



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN  
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**UNMIS Media Monitoring Report, 29<sup>th</sup> June 2006**  
**(By Public Information Office)**

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## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

### **UN:**

#### **Al-Haj Warag (Columnist) writes on rejection of UN troops:**

*Al-Sahafa--* “No sane person could believe that all the symbols of the country's political forces that agreed to the presence of international forces are agents for the West. Particularly when we add to them the symbols of the SPLM, and the Vice-President Ali Osman. Of all the countries what would be this one to defend its national sovereignty whilst its fundamental political symbols are all as such.

We had better, instead of releasing over-simplistic accusations, reasonably approach the issue. The first dimension is that the civilians in Darfur need to be protected and thus the political forces that put the protection of civilians in priorities agreed to outside interference. The second dimension is the justified and legitimate concern of the international forces, especially from NATO i.e. fears of the possibility of turning the country, particularly Darfur, into one of the stages of settling accounts between the United States and terrorist groups which will be at the expense of the Sudanese people.

Thus President Bashir should have called for a genuine national and inclusive dialogue that protects the citizens of Darfur, achieves their legitimate demands, including accountability of perpetrators and sees justice achieved. However, the Field Marshal Al-Bashir did not do so. He only introduced himself to the limited role of NCP Leader and exacerbated the state of polarisation in the country. He then put himself in the face of all the political forces in the country when he charged the symbols, accusing them of treason and complete obsequiousness! Why has he chosen the wrong direction?

That he does not choose his political interests is strange. He has rushed in this enthusiasm to the wrong direction and plunged himself, his party and his regime into this current predicament.

The intensity that Field Marshal Al-Bashir has assumed on the basic symbols of the political forces can not be understood if it is the international forces alone. It is my assessment that the logical interpretation of the theme of this intensity that issue of international forces to Field Marshal Al-Bashir has surpassed being an issue of national sovereignty, to being one of the themes of conflict over power between him and his deputy giving it this nature of burning bearing.

The *disagreement between the President and his Deputy*, which is no longer a secret, and no longer possible to remain hidden, is the most important for it raises issues affecting the whole country. As to the position of the international forces and the issue of national consensus, the prospects of this controversy and what are the predictions. This is what I will address in the coming days.”

#### **Calls for 17,000 international troops in Darfur: UN announces donor conference on the 7<sup>th</sup> of July to support AU**

*Al-Ayam*—The UN Undersecretary General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Marie Guehenno, presented a plan for providing immediate and big support to the AU troops in Darfur and establishing a military force of 17,000 international troops.

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## U.N. humanitarian chief says Security Council must do more to protect civilians in conflicts

By EDITH M. LEDERER  
Associated Press Writer

Source: English General News

Date: June 29, 2006

UNITED NATIONS\_U.N. humanitarian chief Jan Egeland urged the Security Council to take tougher action to protect civilians, saying thousands have died in conflicts and terror attacks in recent months in Iraq, **Sudan**, Uganda, Somalia, Afghanistan and Congo.

"The world is indeed a safer place for most of us, but it is still a death trap for too many defenseless civilians, men, women and children," he said Wednesday. "Despite all our efforts, women are still raped and violated as a matter of course, children are still forcibly recruited, and defenseless civilians continue to be killed..."

Egeland said at an open Security Council meeting that the council's recent resolution to protect civilians must be turned into "a real platform for action." The resolution adopted in April reaffirmed the agreement by world leaders at last year's U.N. summit that there is an international responsibility to protect civilians from genocide, war crimes and ethnic cleansing.

The council now has "a better tool box" than any previous council, but Egeland expressed disappointment that members have not been more aggressive in imposing targeted sanctions at the earliest opportunity.

He said the council should have acted against those at Radio Guiglo in Ivory Coast who inspired and directed mob violence against civilians and humanitarian organizations in January, and against militias and warlords receiving daily arms shipments in Somalia in violation of an arms embargo.

Asked why the council hadn't acted, Egeland said it was "overburdened by many responsibilities" and should give Ivory Coast and Somalia the same attention that the conflicts in Congo and **Sudan's** western **Darfur** region have received in recent months.

Despite the council's focus, he said, the situation in Congo and **Sudan** remains precarious. Egeland said it's estimated that "up to 1,200 people are dying in silence every day" in Congo, and in the month after the **Darfur** Peace Agreement was signed on May 3, the African Union reported that 69 people were killed though "we know the real figures are much higher."

"However, it is in Iraq that the greatest numbers of civilians are being killed by indiscriminate acts of terror and sectarian and conflict violence," Egeland said.

Official Iraqi Health Ministry figures from the main mortuary in Baghdad revealed that over 6,000 bodies of Iraqis who had been killed had been received since the beginning of the year, he said, noting that U.S. President George W. Bush estimated that over 30,000 civilians were killed between March 2003 and the end of 2005.

In Afghanistan, President Hamid Karzai said recently that up to 600 civilians had been killed in recent weeks, Egeland said.

"In African and other conflicts, many more die but that is due to associated disease, malnutrition," he said. "In Iraq and in neighboring Afghanistan, they die in massive numbers of violence."

Egeland called for stepped up action by local, national and regional leaders and groups to protect civilians. He also called for earlier efforts to mediate conflicts, new creative approaches to peacekeeping, access for humanitarian workers \_ and most importantly well trained and financed peacekeepers with strong mandates to protect civilians.

The international community needs peacekeepers trained to deal with human rights abuses in **Darfur** and across the border in eastern Chad, where the conflict has spilled over, but "we don't have it," he said. Nor are there enough trained policemen to deal with groups like the Young Patriots in Ivory Coast who are using street violence to advance their agenda, he said.

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### **Annan Hopes Pressure Sways Sudan Leader**

By EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press Writer

Source: AP Online Regional - Africa

Date: June 28, 2006

UNITED NATIONS\_Secretary-General Kofi Annan expressed hope that pressure at an African Union summit will persuade **Sudan's** president to drop his opposition to a U.N. peacekeeping force in conflict-wracked **Darfur**.

Annan said he plans to meet with Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir at the summit this weekend in the Gambian capital, Banjul. He said other African leaders were also anxious to talk to al-Bashir about a U.N. takeover of AU-led peacekeeping in the vast western region.

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

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 opposition, 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 all rebel factions to sign the **Darfur** Peace agreement.

The government and one faction of the **Sudan** Liberation Army signed the May 5 agreement, but another faction and the separate 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 won't be replaced until early 2007 even if the Sudanese government gives its 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. That would mean adding about 3,500 new troops, bringing the AU force to about 10,500.

The **Darfur** conflict began in early 2003 when members of ethnic African tribes revolted 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 disarming the Janjaweed under the peace deal.

The fighting has left some 180,000 people dead, rendered 2 million homeless and has spilled across the border into Chad.

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## GoNU

### **NCP: Alor's statement on international troops unacceptable**

*Al-Sahafa*—: The UN Deputy Chairman of the National Congress, Nafi Ali Nafi, criticized the Minister of Cabinet of Affairs, Deng Alor, for the statement in which the latter said Al-Bashir's position on rejection of international troops represents only the NCP, not the Government of National Unity. Nafi described the statement as not correct and contrary to the resolutions of the Council of Ministers in two meetings.

## DARFUR/DPA

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**Thousands Will Hold Their Breath For Darfur, Sudan June 29 at Noon EDT As Every 8 Minutes Another Darfuri is Killed**

Source: US Newswire Date: June 28, 2006

NEW YORK, Jun 28, 2006 (U.S. Newswire via COMTEX) --On Thursday, June 29 at Noon EDT, thousands will hold their breath at simultaneous events that will take place in New York, Washington, Albuquerque, Brussels and Rwanda, to draw attention to the genocide that is taking place in **Darfur, Sudan**.

The New York City event will be held at 346 Broadway, (on corner of Leonard and Broadway) and will feature former Sudanese slave and noted human rights activist Simon Deng -- <http://iabolish.com>.

At Noon EDT, all of the participants around the globe will maintain a simultaneous, shared moment of silence for the victims in **Darfur** and as a group, they will hold their breath.

At least 400,000 people have died in **Darfur** since 2003. Every 8 minutes another Darfuri is killed. Over 2.5 million have been displaced and are trapped in refugee camps. Peace remains a distant goal. While foreign media and politicians move on to other issues, those concerned hold their breath, believing themselves powerless.

"We will stand across the globe as a reflection of those in power who have idly held their breath while genocide occurs on their watch," said Taylor Krauss, the group's co-organizer.

In addition to the groups participating in New York; Washington D.C.; Albuquerque, N.M.; Kigali, Rwanda; and Brussels, Belgium, yoga instructors across America will also be using the occasion to discuss the crisis with their classes, and the importance of breath in their teachings.

"Inwardly, we will reflect on those in **Darfur**; those whose breath has been taken from them, as our bodies, too, cry out for air and life against suffocation and death," said Ted Alcorn, another co-organizer.

For more information see: <http://holdyourbreathfordarfur.com>

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<http://www.usnewswire.com>

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### ***Sudan Vision*-- Darfur Government Frees (9) POWs and Detainees**

The Government of North Darfur State released (9) POWs and detainees who were detained for security reasons connected with the recent incidents witnessed by the State.

Governor Osman Mohammed Yousif Kibir, stated in a ceremony given on this occasion that the Government is determined to realize full stability in Darfur, adding that the release was in accordance with decreed general amnesty for members of the factions that have signed the DPA. He commended SLM/A members, who have in turned released the detained Laota court accountant, in addition a vehicle belonging to the National Electricity Corporation and a privately owned tractor. The Governor handed out certificates of amnesty and gifts to assist them lead a civilian life. The Governor told the representative of UNMIS Dr. Mohammed Mandour, that the people of Sudan and Darfur are capable of resolving their conflicts. Ibrahim Mohammed Alhasan spoke on behalf of the released detainees thanking the Government for its efforts to realize the peace. SUNA pointed out that two of the released detainees have actually been sentenced to death in addition to two others who were due for a court appearance yesterday. It was expected that more detainees belonging to SLM/A, Abdelwahid Mohammed Nour faction that signed the agreement will be released. SUNA reported that the Ministry of Education has offered to sponsor three detainees till they complete their university education.

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### **Rights group urges protecting civilians from attacks in Chad**

Source: Xinhua Date: June 28, 2006

NAIROBI, Jun 28, 2006 (Xinhua via COMTEX) -- Amnesty International (AI) Wednesday called on African leaders who are due to meet in Gambia over the weekend to take urgent action to protect civilians in eastern Chad from cross-border attacks originating from rebels in **Sudan**.

"This is a key opportunity for both the African Union and the United Nations to deliver a coordinated and effective response to the long standing human rights crisis in **Darfur** -- a crisis which is now spilling across the border into Chad, and could destabilize the region," said Irene Khan, Secretary General of AI in a statement.

"The Chadian government must step up to its responsibility to ensure the protection of its civilians and seek the assistance of an international force if necessary," Khan said.

The rights group's call came as it released video footage graphically revealing the murder and destruction taking place alongside Chad's border with **Sudan**, together with a report analyzing the abuses and highlighting the failure of both governments to live up to their responsibilities.

"The Chadian government has virtually abdicated responsibility for protecting its own citizens along the border with **Sudan**, leaving them vulnerable to attacks by the Janjawid militia and exploitation from the Sudanese armed groups present in eastern Chad."

"The Sudanese government is allowing Janjawid militia to attack Chadian civilians across its border with impunity -- killing, looting and de-populating land along the border," AI said.

"The Janjawid are targeting virtually defenseless communities -- unhindered by the governments of either **Sudan** or Chad. Effective action must be taken now by the international community -- before the situation deteriorates even further."

The UN Security Council will consider this week the results of the UN assessment mission on the deployment of a peacekeeping mission to **Darfur**.

"The human rights tragedy unfolding in eastern Chad is a direct product of the conflict in **Darfur**, and that makes it incumbent on the international community to address the human rights and humanitarian crisis on both sides of the border," said AI.

**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.

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

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

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