and health facilities provided to families and vulnerable groups displaced by continuing conflict across Sudan, Chad and the CAR.

The people of Sudan, Chad and the CAR are suffering from the deliberate destruction of livelihoods with millions of people reliant on humanitarian assistance to survive.

Our assistance recognizes the links between the humanitarian crises in the three countries and supports moves by the United Nations to adopt a more comprehensive regional response. The funding through the ICRC will help its efforts to relieve the suffering of an estimated 500,000 people currently in camps across the region.

This contribution will bring Australia's assistance for Sudan and the two neighbouring countries to more than \$62 million since May 2004.

Australia will continue to monitor humanitarian conditions in Sudan, Chad and the CAR and respond to priority needs in coordination with other donors.

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## **The UN Support Package to the AMIS + the political track for Darfur**

### **On the Hybrid Operations for Darfur**

*(AP; AlAyaam; AlHayat et al)* Sudan and the United Nations have agreed on key elements of a joint African Union-U.N. peacekeeping force for Darfur, including that its commander will be African, report Security Council representatives visiting Sudan.

*The issue of command and control has been a subject of misinterpretation in the local press in Sudan* [see UNMIS MMR of 18 June '07 also accessed through the UNMIS website [www.unmis.org](http://www.unmis.org)]. In efforts to clarify matters, President Bashir took the opportunity, while addressing yesterday members of

the executive and legislative bodies in Gezira State, to assure that the agreement reached with the African Union Peace & Security Council provides for a hybrid operation under African Union command and control but with United Nations technical support and assistance. President Bashir stressed that the forces will be African.

He also said that agreement was reached for the appointment of Congolese Rodolphe Adada as Joint African Union-United Nations Special Representative for Darfur and a Nigerian commander for the forces in Darfur, which, he assured, would be African. The President also took the opportunity to lash out at the US which he said is directly to blame for most of the woes of the country. He said that the CPA brought in United Nations peacekeepers in the south but there was no such provision in the DPA and this is why the West was not endeared to the agreement.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs also chipped in its bit on the issue through a press release yesterday confirming the same.

*While government is taking pains in trying to assure public opinion of its victory in reaching agreement on a hybrid operation as opposed to the hybrid force* the United Nations Security Council was pushing for, opposition figure Dr. Turabi points out that both are the same. Speaking at a press conference yesterday, Dr. Turabi whose Popular Congress Party was barred recently from conducting its convention in Red Sea State, pointed out that government consent to a hybrid operation means government has okayed the deployment of an international force to Darfur.

*Kudos for the agreement on the hybrid operation have come in from different quarters including the UNMIS.* *AlRai AlAam* quotes Spokesperson Achouri as having said that UNMIS welcomes the agreement and believes it will directly reflect on the political process, stability and security in Darfur. UNMIS called on the parties to prepare the grounds to realize the agreement. The Spokesperson said that the Security Council and the African Union Peace & Security Council will soon be discussing mechanisms to bring the agreement to the ground. She pointed out however that UNMIS' mandate - as set out in UNSCR 1590 - has nothing to do with the implementation of the hybrid operation. She pointed out however that the ceasefire in Darfur, the three-phase support package and the hybrid operations would complement each other.

Egypt and Russia have also welcomed the development but the US says despite Sudan's consent, the threat of US sanctions remain in place and will only be lifted when Khartoum makes good on its pledge to allow United Nations peacekeepers into Darfur. [Follow the links to the full texts [Russia hails Sudan, UN deal on peacekeeping in Darfur](#); [US refuses to lift Sudan sanctions threat over Darfur](#)].

*On a cynical note, opposition SLM leader AbdulWahid Nur says he will not believe* and will not trust government to honor its agreement until the joint forces are on the ground and until he hears from the people in Darfur that security is restored.

**On the political track**

*(Reuters; AlRai AlAam et al) Sudan is ready to attend Darfur peace talks under joint U.N.-African Union mediation to resolve the conflict, foreign minister Lam Akol said on Monday.*

"Any time they want the peace talks to start we have always been ready," Akol told reporters. "The problem is with the other side."

The AU-U.N. initiative hopes to have all factions lined up to begin talks around August.

*UNMIS Spokesperson Radhia Achouri has welcomed recent measures by the Government of Sudan and the SPLM towards giving impetus to the negotiations process* between the government and non-signatory armed factions of Darfur. She pointed out however that success or failure for a peaceful settlement depends on the will of the people of Sudan themselves and not the hybrid operation alone. She called on the parties to the conflict to gain from the current calm in the security situation in order to reach a peaceful settlement to the Darfur problem.

The former U.N. humanitarian chief in Sudan Manuel Aranda da Silva has said the rebels do not have to unite, but should have a unified position before talks.

One aid official in Sudan, who declined to be named, said international peace mediators for Darfur should be based in Khartoum to be most effective, not just jetting in and out.

U.N. special envoy Jan Eliasson, a Swede, appointed Finn Pekka Haavisto to assist him. But Haavisto, like Eliasson, has decided to be based outside Sudan.

[*Links to stories related to the political track for Darfur: [SLM statement on the perspectives of Darfur peace talks](#); [Rebel JEM proposes Road Map for Peace in Darfur](#)].*

## **CPA**

### **Lakes State government received 734 returnees**

*(Sudan Tribune)* The Government of Lakes State reveals that since receiving returnees two months ago, the number of returnees so far received has reached over 700.

The state government says it is ready to receive more returnees and has no objections to integrate the returnees to the public service.

## **GoNU**

### **MPs doubt figures of oil prices and revenues**

*(The Citizen; AlSahafa)* Energy minister Awad el-Jaz was on the defensive yesterday when MPs expressed doubts over the true figures of oil prices and revenue cited in his ministry's report presented to parliament yesterday. Some MPs accused the Ministry of Energy and Mining of not being transparent and demanded clarifications over the oil contracts signed by the government

and oil prices and revenue figures. Also under attack was what some MPs mentioned as his ministry's recruitment policies that favor some sectors of the community.

The Minister fiercely defended his ministry and its policies and reports and said he stands accountable for any wrongdoings if found.

The report for the month of May focused on Sudan's share in the country's oil revenue as per the contracts signed with the oil companies.

### **Kajbar Dam goes on the table in parliament**

(*AlSudani et al*) A member of the NDA parliamentary bloc called upon parliament yesterday to summon the Minister of Interior over queries over the killings in the Kajbar area and the arrest of 4 reporters and a number of citizens in the area.

He said that he and a number of other MPs representing different parliamentary blocs have endorsed the request and see the detention of reports as a violation of the freedom of expression.

The Union of Parliamentary Reporters has meanwhile issued a statement requesting parliamentarians to stop these violations of the constitution on the right of reporters to seek and publish information.

On its part, Journalists' Solidarity has threatened boycott of news on the government department and to stage a sit-in failure to release the four detained reporters.

### **Administrative Officers in Khartoum threaten mass resignations over local administration**

(*AlWattan*) Administrative Officers in Khartoum State have threatened mass resignations should the regional legislative body go ahead and endorse the state's Local Administration Bill in its current form.

The head of the General Union of Administrative Officers said they will protest before the Government of National Unity and the Governor of Khartoum State on the grounds that the bill, if not amended, "weakens the philosophy of local administration".

## **Southern Sudan**

### **GoSS rejects MobiTel request to expand network services in southern Sudan**

(*Allintibaha*) A delegation from mobile phone service providers, MobiTel, was shocked when it traveled to Malakal to sign an agreement to expand the network coverage only to be turned down by the information and communications minister of Upper Nile State.

Sources say that the minister had earlier agreed he would sign the deal but later demanded that the MobiTel chief executive himself come to Malakal so the deal would be signed.

The equipment necessary for the network expansion has been at Malakal Airport for the last three days and MobiTel has been footing the bill since then.

## **Darfur**

### **Popular Front for rights and democracy celebrates Geneina Protocol**

(*Sudan Vision*) the Geneina protocol signed between the Sudan government and the popular force for rights and democracy movement has been hailed by the internal displaced people.

The leader of the movement stated that the non-signatory groups of the DPA have now been reduced to a minority that cannot affect progress in the peace process.

### **IDPs riot in Direij camp in Darfur**

(*Alintibaha*) Internally displaced persons at an IDP camp in Nyala yesterday staged peaceful demonstrations before the offices of the humanitarian aid commission protesting the fact that 996 families were not given ration cards since their arrival at the Direij Camp nine months ago.

The Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid in the region said that the commission has raised the issue to the world food program but the organization is yet to respond. The commissioner revealed that a committee was formed of the commission, elders of the camp and representatives of the world food program that convinced the people that the issue will be resolved.

### **UK fears situation in Darfur may turn into something similar to Rwanda**

(*AlHayat*) the prime minister of the United Kingdom says he prefers an intervention in Darfur in order to stop the situation from becoming similar to that in Rwanda during the genocide.

The prime minister was responding to a question on whether he felt no guilt over the soldiers who lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan.

## **Other Developments**

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