



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN
UNMIS

UNMIS Media Monitoring Report, 21st June 2006
(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:

- **United Nations/CPA** (*more stories on the United Nations in the SMMR attached separately*)
 - UN welcomes SPLA children demobilisation in South Kordofan
 - SPLA deploys troops in Khartoum

- **DPA/Darfur**
 - AU's Konaré calls for quick implementation of Darfur deal
 - Sudan and main rebel group to discuss implementing peace agreement
 - Chad Accuses Sudan of Cross-Border Attacks

- **Southern Sudan/SPLM**
 - ICC should delay pursuing Uganda rebels-Machar

HIGHLIGHTS:

United Nations/CPA

UN welcomes SPLA children demobilisation in South Kordofan

(*ST* – 21st June. **Khartoum**) The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) has welcomed the demobilization of 181 children - 174 boys and 7 girls - from the Sudan People’s Liberation Army (SPLA).

This release took place on 6 June in Julud in the Nuba Mountains area of Sudan (Southern Kordofan), and the children have been reunited with their families over the past two weeks.

In addition to these 181 children formally released through the Southern Sudan Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission (SSDDRC), another 30 children went home earlier by themselves prior to the demobilization as they came from nearby locations.

“The process of advocating for the release and registering these 211 boys and girls started back in February,” explained UNICEF Representative in Sudan, Ted Chaiban. “The children range from 10 to 18 years; they all lived and attended school in the military barracks of the SPLA for the past 3 to 5 years.”

As he tried to pack his bicycle on the bus, Abubaker who is 15 years old and one of the children released, said, “Thanks to UNICEF and all those who made this possible for us. I’ll go home and get ready for school before the next academic year.”

“UNICEF is extremely pleased about this demobilization and thanks the SSDDRC for its collaboration” said Chaiban. “There are still more boys and girls who are associated with armed groups in Southern Kordofan and other areas of Sudan and we hope they too will return home soon. UNICEF has already registered another 80 in the Kauda area, and these children are ready to be released. We have also been informed of other children in Blue Nile State that will also be reunited with their families.”

UN Children’s Fund works with the SSDDRC for the demobilization of children in the SPLA, and Save the Children US, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the UN Mission to reunite and provide services for reintegration for these children and receiving communities in Southern Kordofan, North Sudan and beyond.

SPLA deploys troops in Khartoum

(*SRS/ST* – 20th June. **Khartoum**) The Sudan People’s Liberation Army has finished deploying its brigade in Khartoum, as stipulated in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

At least 320 SPLA soldiers arrived in Khartoum from Kassala on Saturday and were deployed at the republican guard garrison at Soba Aradi area, the Sudan Radio Service (SRS) reported.

There are now a total of 1,500 SPLA soldiers deployed in different areas of Khartoum as stipulated in the CPA.

The chairman of the Joint Defense Board Technical Committee, Major-General Elias Waya Nypoch, said some of the troops will be deployed in Soba Aradhi, fifteen kilometres south of Khartoum. He said that the rest will be deployed in the Jebel Aulia IDP camp, forty kilometres south of Khartoum.

Ministers, members of the National Assembly, SPLM and the ruling National Congress Party officials, as well as ordinary citizens received the troops on arrival.

Meanwhile, the SPLA commander in charge of the entering brigade urged southern Sudanese internally displaced persons in Khartoum to return to their homes to develop their areas.

Lieutenant Colonel Bullen Bol Majak told IDP's in Soba on Saturday that since peace has come there is no need to continue living in IDP camps.

"Many people ran away from the country because of war but now peace has come. All the people should go back to their areas so that development goes ahead", said Colonel Majak.

The officer said that the SPLA soldiers are in Khartoum to defend the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

DPA/Darfur

AU's Konaré calls for quick implementation of Darfur deal

(*Xinhua/ST* – 20th June. **el-Fasher**) Chairman of AU Commission Alpha Oumar Konaré on Tuesday called for a quick implementation of a peace agreement signed last month between the Sudanese government and a main Darfur rebel faction.

"The Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) is an important step for the stabilization in Darfur and a compromise solution for ending the conflict," Konaré said in a meeting with local officials in al-Fashir, capital of the North Darfur state.

"I believe that all the requirements exist for the DPA to be a comprehensive agreement, and what we need is the quick action to implement it," he said.

Konaré arrived in al-Fashir earlier in the day on a three-day working visit to Darfur.

During his visit, Konaré will exchange views with local government officials and representatives of the AU Mission in Sudan (AMIS) on the implementation of the DPA and practical steps toward a transition from an AU peacekeeping mission in Darfur to UN forces.

As for the transition issue, Konaré reiterated the AU's support for Sudan's sovereignty and independence, stressing that an international force could not be sent to Sudan without an agreement of Sudan and the AU.

Governor of the North Darfur state Osman Mohammed Yousef Kibr, on his part, urged the AU to exert more pressure on rebel movements which have so far refused to sign the DPA.

He said that the security and humanitarian situation in the region had continuously improved after the signing of the peace agreement.

"But that does not mean there is no problem," the governor said, voicing hope that all the parties concerned would double their efforts to solve remaining problems.

Sudan and main rebel group to discuss implementing peace agreement

(AP – 20th June. **Amsterdam**) Representatives of Sudan's government and of the main rebel group in the western Darfur region will meet in the Netherlands Wednesday to discuss implementing a peace plan and planning reconstruction, the Dutch Foreign Ministry said.

It is the first time the two sides will have sat together since the May 5 peace deal was signed in Abuja, Nigeria, intended to end a three-year conflict that has claimed at least 180,000 lives and forced an estimated 2.5 million people to flee.

Sudanese Secretary of Finance Lhual Deng and Sudan Liberation Movement leader Abduljabbar Mohamoud Dosa plan to discuss "how to implement the Darfur peace agreement and what's needed for the reconstruction of Darfur," the Dutch ministry said in a statement.

The meeting, which runs through Thursday, will appoint a coordinating group to oversee international help, likely chaired by the Netherlands.

International donor groups also will attend the meeting, including representatives of the United Nations, the World Bank, the African Union, the European Commission, Britain, Norway and the United States.

But reconstruction seems a distant possibility while the peace remains in doubt.

Minni Minnawi, who heads the Sudan Liberation Movement, said this weekend the peace agreement could "collapse soon" if the international community failed to send a U.N. peacekeeping force to the remote region of western Sudan.

Chad Accuses Sudan of Cross-Border Attacks

(AP Online – 20th June. UN) Chad on Tuesday accused Sudan of cross-border attacks and urged the Security Council to meet over its neighbor's alleged "aggression and destabilization."

The attacks constitute "irrefutable proof" of Sudan's efforts to threaten Chad "and even the subregion," Chad's U.N. Ambassador Mahamat Ali Adoum said in a letter to the council president.

The Chadian government has repeatedly brought the issue of Sudan's destabilization to the African Union and the international community but hasn't received "the appropriate response," Adoum said.

Chad therefore "urgently requests the Security Council ... to consider this situation in order to halt this macabre venture by the Sudan."

"We regard Chad's concerns as serious and intend to discuss the issue within the council," U.S. Ambassador John Bolton said in a statement.

The situation in Chad may be considered during an open meeting on June 29 on the council's recent visit to Sudan and Chad, a council diplomat said.

According to Adoum, Chad's President Idriss Deby told the council that Sudan's destabilization of Chad's institutions "has never stopped."

Deby and Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir signed an agreement in Tripoli, Libya, on Feb. 8, pledging to normalize diplomatic relations and work to prevent the presence of rebel groups on each other's territory.

But more than four months later relations have worsened. The two countries accuse each other of fomenting instability, and Chad blamed Sudan for backing an unsuccessful rebel attack on its capital, N'Djamena on April 13. Khartoum denied any involvement.

"Despite the extremely important efforts made by the Chadian government and by the head of state himself in order to help resolve the Darfur conflict, Chad has nevertheless continued to be the target of armed bands and mercenaries in the pay of the government of Khartoum," Adoum said.

Southern Sudan/SPLM

ICC should delay pursuing Uganda rebels-Machar

(*Reuters/ST* – 20th June. **Juba**) A global war crimes court that wants to prosecute Uganda's notorious Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels should wait for a peace deal before pursuing justice, south Sudan's vice-president said.

Riek Machar told Reuters on Tuesday the Hague-based International Criminal Court (ICC) should publicly endorse his government's peace initiative with the LRA.

Machar has led efforts by the south Sudanese government to mediate an end to the 19-year uprising in northern Uganda by the LRA, which has staged attacks from bases in neighbouring Sudan since the mid-1990s.

"If the ICC came out to say that they would give the peace process a chance before the legal process is done, then we would resolve the conflict in the region," Machar said, speaking in his office in the southern capital Juba.

"If they did that, they would give the peace process a big boost, it would assist the Ugandan government to boldly say 'we are going to negotiate'," he said.

The ICC unsealed arrest warrants for LRA leader Joseph Kony, who claims mystical inspiration for his rebellion, and his four top commanders in October, detailing various counts including murder, sexual enslavement and rape.

The warrants divided opinion in Kony's native northern Uganda, where civic and religious groups feared they would make it harder to convince LRA commanders to stop fighting.

Numerous attempts to broker an end to the conflict have failed, but Machar said Kony's willingness to meet him — the first time the elusive rebel has met mediators for years — showed he was serious.

"There was no initiative that has gone to this level," Machar said. "I think he wants to reach to a peaceful settlement to the conflict."

The ICC has reiterated that governments in the region have a duty to arrest their suspects. Kony has evaded repeated attempts to capture him by Uganda's army.

Diplomats and regional security sources say the LRA killed eight Guatemalan troops from the U.N. mission in Congo who took part in an attempt in January to arrest Kony's deputy, Vincent Otti, also wanted by the ICC.

Machar stopped short of calling for the warrants to be withdrawn.

"We are a vehicle to mediate a peaceful settlement. With a peaceful settlement the environment would have been set for the ICC to trigger off the legal process," he said.

Machar said Switzerland had agreed to support his initiative, adding the Netherlands and Italy also appeared ready to assist.