



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN
UNMIS

UNMIS Media Monitoring Report, 28th June 2006
(By Public Information Office)

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GoNU

Government is yet to decide on the issue of international forces to Darfur, Deng Alor

(*AlSahafa* – 28th Jun. **Khartoum**) Minister at Cabinet, Mr. Deng Alor, says President Bashir only represented the views of his National Congress Party when he declared rejection to the deployment of international forces to Darfur and did not represent the views of the Government of National Unity.

Speaking to *AlSahafa* daily, the minister pointed out that the issue has not been tabled for deliberations before the Council of Ministers or any other institution of the GoNU nor has it been brought for discussions with the other parties composing the GoNU.

He said the SPLM does not reject such a deployment to monitor the DPA.

Minister Alor went on to say that in his meeting with the TAM team that recently visited the country, he explained to them that the President's declaration represented only the views of the National Congress Party and not those of the GoNU nor the SPLM.

On the other hand el-Dirdeiri Mohamed Ahmed, a prominent member of the National Congress Party, said that President Bashir has the right to declare whatever position he chooses to declare without referring to the government.

He pointed out that the President will then decide to win the government support to his views.

Meanwhile justice minister Mohamed Ali el-Mardi who is currently attending the Human Rights Commission meeting in Geneva told the commission that Sudan will not accept United Nations troops to deploy in Darfur without a written approval from the GoNU.

He drew attention to article IV of the Security Council resolution (?) that requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to consult with the government on the issue and to gain government acceptance on the transition.

UN

UN wants to go to Darfur now to help African Union

(*Reuters/ST* – 27th Jun. UN) The United Nations should immediately beef up the African Union force in Darfur with communications, transport and other help in preparation for its own operation, the head of U.N. peacekeeping said on Tuesday.

Although Sudan's President Omar Hassan al-Bashir, has rejected a U.N. force, the world body might be able to gain a foothold in Darfur by augmenting the African Union's 7,000-strong monitoring operation, said U.N. Undersecretary-General Jean-Marie Guehenno.

"We believe that the United Nations can help the African mission," Guehenno told reporters. "We did not get any objection from the government of Sudan so we are going to work in earnest on that."

"If there is an evolution in the position of (the) government of Sudan, we will be in a much better position to deploy a U.N. mission," Guehenno said.

"The people of Darfur are too important to let go," he said, referring to the tens of thousands who have been killed in three years of warfare and the 2.3 million people driven into squalid camps in Darfur and neighboring Chad.

Guehenno, in briefing the Security Council on his recent military assessment mission in Darfur, proposed building a communications system and strengthening command and control capabilities.

"This could mean an enhancement of the U.N. presence in the region, through an augmented (U.N.) office in Darfur, with a significant number of United Nations staff fully dedicated to

supporting the African mission in Sudan," he told the council, according to his text, obtained by Reuters.

The Darfur conflict erupted in 2003 when mostly non-Arab tribes took up arms, accusing the Arab-dominated government of neglect. Khartoum retaliated by arming mainly Arab militia, known as Janjaweed, who began a campaign of murder, rape, arson and plunder.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan intends to speak to Sudan's Bashir at an African Union summit in Banjul, Gambia this weekend and get other African leaders to tell him the AU did not want to lead the operation beyond this year.

"So far the answer has not been positive, but the dialogue continues," Annan told reporters.

But he said that "in politics, words like 'never' and 'forever' do not exist," Annan said. "We have seen leaders say lots of things, but they also find reasons and ways to adapt, to shift, to change direction, and often forget that they have used the word 'never.'"

U.S. Ambassador John Bolton said "the sooner the U.N. takes control of the mission in Darfur, the better."

But he said it was the responsibility of African Union to bring "Sudan's leaders into compliance with their own commitment under the Darfur peace agreement."

The United Nations already has 10,000 peacekeepers in southern Sudan to monitor a major peace agreement that ended decades of civil war. But a force in Darfur would need a tougher mandate and more mobility.

Editorial: From Al-Sudani

Al-Sudani-- The editorial argued that if the UN apologised, or the Government changed its mind in respect to the suspension of the UN activities in Darfur, it is all the same since the result is that the issue has been handled with all wisdom. The editorial commended the role of the UN agencies (UNICEF, WFP, WHO and other agencies) and differentiated between the humanitarian role of these agencies and the political role of the UNSC. The editorial commended also the wisdom with which the issue was resolved.

Achouri: Jamous was in health condition that required flying him in a UN flight

Al-Sudani-- The UNMIS has welcomed the decision of the GoS on lifting the ban on its activities in Darfur. It considered this decision as a step that would assist in continuing its humanitarian work in the region. UNMIS Spokesperson, Radhia Achouri, said to Al-Sudani that the PDSRSG, Taye Zerihoun, has explained the circumstances in which the SLM leader, Suliman Jamous, was taken in a UN flight from Darfur to the Nuba Mountains. She said this was done on the basis of his need for urgent medical care and in good intentions. Achouri said that the Mission will, in any case, carry out investigation on this issue if the Government had protested or not. Further, she said Jamous was the SLM Humanitarian Affairs coordinator and was dealt with in this capacity. She explained that the Mission is not in the business of concealing information from the Government on this case. According to news agencies, the SRSRSG Jan Pronk said he would end his leave and return from the Netherlands to Khartoum on Monday next week to meet Government officials to discuss the latest crisis between the Government and UNMIS.

06/27/2006 23:33:31

Annan hopes collective pressure at African Union summit will get Sudan to drop opposition to U.N. force in **Darfur**

By EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press Writer

Source: English General News

Date: June 27, 2006

UNITED NATIONS _ U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan expressed hope that collective pressure at this weekend's African Union summit will convince Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir to drop his opposition to a U.N. peacekeeping force in conflict-wracked **Darfur**.

Annan said he plans to meet the Sudanese leader at the summit in the Gambian capital, Banjul, but he said there are also other African leaders who are anxious to talk to al-Bashir about a U.N. takeover of peacekeeping in the vast western region from the African Union.

"I hope the collective pressure will make a difference," the secretary-general told reporters.

Al-Bashir has said the deployment of U.N. peacekeepers will "never take place" while he is president, insisting that U.N. troops want to use **Sudan** to start "colonizing Africa" again. He blamed "Jewish organizations" for pushing for a U.N. force.

Despite al-Bashir's rejection of a U.N. force, Annan said he is not giving up, especially since the African Union has said it cannot handle long-term peacekeeping in **Darfur** and wants its 7,000-strong force replaced by better-equipped and better-funded U.N. peacekeepers.

"In politics, words like 'never' and 'forever' do not exist," Annan told reporters. "We have seen leaders say lots of things, but they also find reasons and ways to adapt, to shift, to change direction, and often forget that they have used the word 'never.'"

The secretary-general also appealed to members of the U.N. Security Council "to bring their collective and individual pressure to bear ... not just on the Sudanese government to cooperate and support the deployment, but also on the rebels outside the agreement to sign the (**Darfur** Peace) agreement."

The May 5 agreement was signed by the government and one faction of the **Sudan** Liberation Army but another faction and the Justice and Equality Movement have refused to sign.

U.S. Ambassador John Bolton said African Union members should pressure al-Bashir to comply with the peace agreement and support a U.N. force. He said the United States would decide on its next steps after the AU summit.

Annan and Bolton spoke to reporters after a closed-door briefing to the council by Undersecretary-General for Peacekeeping Jean-Marie Guehenno who just returned from a two-week assessment mission to **Darfur** with the African Union's peace commissioner Said Djinnit.

Guehenno said the AU mission _ which will not be replaced until early 2007 even if the Sudanese government gives approval _ must be strengthened immediately because the situation in **Darfur** remains "very fragile."

The U.N. and the AU agree that three brigades should be deployed in **Darfur** "so the situation doesn't deteriorate," he said, adding that the Sudanese government has not objected to beefing up the AU force.

A brigade has about 3,500 troops so that would mean adding about 3,500 new troops, bringing the current AU force from 7,000 to about 10,500.

The **Darfur** conflict began in early 2003 when members of ethnic African tribes rose in revolt against the Arab-led Khartoum government. **Sudan's** government is accused of

responding by unleashing Arab militias known as the Janjaweed who have been blamed for the worst atrocities. Khartoum denies any involvement, but has committed to disarm the Janjaweed under the peace deal.

More than 180,000 people have died since the conflict began, some 2 million have been rendered homeless, and the fighting has spilled across the border into Chad.

Guehenno said he stressed to the Sudanese government that unless there is a political process _ including a dialogue among all the **Darfur** parties _ it will be "very difficult for any force to stabilize the situation."

Asked about deploying U.N. peacekeepers to Chad, Guehenno said a peacekeeping operation in **Sudan** would help the situation in Chad because observers could be put along the border so there would be less cross-border action.

Efforts also must be made to start a dialogue between the leaders of **Sudan** and Chad, who currently have no diplomatic relations, and to end recruitment in camps for Sudanese refugees and displaced Chadians in eastern Chad, he said.

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Received by NewsEdge Insight: 06/27/2006 22:45:33

06/27/2006 20:02:55

UN wants to go to Darfur now to help African Union

By Evelyn Leopold

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Although **Sudan's** President Omar Hassan al-Bashir, has rejected a U.N. force, the world body might be able to gain a foothold in **Darfur** by augmenting the African Union's 7,000-strong monitoring operation, said U.N. Undersecretary-General Jean-Marie Guehenno.

"We believe that the United Nations can help the African mission," Guehenno told reporters. "We did not get any objection from the government of **Sudan** so we are going to work in earnest on that."

"If there is an evolution in the position of (the) government of **Sudan**, we will be in a much better position to deploy a U.N. mission," Guehenno said.

"The people of **Darfur** are too important to let go," he said, referring to the tens of thousands who have been killed in three years of warfare and the 2.3 million people driven into squalid camps in **Darfur** and neighboring Chad.

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NEVER SAY NEVER

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KEYWORDS: **SUDAN-DARFUR-UN**

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06/27/2006 22:45:33

Cash-strapped AU peacekeepers to quit Darfur end of September

Source: Agence France-Presse English Wire Date: June 28, 2006

by Susan Njanji

BANJUL, June 28, 2006 (AFP) - The poorly-equipped African Union peacekeeping force in **Darfur** is set to quit the troubled western Sudanese region by end of September due to a lack of funds, the AU's security organ said Tuesday.

"Whatever happens, our mandate ends on the 31st of September unless there are new developments," South African's Foreign Minister Ncosazana Dhlamini-Zuma said after chairing an AU Peace and Security Council meeting ahead of a weekend summit of heads of state.

"Even if we wanted to continue, we don't have the finances to continue beyond the date we have set... unless (there is) a new development which would mean there would be support for that (extension) from the UN," she told reporters.

Sudan has consistently opposed a handover of peacekeeping duties in **Darfur** to an international force, but has of late shown readiness to discuss the issue since reaching a peace agreement with the main rebel group last month.

However President Omar al-Bashir was quoted as saying Sunday that Sudanese troops were ready to take over from the AU force, in what was seen as a fresh rebuff to UN plans to deploy its own force.

Beshir has repeatedly warned he will turn **Darfur** into "a graveyard" for Western troops, accusing the West of seeking to "recolonise **Sudan**".

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan this month said that **Darfur** needed UN peacekeepers despite Beshir's opposition.

Dhlamini Zuma said the AU would be "willing to review" its departure date from **Darfur** if there were new developments in Sudanese-UN discussions for a transfer of the operation to the world body.

"Maybe if the UN says it would need a little bit more time to come in, then we can review that," she said.

The world body wants to replace the cash-strapped poorly-equipped 7,000-strong AU contingent which has attempted in vain to maintain peace in **Darfur** over the past two years.

The UN stresses that the deployment of a strong peacekeeping contingent in **Darfur** is critical to the success of a peace agreement agreed on May 5.

Decades of tribal fighting in **Darfur** -- an arid desert region the size of France -- erupted into all-out violence in 2003, when ethnic minority rebels took up arms, accusing the Arab government in Khartoum of neglect and calling for autonomy.

In response, the regime unleashed its Janjaweed proxies on **Darfur's** largely black population. The combined effect of war and famine has killed some 300,000 Darfuris and displaced 2.4 million.

The global rights watchdog Human Rights Watch (HRW) on Monday called on international donors to give more to the AU Mission in **Sudan** (AMIS), for the AU to contribute more troops to protect civilians and for African leaders to put pressure on Khartoum.

"African leaders should tell Khartoum to accept a UN force. The AU has transferred to UN forces in Burundi and elsewhere in Africa; why should **Sudan** be different?" said HRW director Peter Takirambudde.

AU leaders meet at an upcoming weekend summit here.

Dhlamini-Zuma said the AU's security council also discussed how to deal with individuals who seek to undermine the Abuja peace agreement signed in May by **Sudan** and **Darfur's** biggest rebel group, the main faction of the Sudanese Liberation Movement (SLM).

"Those who actually undermine the agreement, we must take certain measures such as a ban on travel and look at assets," she said.

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