

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS**Media Monitoring Report, 26 June 2007

(By Public Information Office)

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IN THE NEWS TODAY:**➤ UN/ Agencies**

- Sudan denies ambiguity on hybrid operation
- France expects UN-AU hybrid force to be deployed in Darfur in early 2008
- Arbitrary retrenched civil servants go on hunger strike before UN offices

➤ GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESA)

- Al-Bashir appoints former eastern Sudan rebels in federal parliament
- VP Kiir says secessionists are a majority in southern Sudan
- JDB studies today the budget and arms for the JIUs
- Parliament defers deliberations on the Regular Forces Bill to next round of session
- New measures for distribution of state revenue
- Transitional Authority forms fact-finding team to investigate Gereida
- Tripoli says Sudan Consul has not been expelled from Libya

➤ GoSS

- GoSS Vice-President reports decline in hostile LRA movements in Eastern Equatoria
- SPLM leader denounces own representatives
- SPLA strike leaves people stranded in Juba
- Two killed in Uganda-Sudan border ambush
- USA pledges 100m-dollar aid to northern Uganda
- Secret document reveals deal between the GoSS and Israel

➤ Darfur

- Japan to provide \$4 mil in aid for refugees displaced by Darfur crisis
- 270 cases of watery diarrhoea reported in West Darfur
- Darfur meeting ends without concrete action
- Majzoub el-Khalifa says government positions will never be an obstacle to a comprehensive solution to the crisis in Darfur

- Non-signatory SLM sets conditions to join Juba talks
- Darfur rebels reportedly driven out of Chad
- Darfur interim authority officials discuss region's security situation

Highlights

UN/ Agencies

Sudan denies ambiguity on hybrid operation

(SUNA via BBC Monitoring) Information and Communications Minister Zahawi Ibrahim Malek, on the sidelines of the Arab Information Ministers meeting in Cairo, expressed his gratitude to the Council of Ministers of Information, for their interest during their meeting today [20 June] in the Western media campaign against Sudan and their directive to channels, radio stations, and all the Arab media, to help Sudan in the face of the fierce and unjust Western media campaign targeted at Sudan.

Zahawi confirmed to reporters that Sudan is proceeding with the enforcement of all internal agreements, referring to the government's cooperation with the UN and the AU in an integrated manner and said that there is no justification for all of this pressure on Sudan.

He denied any ambiguity in Sudan's position on the hybrid operation approved by the Addis Ababa conference and he said: "We affirmed our commitment to this operation in an integrated manner, and we are aware from the outset that there are two phases: the first and second are light and medium support, and the second is for the heavy support."

He said that all of this is an integrated operation, to which Sudan is committed and will not listen to those voices that are trying to drag us backward or distract us from seeing our issues clearly.

Zahawi pointed out that the solution must be an integrated Sudanese solution and that assistance must come through the mainstream for the solution that we want, which is in step with the agreement reached in Abuja.

On the Paris Conference on 25 June, the minister said that Sudan explained that it does not want any new initiatives that would take us from the general framework and format in which we resolve these issues.

He said Sudan rejected the French initiative and asked officials in France to cooperate with Sudan.

France expects UN-AU hybrid force to be deployed in Darfur in early 2008

(*Xinhua website*) French Defense Minister Herve Morin expressed hope Monday that a hybrid force under the command of both the United Nation (UN) and the African Union (AU) could finally be deployed in the troubled Sudanese province of Darfur " in early 2008 at the latest."

He was speaking during an interview with a French radio "France- Inter" on Monday before the opening of the international conference on Darfur in Paris.

Morin added that France could "probably" contribute the highest number of soldiers in this hybrid force, without indicating exactly who will be in charge of its operations.

Arbitrary retrenched civil servants go on hunger strike before UN offices

(*Rai AlShaab*) Arbitrarily retrenched civil servants went on a hunger strike before the UN offices in Khartoum in protest over the delayed response to their memorandum calling on the UN Secretariat to intervene to put an end to their plight.

The disgruntled retrenched civil servants had earlier requested intervention from the Presidency of the Republic to address their issue and reinstate them in the civil service. Having had no response from the government, the group then decided to resort to the UN for assistance.

GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESA)

Al-Bashir appoints former eastern Sudan rebels in federal parliament

(*SudanTribune.com; AlSudani*) Eight key members of the former rebel Eastern Front were appointed on Monday to the Sudanese parliament, as called for by a peace deal signed last year, the official SUNA reported.

The members are: Mohamed Tahir Ukeer, Abdallah Musa Abdallah, Yusuf Mohamed Mahmoud, Hassan Mohamed Osman, Salih Mohamed Hasballah, Saleem Ali Salih, Awad Mubarek Saleem, Dr Mohamed Hamid Osman Al Abady.

Under the October peace deal, both sides are to release prisoners of war and the estimated 1,800 former rebel fighters are to decide whether to return to civilian life or join the Sudanese army or police.

A member of the Eastern Front Leadership Council told *AlSudani* however that the distribution of political posts has left many members disgruntled, as they believe the nominations were drawn along ethnic lines.

VP Kiir says secessionists are a majority in southern Sudan

(*Allintibaha; AlSudani*) Speaking to the congregation at the St. Theresa Cathedral in Juba, Vice-President Salva Kiir called upon southern Sudanese to respect the decisions of their fellow brothers come the referendum on unity or secession. He said however that he believes that secessionist make up the majority of the people in southern Sudan.

The GoSS President lamented the slow pace of implementation of the CPA and said the SPLA is in continued struggle to implement the agreement.

JDB studies today the budget and arms for the JIUs

(*AlSudani*) Gen. Wayai Deng, the head of the technical committee of the Joint Defence Board, presides over a JDB meeting in Khartoum today, sources report.

The sources say that the regular meeting will discuss, among other issues, the budget, arming of the Joint Integrated Units, the financial status of these units, the issue of the Other Armed Groups, to what extent these groups have integrated into the two forces recognised by the CPA, evaluation of the Security Arrangements Protocol cited in the CPA and identifying points that have been implemented and those that are yet to be implemented.

Parliament defers deliberations on the Regular Forces Bill to next round of session

(*Rai AlShaab*) The Parliamentary Committee on Defence and Security has deferred all deliberations on the bills concerning the regular forces [police, National Security and the SAF] to the next round of sessions after parliament comes out of recess.

The head of the parliamentary committee reveals that the Police Bill has been endorsed by Cabinet and will be tabled before Parliament after recess.

New measures for distribution of state revenue

(*Rai AlShaab*) The head of the Revenue Allocation and Monitoring Commission has revealed that the commission will soon be introducing modern and simpler measures for the distribution of state revenue. He explained that the role of the commission focuses on the distribution of the annual revenues within the framework of the national state budget along the lines that 55% of the revenue goes to the federal government expenditure on defence, security, foreign policy and requisites for the peace process.

He further pointed out that what monies are remitted by the federal government to the regional governments is a right and not a subsidy. He said that revenue distribution aims at realising equitable development in all states of the Sudan.

Transitional Authority forms fact-finding team to investigate Gereida

(*Rai AlShaab; AlIntibaha*) The legal advisor to the TDRA has announced that the interim authority will form a commission of inquiry into the Gereida mass graves and the incidents in Gereida in which key elements of the SLM-MM were allegedly involved.

The advisor told a press conference yesterday that the commission is made up of the legal advisor to the Government of South Darfur and representatives of the SLM-MM, the AMIS and of the victims. He said that the commission will travel to Darfur to study the situation on the

ground and will then report to the Darfur Peace Agreement implementation monitoring mechanisms.

The legal advisor to the TDRA also threatened to resort to a Constitutional Court and AMIS arbitration should the Minister of Interior continue to pursue the procedures it has started because most areas of Darfur are not under government control and the SLM does have its mechanisms for accountability.

Tripoli says Sudan Consul has not been expelled from Libya

(Akhir Lahza) The Libyan Brotherhood Office in Khartoum has denied reports that authorities in Libya have expelled Sudan's ambassador there and has denied knowledge of the reasons why authorities in Khartoum have expelled Libya's Consul.

Asked to comment, Spokesperson for Sudan's foreign ministry, Ali Al-Sadiq, denied any knowledge of the expulsion by Sudanese authorities of the Libyan top diplomat in Khartoum.

GoSS

GoSS Vice-President reports decline in hostile LRA movements in Eastern Equatoria

(Sudan Vision) Vice-President Riek Machar of the GoSS says that efforts exerted by the GoSS for peace between the Uganda government and the LRA are progressing. He said that the two sides are now discussing reconciliation and accountability.

Dr. Machar affirmed that the security situation in Equatoria is stabilizing with a decrease in LRA movements in Eastern Equatoria and limited movement in Western Equatoria.

SPLM leader denounces own representatives

(SUNA via BBC Monitoring) Atim Garang, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly and key figure in the Sudan Peoples Liberation Movement [SPLM], denounced the harassment by members of the SPLM's representation office in Washington of the Sudanese diplomatic mission there.

Atim said in a telephone interview with SUNA, from his residence in Germany that what the movement's representation office in Washington had done expressed the views of an individual and does not represent the movement's position.

He called on leaders of the movement's representation office in Washington to contact the Secretariat of the People's Movement in Sudan if Washington wants to know their position.

It is worth noting that the Sudanese Charge d'Affaires in Washington had said earlier that the embassy was about to issue an official note on the harassment by members of the SPLM in Washington against the diplomatic mission.

SPLA strike leaves people stranded in Juba

(The Citizen) SPLA soldiers closed the Bor-Juba road at Pariak last week demanding pay. The soldiers claimed they had been paid only once since the CPA was signed.

The strike left hundreds of passengers stranded. News that the soldiers were calling off the strike effective last Monday saw trials of cars and jubilant passengers set off for Jonglei.

Two killed in Uganda-Sudan border ambush

(Daily Monitor via BBC Monitoring, 25 June) Unknown gunmen last week ambushed a vehicle at the Uganda-Sudan border and killed two occupants including a Sudanese policeman.

Kitgum District Police Commander Charles Oumo told Daily Monitor the incident happened after 6pm [local time] on Monday [18 June] between Madi Opei and the border point. Madi Opei is about 50 miles northeast of Kitgum town.

Mr Oumo identified the dead as the driver of the vehicle a Sudanese national. The Turn-boy sustained severe injuries and is admitted to Kitgum Hospital. He said six other passengers aboard the vehicle jumped off as the assailants sprayed them with bullets. Mr Oumo said the vehicle was travelling to Uganda from South Sudan. He said the police were investigating the incident.

USA pledges 100m-dollar aid to northern Uganda

(Daily Monitor via BBC Monitoring, 25 June) The United States government has saluted [Southern Sudan Vice-President] Riek Machar and [former Mozambican President] Joachim Chissano for their efforts in trying to resolve the northern conflict. Dr Machar is the chief mediator of the Juba peace talks and Mr Chissano is the UN special envoy for northern Uganda.

Speaking at the opening of the Gulu USAID office, US Ambassador Steven Browning said his government supports the Juba peace process as a means to end the two-decade insurgency in the north.

"We appreciate the efforts of the mediators to facilitate the talks and ultimately to resolve the conflict. My government is in constant, behind-the-scenes contact with people at the table through our embassy in Kampala and our consulate in Juba."

Mr. Browning concurred with a recent Daily Monitor editorial that said the talks were the most credible means of ending the rebellion that has displaced over 1.6 million people and claimed thousands of lives. He said the renewal of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement is a positive step in the Sudan-led mediation effort. "This effort enjoys the support of the UN as well as other African observers. We continue to stress that it is important that the parties follow through on their commitments," Mr Browning said.

"Last year, my government donated 90m US-dollars to assist in food aid, sanitation, healthcare, education economic and agricultural development programmes in the north. This year we are on track to increase that amount to more than 100m US-dollars (Shs160 billion)," he said.

Secret document reveals deal between the GoSS and Israel

(AlIntibaha) A memorandum backed by a number of GoSS parliamentarians has warned against giving the SPLA free rein and on the efforts to use experts from Uganda and South Africa to train and modernise the SPLA despite their objections to the formation recently of the Equatoria-based brigade under Mjr. Gen. Thomas Cirillo.

In the memorandum, the MPs also criticised the earmarking of 40% of the GoSS budget of 1.3 billion dollars for military expenditure and reorganisation of the SPLA.

The document also talked of a secret deal on training of the SPLA in Egypt and of an agreement between the GoSS and Israel for capacity-building training of 60 SPLA officers in Israeli military colleges. The MPs also criticised the Uganda influence in the GoS as manifested in the majority of advisors and Ugandan employees.

Darfur

Humanitarian:

Japan to provide \$4 mil in aid for refugees displaced by Darfur crisis

(Japan Economic Newswire via NewsEdge) The government of Japan decided Tuesday to provide about \$4 million in emergency grant aid to help improve the situation of displaced people in areas neighboring Sudan's strife-torn Darfur region.

The humanitarian assistance, Japan's largest grant aid in connection with the Darfur crisis, will be offered to help refugees in the eastern part of Chad and the northeast of the Central African Republic, the Foreign Ministry said.

270 cases of watery diarrhoea reported in West Darfur

(AlSudani) The UN says it has recorded 270 cases of watery diarrhoea in West Darfur and local health authorities fear the statistics may be higher. Health officials describe the situation as bad and say that they do not know how the situation is in the IDP camps. The same source say the situation may worsen as the rains set in and the state government can not face the health challenges due to budgetary constraints.

State authorities have meanwhile sought assistance from the federal government and the TDRA to help resolve the problem of polluted water that is widespread in large areas of Darfur.

Political:

Darfur meeting ends without concrete action

(Reuters; AP; SudanTribune) An international meeting on Darfur ended on Monday with promises to support peacekeeping efforts and a political process to stop the violence in western Sudan, but with few concrete steps.

The nations at the conference, which included major aid donors, the Group of Eight industrialized nations and Sudan's ally China, offered few details of exactly how they hoped to end a conflict that has dragged on for more than four years.

France had said the meeting was aimed at backing a U.N.-African Union peacemaking effort, offering political support to those trying to bring together splintered rebel groups, and providing funds for a "hybrid" U.N.-AU force due to take over from 7,000 beleaguered AU peacekeepers.

Sudan has welcomed the outcome of the conference with foreign ministry Spokesperson Ali el-Sadiq saying that it indeed supported the African Union-United Nations efforts for Darfur. The spokesperson said Sudan's reservations about the conference was due to the fact that the conference was organized by the Contact Group to which Sudan is not party. Further, the initiative came a time when UN and AU envoys had taken steps forward on uniting Darfur armed groups opposed to the Abuja Agreement.

Despite the absence of specific action from the meeting, U.N. special envoy Jan Eliasson said it had been useful to coordinate efforts among the many players.

"There has been a long period now of sometimes competing initiatives. Now there was general agreement that we should have a convergence of initiatives," he told reporters.

The conference also saw France press for international financing of a new, enlarged peacekeeping force for Darfur and decry the world's lack of action on the crisis there. French foreign minister Kouchner said a French priority was finding funding for the hybrid force.

His foreign minister Bernard Kouchner said that France would also seek United Nations approval for a plan to send gendarmes and police to stability and help rebuild eastern Chad where government forces have been fighting rebels.

The French President pledged an additional Euro10 million to the existing African Union Mission in Sudan forces in Darfur while Spain has pledged the same amount with half of it for the hybrid force and the rest for humanitarian aid. The EU has also said it was preparing Euro31 million for additional humanitarian aid.

Meanwhile, US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said that Sudan's "history" of backsliding on commitments means that sanctions pressure must be maintained until it has actually carried out the commitments it has taken. [*Follow the links for more on the stories [Sudan hails outcome of Paris conference on Darfur](#); [Darfur meeting ends without concrete action](#); [France's Sarkozy urges world to be firm with Sudan](#); [France, others to propose force for eastern Chad](#); [Spain, EU pledge peacekeeping, humanitarian aid for Sudan](#); [US Rice: Pressure must be maintained on Sudan](#); [France presses for intl financing of peacekeepers for Darfur](#); [Sarkozy opens Darfur meeting, says 'silence kills'](#)]*

Majzoub el-Khalifa says government positions will never be an obstacle to a comprehensive solution to the crisis in Darfur

(Akhir Lahza) In a first reaction to the change in the JEM position now favouring unconditional talks with the government, Presidential Advisor Majzoub el-Khalifa assured that there is no lack of government positions for the non-signatory groups should they sign on board the peace process.

He said that positions would never be obstacle to the peace process, whatever the demands of the groups and pointed out that the fact that MPs on the National Congress Party ticket stepped down so that cabinet could accommodate Eastern Front members is a sure sign that the availability of seats will not be a problem.

Khalifa further pointed out that the JEM is an Islamic movement and that is why it is not in the good books of the West and why the West seeks to isolate her. He said that they have now realised the conspiracies and it is only natural that they show some flexibility.

Asked to comment on reports by some quarters that he is the reason for the delay in bringing the non-signatory factions on board, the Presidential Advisor said he was only a soldier being ordered by President Bashir and would step down should the President so wish.

Non-signatory SLM sets conditions to join Juba talks

(Alwan via BBC Monitoring, 24 June) The AbdulWahid faction of the SLM says it has sent the brokers of next month's meeting in southern Sudan between representatives of non-signatory groups that it would only participate in the meeting if the Janjaweed are disarmed, an agreement is reached on the deployment of international forces to Darfur and IDPs return and compensated.

Security Developments:

Darfur rebels reportedly driven out of Chad

(SMC via BBC Monitoring, 25 June) A group of five armed men have looted property from a vehicle in which six passengers carrying commodities were travelling to Wad'a district in Northern Darfur State.

In a statement to SMC, a local leader in the district Adam Abdoh Abkorah said the armed group attacked the vehicle and its passengers and looted their property.

He said the group threatened the passengers not to ask for help from any one, saying that the recent attacks on the residents was carried out by the armed movements who are looking for food.

He said the armed movements are suffering from lack of food after being driven by Chad away from its territory.

Darfur interim authority officials discuss region's security situation

(Sudan Radio via BBC Monitoring, 25 June) The meeting of the interim authority of Darfur states, chaired by Senior Presidential Assistant and President of Darfur Interim Authority Mani Arkoi Minnawi, has discussed improvement of security situation in Darfur and efforts being made by the government and the interim authority to restore security in the region.

The meeting also discussed ways to join Darfur movements holding out of Darfur Peace Agreement to the peace process.