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(By Public Information Office)

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UN/ Agencies

[UNICEF denies withdrawal of its staff from Abyei](#)

March 2, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) dismissed press reports saying it had withdrawn its staff from the disputed Abyei area.

Clashes erupted between Sudan People Liberation Army (SPLA) and the nomadic Misseriya tribe, since November 2007. Yesterday fight erupted when the Misseriya militia attacked a southern army garrison who had refused to allow the armed nomads into southern Sudan.

"Today, a number of inaccurate reports appeared in Sudanese media, indicating that UNICEF had withdrawn its staff from the Abyei area;" said the UN body in a press statement denying the closure of its office in the troubled area.

"UNICEF wishes to clarify that none of its staff have been withdrawn from Abyei."

At least 69 nomads and 9 soldiers were killed in the latest fighting in the volatile area on March 1, said Major General Hoth Mai.

The fighting also left nearly 120 people wounded, including 97 nomads and 21 soldiers, the ex-rebel deputy chief of staff said.

UNICEF has three staff members based in Abyei, one of whom is currently undertaking official business in Kadugli and will return to Abyei shortly.

The UNICEF staff in Abyei operation works to serve women and children in the area.

The Sudan Media Center, which is close to the intelligence services in Khartoum, quoted a Misseriya tribal chief as saying that more than 25 tribesmen were killed in fierce clashes after attacking an SPLA camp Saturday.

Misseriya chief Mukhtar Babu Nemir said the assault followed an SPLA attack against a Misseriya village in which one person was killed, SMC said.

[Sima Samar requests regular meeting with Prosecution](#)

(Al-Rai Al-Aam) the Special Rapporteur of Human Rights, Sima Samar, requested regular meetings with the Khartoum State Prosecution for reviewing human rights situations in the country.

The newspaper has learned that Samar met with Maulana Babikr Abdul-Latif, the head of the Public Prosecution and the Director of Criminal Investigation, at the premises of the Ministry of Justice.

The source said the meeting also touched on the assassination of journalist Mohamed Taha Mohamed Ahmed. The source added that the Rapporteur raised a number of questions as to whether the accused have been tortured, facts of the case, ages of the

accused and the prosecution's statement before the court as well as the number of witnesses of the prosecution and the Defence.

GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

[Vice President briefed on the performance of the Fiscal, Finance Allocation and Monitoring Commission](#)

Khartoum, March 2 (SUNA) Vice President Ali Osman Mohamed Taha on Sunday was briefed on the performance of the Fiscal and Financial Allocation and Monitoring Commission during the past period. He was also briefed on the decisions and recommendations of the third meeting of the Commission and the proceeds it has allocated between the states and at the various government levels in accordance with the Income Sharing Act for the year 2008. The Vice President was also acquainted with the developmental, financial and economic performance. The Chairman of the Commission, Mr. Mohamed Osman Ibrahim, has pointed out that the meeting also reviewed the budget performance in the states during the first quarters of the past fiscal year and the real distribution of resources during past January in accordance with this year's budget.

[Sudanese Parliamentarian Women Group to discuss women participation in coming elections](#)

Khartoum, March 1 (SUNA) - The First forum of the Sudanese Parliamentarian Women is due to be organized by the National Group of Sudanese Parliamentarian Women. It will convene during March 18 -20, under the patronage of the Speaker of the National Assembly, Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Tahir. Several parliamentarian women will take part in the forum, including participants from Arab and African countries as well as Indonesia and China. Head of the Women Parliamentary Group, Ustaza Samiya Sid-Ahmed, recently met with the Undersecretary of the South Sudan Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Dr. Julia Giong, and discussed coordination for participation of the southern parliamentarian women in the forum and the women participation in the coming elections. Ustaza Samiya praised representation of Sudanese women during the interim period, where their number in the National Assembly and the Council of the States reached 83 women. She pointed out that the forum would be held for the first time in Sudan with participation of all the states in Sudan, stating that it will discuss important women issues and working papers

[Presidential Adviser Dr. Mustafa: presence of Edward Lino in Abyei is illegal](#)

(Al-Rai Al-Aam) Presidential Advisor, Dr. Mustafa Osman Ismail, has down played the statements by SPLM leader Edward Lino accusing NCP of escalating the situation in Abyei.

“Lino knows that Abyei is part of the north even if an agreement is reached between NCP and SPLM and it will remain so until referendum is held,” Dr. Mustafa declared.

“Lino has no legal right as an administrative and political organ to be present in Abyei which is located north of 1956 borders,” he added.

[Messeriya mobilize more than 5000 fighters and warn SPLA](#)

(Ray Al-Shaab) SPLA and Messeriya traded accusations over Government position on clashes between the two groups.

The Messeriya have called upon the Government to intervene to protect civilians while SPLA accused it of backing the Messeriya and providing them arms.

Meanwhile the Messeriya have called upon their sons in the SPLM to make their position on the incidents clear.

The Messeriya said they were mobilizing 5000 fighters in the area of Meiram and warned the Dinka of their presence in Abyei.

[Pagan: SPLM will beat NCP at polls](#)

(The Citizen) The Sudan People Liberation Movement (SPLM) has emerged the leading political party overtaking the rival National Congress Party as the party transformed itself into a mass political organization capable of providing political leadership, the Party's Secretary General has said.

Pagan Amun Saturday told reporters that SPLM might significantly win the 2009 general elections. The announcement comes two years after the party decided to transform itself into a political party.

The ruling National Congress Party has been the dominant force in the political arena in the country after multi-party politics was re-introduced when the CPA was signed.

[Sudan Calls on International Community to move quickly to halt Israeli massacres on Palestinians \(SUNA\)](#)

Khartoum, March 2 (SUNA) - Sudan has expressed its great concern over the tragic situation in Gaza and the Western Bank which was caused by the treacherous Israeli aggression and massacres against the innocent Palestinian women and children. A statement issued Sunday by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that the international conscience did not move to halt this cruel and merciless Israeli aggression on innocents in Palestine. The ministry called on the international community, especially the United States which is sponsoring a peace initiative for the Middle East question, the United Nations and the Quartet Committee to move seriously and rapidly to stop the massacre against the Palestinian women and children. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, also called on the Arab Nation to adopt urgent measures to protect the brothers in Palestine who are facing oppression and genocide being inflicted on them by the enemy Zionist state. The ministry called on the Palestinians to unite their rank and effort and to push their differences aside in order to safeguard lives of the Palestinian people and to establish their aspired Palestinian state in accordance with the Arab initiative.

GoSS

[SPLA denies detaining the Sudanese diplomat](#)

(Ray Al-Shaab) The SPLA denied having detained the diplomat, Mr. Hosni Yagoub, who is a Third Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The diplomat was reported missing since three weeks in Juba.

According to the SPLA spokesperson, Paul Majok, the diplomat has not entered Juba and the story of his disappearance was doubtful.

It is worth mentioning that the diplomat visited Juba as part of African mission. In its response to the family of the diplomat, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said the diplomat was detained by SPLA and transferred to the town of Yei.

Darfur

[Former US special envoy says some countries deliberately slowing Darfur force \(ST\)](#)

March 02, 2008 (WASHINGTON) — The former US special envoy to Sudan accused certain countries of intentionally slowing down the deployment of a peacekeeping force in Darfur.

“There are some in the international system who don’t want to send forces before the peace negotiations because they have concerns for the safety of their troops,” Andrew Natsios told Sudan Tribune by phone from Washington.

Natsios said the parties impeding the force deployment included countries and international organizations but declined to name them.

UN Security Council adopted resolution 1769 on July 31st which authorized a hybrid UN-AU force (UNAMID) consisting of 26,000 troops and police but so far it only has only 9,000 personnel.

The UN have accused Khartoum of placing impossible deployment conditions and said that they will make the force unable to operate efficiently. In addition, few nations have come forward to provide air support for the hybrid force.

However, the former US envoy said the responsibility does not lie entirely with Khartoum.

“Not all the obstacles are placed by Sudan. A lot of people are blaming the Sudanese government but sometimes there are others who should be blamed,” he said.

Natsios said that the helicopters needed by the force must conform to UN standards including the ability to fly for long hours and that not so many countries have those.

He also acknowledged that Washington would have liked to see a stronger resolution on the Darfur peacekeeping force “but this is what came through the system”.

However the former diplomat warned about high expectations from the force to bring peace to the war ravaged region.

“One thing I told the leaders in the camps, rebels and tribal chiefs; if there is no peace settlement the UN peacekeeping force is not going to solve the problems. UN

peacekeeping forces everywhere in the world do not have the capacity to fix political problems” Natsios said.

“If there is no political agreement then there is going to be a problem. That’s why the UN is not moving very rapidly. They are very worried in the UN that without a political settlement this force is going to be seen as unable to deal with Darfur problems” he added.

The deployment of the force has been a key demand by rebels to sit down for peace talks with the Sudanese government particularly Abdel-Wahid Al-Nur, leader of Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) who had an uneasy relationship with the US envoy.

“The problem is that too many people in Darfur believe that the solution is the peacekeeping force. It is not the solution. The notion that we will have security before the settlement is complete nonsense” Natsios said.

“The purpose of peace negotiations is to get security. You don’t get security before the settlement. It doesn’t make any sense” he added.

Natsios criticized Al-Nur and accused him of “making a lot of statements to his people that are misleading and unfortunate”.

“He [Al-Nur] has never been to another war or a peacekeeping operation. I have been to them all over the world. The way you settle these things is through negotiations” he added.

Bush’s former special envoy also said that some Darfur rebel groups have been the cause of insecurity in many instances.

“We went through incidents in Darfur during a four month period. Every single one of them was initiated by the rebels and the government responded to it” Natsios said.

“They [rebel groups] are making the Sudanese government look good” he stressed.

Natsios also slammed threats made by Darfur rebel groups to Chinese peacekeepers saying it is contradictory to their claims of wanting security for their people.

DARFUR ADVOCACY GROUPS

Asked about the efforts made by the Darfur advocacy groups in the US and elsewhere Natsios praised their work.

“What I said before is that they have kept the issue alive on front page which is very good. We wouldn’t have made the same amount of progress without them” he said.

However, Natsios said that these groups are sometimes misinformed about the facts on the ground in Darfur.

“The way they characterize the situation in Darfur isn’t always right about who is killing who and who is dying for example. They don’t do that deliberately but it’s because they have no one on the ground” he added.

RESIGNATION FROM US SPECIAL ENVOY POST

Natsios was appointed to the post by President George W. Bush in September 2006 and has devoted much of his time to trying to resolve the crisis in Darfur, where the Bush administration says genocide occurred, and to prevent a new civil war between the north and south of Sudan.

However last December, Natsios unexpectedly announced his resignation and US President Bush appointed Illinois Republican lawyer and former U.S. diplomat Richard Williamson to replace him.

Some reports mentioned that Natsios was fatigued by turf battles within the Bush administration on Sudan policy. It was also reported that he did not get along with Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Jendayi Frazer.

But the former envoy declined to comment on these reports saying it is an “outdated” matter.

“I told US Secretary of State Dr. Rice in June 2007 that I wanted to resign. I took the job on a part time basis but it ended up taking too much of my time” he said.

Natsios said that he thinks that the new envoy Williamson, a friend of his, “will do a good job” but emphasized that the Sudanese are ultimately the ones who will solve their problems.

“I think they are a few who think that the US will solve all of Sudan problem. We can only facilitate the process” he added.

International experts estimate 200,000 people have died in the conflict, which Washington calls genocide, a term European governments are reluctant to use. The Sudan government says 9,000 people have been killed.

[North Darfur to stage demonstration today to protest Abdulwahid's Israeli ties](#)

(Sudan Vision) North Darfur political, executive, civil and party leaders denounced Abdulwahid Mohammed Nur's move of setting up an office for his SLM faction in Israel as North Darfur State is getting down to organizing a massive procession decrying Nur's move.

The procession will be addressed by North Darfur Governor, Mohammed Yusif Kibir, who on Saturday clamped down on the step in a statement he made to SUNA, affirming that Darfur is an inseparable part of the rest of Sudan to which it is affiliated by both blood and religion.

"The people of Darfur in general and Nur's Fur tribe, in particular, who strongly adhere to Islam, absolve themselves from these minority that represent nobody but themselves," he stressed, describing the act as a form of political and logical bankruptcy reflecting the state of frustration and aimlessness felt by SLM after losing its popular support and military battles. He described the opening of SLM office in Israel as a heinous offence to

the people of Darfur and Muslims at large, remarking that both Nur and Israel are isolated entities.

An opinion poll conducted by Sudan Vision revealed that the entirety of citizens have rejected Nur's move, which they held as irresponsible and unacceptable.

Bathayna Zein Al-Abideen, the Director of Sudan English Language Teaching Institute (SELTI), said the move has established that SLM objectives are not in any way related to those of the Sudanese people, and Darfuri citizens in particular, calling for precluding Nur from political work. Likewise, Nur Abdullah Hussein of the Khartoum State Education Bureau held the step as political floundering that does not service the cause of Darfur people.

Hajwa Rajab Jawhar, a housewife, said it is shameful for a Muslim called Abdelwahid to open an office in Israel. The war in Southern Sudan continued for quite a long time but no Southerners tried to take such step.

Hajwa Rajab thinks that neither Israel nor America can solve the problems of western Sudan, only Sudanese can solve it. He thinks that Abdelwahid has committed political suicide.

James Andrea of the National Labor Party thinks what Abdelwahid has done is against Sudan. Nationalism he said should be superior than individualism. Abuja agreement stopped war and called of unification of armed factions, Andrea said. He further believes that Abdelwahid and his movement have weakened the Darfur society and it has become odd among other movements.

Andrea thinks that Abdelwahid has ended his role as a politician by making this stigma which is associated with him only.

The National Labour Party leader hoped that all the political forces in the Sudan will condemn this weird behavior of Abdewahid Mohamed Nur.

Fathalrahman Awad from Jebelain area, considers that Israel wants to create unrest and this reflects why Abdelwahid always rejects negotiation. He thinks America has directed Israel to take such a step because western Sudan is rich with resources. The Jewish State always loves living in muddy waters; and the government and the people of Sudan should be alert because what has been done by Abdewahid is treason.

Mohamed Abdelsamie, a student, said that Abdelwahid does not serve Darfur issue and the opening of the office in Isreal goes a long way with hidden agenda. Mohamed thinks that the violations of human rights seen in TV channels especially in Palestine should urge every Muslim to reject what Abdelwahid has done.

Mohamed Ahmed Awadelkarim, a teacher, stated that Israel has long-term strategy plans to demolish Islam so controlling Darfur is part of its conspiracy. Abdelwahid by his action has introduced Israel in Darfur. He sought help from Israel not for stability and security, but he considers it as means through which he can control the whole Sudan.

Hilali Ali Batarn considers opening an office in Israel as itself a problem and reflects Abdelwahid's political failure because Israel cannot provide security and tranquility because you cannot give out what you lack. Israel can only exacerbate the situation in Sudan and opening the door for foreigners to enter Sudan. All political forces in Darfur should boycott Abdelwahid's movement.

Aamir Altayeb Sharafeldeen, a clerk, said that the Jewish state wants to demolish Islam and Arabs so how can it support someone who is a Muslim. How could Nur take this disappointing step while Palestinians are being killed daily by Israel. Opening an office in Israel means striking at Arabs and Muslims. Israel wants to use Abdelwahid as a tool to enter Sudan so National unity is important to counter this.

Abdelrahim Fadelallah, a teacher, said opening an office in Israel is unacceptable whatever his differences with Sudan government are. Such behavior should be condemned and the step Nur has taken can only be on the expenses of his movement.

Miscellaneous

[Darfur IDPs hail Israel office](#)

(the Citizen) The Darfur displaced people yesterday backed the Sudan Liberation Movement step to open an office in Israel, an official has said.

The support followed a meeting included a number of religious men and mayors of Darfur, the spokesman of Darfur displaced people and refugees, Abu Shartai, from Kalma IDPs camp told the Citizen.

Shartai said all the displaced in the camps and detainees in prisons support the SLM leader's step.

He said that the Islamic and Arab world should know that people of Darfur would no longer be patient with killing, rape and displacing of people in Darfur.

“The problem is not inaugurating an office in Israel, but we should look at the roots of our miserable situation,” he said.

“Our villages and mosques have been burnt, more than one thousand men were killed and almost an equal number of women were raped. all these crimes were committed by Muslims”, he added.

The IDP spokesperson said that he supported the Palestinians' struggle and called for a peaceful solution to their issue.

“the Arab League and Islamic World have provided nothing to our people,” he said