

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS**Media Monitoring Report 10.3.2008

(By Public Information Office)

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IN THE NEWS TODAY:**➤ UN/ Agencies**

- Sima Samar: there is notable progress in human rights situations in Sudan but much remains to be done

➤ GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

- CJMC 20th report: SAF redeployed and demobilized by 97.5% and SPLA by 11.3% (Al-Intibaha)
- SPLM agrees to NCP proposal over Abyei (Al-Rai Al-Aam)
- Sudan denies targeting a meeting between UNAMID and Darfur rebel group (ST)
- Presidents Al-Bashir and Khalifa hold talks on boosting Sudanese-UAE relations (SUNA)
- Salva Kiir: Who gives Misseriya heavy guns (the Citizen)

➤ GoSS

- President Museveni to attend signing of Uganda peace ceremony in South Sudan(ST)
- Lakes state to take \$16 m. loan for development projects (Sudan Vision)

➤ Darfur

- Shattered Darfur families mourn lost futures (ST)

➤ Miscellaneous

- Senegal seeks world pressure for Chad-Sudan peace(ST)

Highlights**UN/ Agencies**

[Sima Samar: there is notable progress in human rights situations in Sudan but much remains to be done](#)

(Al-Rai Al-Aam) The Special Rapporteur of Human Rights, Sima Samar, has acknowledged improvement in human rights situations in the Sudan.

Meanwhile the Parliament told the Rapporteur that there were no political detainees in the country and amendment of the laws takes time.

In press statements following a joint meeting with the National Assembly's Committees for Human Rights, Humanitarian Affairs, Legislation & Justice and Foreign Relations, Sima Samar said there was notable progress in the field of human rights in Sudan but much remains to be done.

Samar said the authorities did not allow her to visit Kajbar and called upon the National Assembly's Committee of Human Rights to follow up and monitor a number of human rights issues.

Member of the National Assembly's Committee for Foreign Relations, Dr. Safwat Fanoos, told Samar that there were no political detainees in Sudan. Whereas the Chairperson of the Human Rights Committee, Ms. B. Joseph, told Samar that, the bill of rights is enshrined in the constitution and is regarded as an integral part of it.

For his part, the Director of UNMIS PIO, Mr. Khaled Mansour, said the Rapporteur would wrap up her visit today by addressing a press conference today to acquaint the Sudanese public opinion with the outcomes of her visit.

GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

[CJMC 20th report: SAF redeployed and demobilized by 97.5% and SPLA by 11.3% \(Al-Intibaha\)](#)

(Al-Intibaha) CJMC report (20) - a copy obtained by the newspaper - stated that SAF redeployed from South and demobilized its soldiers by 97.5% while SPLA percentage stands at 11.3%.

The report covers the period from 3 Jan to 7 Feb 2008. UNMIS FC, Lt. Gen. Jaspir Singh, Brig. Mac Paul of SPLA and Maj. Gen. Hussain Ali Kamal of SAF signed the report.

Meanwhile JIUs command called upon the Presidency to precipitate allocation of budget for JIUs. JDB spokesperson said due to lack of barracks and vehicles, JIUs deployment was not completed in areas like Rumek, Shambi, Maridi etc.

[SPLM agrees to NCP proposal over Abyei](#)

(Al-Rai Al-Aam) The newspaper has learned that SPLM agreed to NCP proposal for setting up a joint administration in Abyei after some amendments were introduced in the proposal by SPLM.

The Messeriya were optimistic that the crisis would end soon.

It is worth mentioning that the NCP proposed the establishment of an interim joint administration for Abyei comprising 12 persons equally contributed by NCP and SPLM to end tension in the area, which claimed lives on both Dina and Messeriya.

[Sudan denies targeting a meeting between UNAMID and Darfur rebel group](#)

(ST) March 9, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — The Sudanese army today denied it had attacked an area where representatives from United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) were meeting with Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) rebels in Darfur.

An unidentified Sudanese army source told the daily Al-Sharq Al-Awsat published in London that JEM “has no presence in the area of Jebel Moon”.

Earlier today, JEM spokesperson Ahmed Hussein told Sudan Tribune by phone that the attack took place in the area of Juzminy North of El-Geneina and west of Jebel Moon area.

"This attack is a blatant violation of international law. We condemn this attack in the strongest possible terms," Hussein said.

"We want the UN officials including UNAMID chief Rodolphe Adada and Ameerah Haq to condemn this attack as well. This is not the first time UNAMID gets attacked by government forces" he added.

Another security official told the newspaper from El-Geneina that the UNAMID representatives asked for permission to visit the Jebel Moon area but they advised them that it is “unsafe to do so”.

The JEM spokesperson said that attack took place around 10 a.m. Khartoum local time and that the assailants on the runway close to the UNAMID plane dropped a bomb.

He said that the attackers came from the town of Suleia, which was recently overrun by government forces.

"We repulsed their forces and chased them all the way to Suleia" Hussein added. He said there were no casualties and the meeting proceeded as planned.

[Presidents Al-Bashir and Khalifa hold talks on boosting Sudanese-UAE relations](#)

Abu Dhabi, March 9 (SUNA) - Talks between President of the Republic Field Marshal Omer Al-Bashir and President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Shiekh Khalifa bin Zayed Al-Nahyan started in Abu Dhabi Sunday. The talks tackled means of boosting the bilateral relations between the two countries to enhance cooperation and coordination, especially in the economic, commercial and investment fields. In addition, views were exchanged during the talks on current developments at the regional and international arenas of mutual concern and aspects of cooperation between Sudan and UAE. President Al-Bashir welcomed UAE investments in Sudan and affirmed Sudan's keenness on boosting cooperation with sisterly UAE in all fields and opening the investments sectors for UAE investors and businessmen. At the outset of the session, the UAE President welcomed President Al-Bashir, pointing to the fraternal bonds linking the two countries and peoples and the continuous cooperation in all fields. The two sides

affirmed their keenness on exerting efforts for the unity of Arab rank to realize Arab interests in light of the current developments at the regional and international levels. His Highness the UAE President gave a dinner banquet in honour of President Al-Bashir and the accompanying delegation. President Al-Bashir arrived in Abu Dhabi Sunday on a three-day official visit. President of the United Arab Emirates His Highness Shiekh Khalifa bin Zayed Al-Nahyan and senior UAE officials received him upon arrival.

[Salva Kiir: Who gives Misseriya heavy guns](#)

(The Citizen) President Salva Kiir has said the Misseriya use anti-aircraft guns and heavy weapons, wondering who supplies them.

Where do they find them? Kiir asked. “The innocent Misseriya are being influenced by NCP leaders,” he added.

Kiir made the statements while addressing more than 800 Sudanese studying in Uganda, during his current visit to that country. He told the students that the CPA was being implemented but major problems remain, the Misseriya attacks one of them.

He said the Aweil Community, which bore the brunt of the attacks do not mind allowing the Misseriya to graze on the land but they should not cross to the South with guns.

Speaking about CPA’s security protocol, he said both parties have withdrawn their armies, although some areas like Heglig remained occupied by SAF soldiers.

With regard to oil revenue, he said the revenues might be unjustly divided because SPLM is not represented in every sector such as marketing and drilling and the quantity of oil that has always been pumped is undisclosed.

With regard to the Civil Service Commission, he said it had just been formed and it would ensure equal employment in the Government of National Unity.

He said the government was upgrading the roads to boost economic development. These are Juba-Nimule road, Juba-Torit-Kapoeta-Kenya road, Juba-Yei-Kaya-Uganda road, Juba-Wau and Aweil-northern Sudan.

GoSS

[President Museveni to attend signing of Uganda peace ceremony in South Sudan](#)

(ST) March 8, 2008 (JUBA) — Ugandan president hailed southern Sudan government efforts to achieve a comprehensive peace settlement in northern Ugandan. He also reaffirmed that he would attend personally the ceremony of the signing the peace agreement.

Sudanese First Vice President and president of Southern Sudan government, Salva Kiir Mayadrit wrapped on Saturday a two-day visit to Entebbe. The Ugandan president, Yoweri Museveni had invited Mayadrit to meet him.

Luka Biong, minister of presidential affairs in the southern Sudan government, told Sudan Tribune, that the visit was very successful. He said that President Museveni hailed Southern Sudan President and Vice-President efforts to bring peace in northern Uganda.

"Museveni congratulated the leadership and the people of Southern Sudan for the success of peace talks. He further praised President Salva Kiir and Vice-President Riek Marchar efforts for peace in Uganda," said Luka Biong.

He further reiterated his readiness to come to Juba in order to sign the final peace agreement with the leader of rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) Joseph Kony in Juba.

The Ugandan government and rebel delegations are to reconvene in Juba on March 12, to put some final touches on implementation schedule of the Final Peace Agreement expected to be signed in Juba by both President Yoweri Museveni of the Republic of Uganda and Joseph Kony of LRA/M.

JOINT COOPERATION

Salva Kiir and Museveni discussed further the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and the political developments in the neighbouring Kenya.

Luka Biong said the two parties welcomed the power sharing agreement reached by the president Mwai Kibaki and his opposition rival Raila Odinga. The agreement will create the post of prime minister for Odinga, 63 — a former political prisoner who says Kibaki cheated him of the December 27 presidential vote by fraud.

Kiir also discussed with the Ugandan Prime Minister, Apolo Nsibambi, the implementation of joint routes projects to link southern Sudan and Uganda. They also tackled ways to boost the joint cooperation in the fields of health, education, culture and media.

President Salva Kiir has signed a comprehensive cooperation agreement on transport and communication, health, culture and media between Southern Sudan and Uganda. The agreement also stipulates to provide southern Sudanese in the Ugandan universities the same facilities as Ugandan students in term of services and university tuitions fees.

Before his departure to Uganda Salva Kiir, on Wednesday 5 February, attended ceremony of breaking ground to begin the construction of Juba-Nimule 192 kilometres road that costs seventy million US dollars.

The US funded Juba-Nimule road connects Juba on the eastern bank of the Nile to the Ugandan border in the south and serves as a principal supply line for moving both goods and people.

Nimule-Juba road and Juba-Kaya road are going to allow free trading between Uganda and Southern Sudan.

SOUTHERN SUDANESE STUDENTS

Kiir also addressed a gathering of around 1500 southern Sudanese student in the Imperial Resort Beach hotel Entebbe. He urged them to remain united and to work hard in order to enable them selves to participate in the "war for development".

Kiir reiterated SPLM commitment to implement the peace agreement. He added that the current row over Abyei would be resolved peacefully.

He further said that Abyei belongs to Dinka Ngok but Misseriya tribe has the right to use the land for grazing their animals and no one can chase them away but that does means it belongs to the Northern part of Sudan, he added.

Kiir exhorted southern Sudanese students in Uganda "to respect natives of this country, and to accord them respect."

"I want you to study very well with them without creating problems;" he added.

The President of Southern Sudan came to Uganda on special invitation from Yoweri Kaguto Museveni president of republic of Uganda where he were received by Ugandan Minister of Defence Amama Amabazi.

Kiir was companied by four ministers from government of Southern, Luka Biong minister for presidential affairs, Samson Kwaja Minister for Agriculture, Gabriel Marial Benjamin minister for regional cooperation, the SPLA chief of staff Gen. Oyai Deng Ajak and deputy commander in chief of operation Major general Hoth Mai.

[Lakes state to take \\$16 m. loan for development projects](#)

(Sudan Vision) Lakes Governor Daniel Wet Akot said this week that a \$16 million loan from the Government of Southern Sudan would be used to construct the state legislative assembly in Lakes state.

Remaining money will be used to construct five ministries buildings, 15 primary schools and two secondary schools. A county headquarters, state house, roads connecting Lakes state with Unity and Warrap States, and eight hospitals in five Lakes counties are also on the ambitious list.

Awet said that the money from GOSS will not be enough to do all those projects, but says the Lakes is committed to raising another \$3 million from state revenue sources to supplement the state loan

The governor said a European construction company called Sitad has been contracted to carry out the projects development impact with Lakes state. A lack of office accommodation in Lakes has had officials renting out offices and using compounds of NGO and UN agencies.

Darfur

[Shattered Darfur families mourn lost futures](#)

(ST) March 9, 2008 (GUEREDA, Chad) — Three-year-old Hilar screams when medics lift her hospital sheets to examine where shrapnel ripped through her leg during a Sudanese government bombing raid on her Darfur village.

Doctors say they will have to amputate the limb. Hilar's sister Kaltouma, 11, has already had her leg amputated above the knee, and a third sister was also wounded.

The girls are among at least 13,000 Sudanese who have crossed the border into Chad to escape Khartoum's month-old operation near the West Darfur rebel stronghold of Jebel Moon.

"I don't know what to do. Our house has been burnt and my children have been injured by bullets and bombs. My children are ill and all I want is for them to be better," said their mother, Ashua Osman Youssouf, as she held vigil at Hilar's bedside in Guereda hospital in eastern Chad.

Sudan's army says the month-old operation aims to open up humanitarian access and to chase away Darfur and Chadian rebels.

Witnesses say air raids and Janjaweed militia raids on villages and camps for displaced people in Darfur have killed over 100 people — possibly many more — and left thousands of people camping out on the border short of food and water.

The army denies links to the Janjaweed and says many of those killed were rebels in civilian clothing.

International experts estimates that 200,000 people have died and more than 2 million displaced since violence flared in the Darfur region in 2003 when mostly non-Arab rebels took up arms against the government, accusing Khartoum of neglect.

Khartoum says only 9,000 people have lost their lives.

"It is impossible for any of us to go back," said Isaak Abdallah Isaak, sitting just a few metres (yards) from the dried out riverbed which separates Chad from Sudan.

HUNGRY

Isaak was forced to abandon three of his children along with his elderly mother during the panic that followed a joint bombing and Janjaweed raid. He said he struggles to provide enough for his remaining family of nine to eat.

"The Janjaweed expressly destroyed all our food," he said.

"At the same time as the planes came to bomb, the Janjaweed arrived with matches and started to set fire to things. For six days they did nothing but burn houses and people's food stocks."

The month-long wave of attacks followed the harvest, meaning many refugees lost several months' supply of grain.

"Look," said Isaak, as he poured coffee-coloured water into a drinking bowl. "This is the dirty water my children must drink. We are still waiting for the aid workers to improve our conditions, we are really suffering."

During a visit to the border last week, a Reuters reporter saw helicopters criss-crossing Jebel Moon at low altitude, accompanied by muffled booms and clouds of black smoke.

"Those are the same planes which bombed us," said Idriss Abakar. "We are scared they will come here to bomb us."

For many returning to Darfur is unthinkable.

Mariam Issak Nassir said she was three and a half months pregnant when Janjaweed attackers forced their way inside her home during a bombing raid and shot her in the leg.

"That night, as I lay injured, I went into labour early. My husband found a donkey to take me to Chad, but when we reached Chad the babies came out dead from the shock. It was twins."

Miscellaneous

[Senegal seeks world pressure for Chad-Sudan peace](#)

(ST) March 9, 2008 (DAKAR) — Senegal wants the international community to guarantee a peace accord between Chad and Sudan to end years of conflict between the two feuding neighbors at the centre of the Darfur crisis, President Abdoulaye Wade said.

The Senegalese leader will host the signing of a peace pact in Dakar on Wednesday between Chadian President Idriss Deby and Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir that he hopes will succeed where a string of other earlier accords have failed.

The two oil-producing countries which straddle Arab and black Africa accuse each other of fomenting conflict on their common frontier, especially in the west Sudanese region of Darfur where political and ethnic warfare has raged since 2003.

More than 200,000 people have been killed and some 2.5 million forced from their homes in what aid experts view as the world's worst ongoing humanitarian emergency, driven by a brutal conflict which has spilled over into neighbouring states.

Wade, who has sought a mediation role in a number of African conflicts, has invited United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and the heads of the African Union and the European Union to act as guarantors of the Chad-Sudan peace accord.

"I've involved them in the process of implementation ... we'll have the witnessing and presence of these third parties that will guarantee the sincerity of one side and the other," he said in a weekend interview at his presidential palace in Dakar.

"It's in this way that I believe that this accord will be definitive," Wade told Reuters. The Chad-Sudan peace deal is due to be signed a day before a summit in Dakar this week of the 57-nation Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

Deby and Bashir, who trade accusations of supporting rebels hostile to each other, have met often before to try to resolve the differences between them. These tensions have brought them close to all-out war on a number of occasions.

But a string of past non-aggression pacts and peace pledges between them, brokered mostly by Libya but also by Saudi Arabia, have collapsed as fresh violence flares again and again in Darfur and on both sides of their porous border.

DISENTANGLING DARFUR

Chad's Deby, his army backed by military intelligence and logistics support from former colonial ruler France, beat off an assault by eastern Chadian rebels on the capital N'Djamena in the first few days of February. He accused Sudan of backing the insurgents, a charge denied by Khartoum.

Wade said the peace deal he had drafted not only included a broad agreement for Chad and Sudan to stop supporting rebels hostile to each other, but also concrete steps to implement it.

He gave no precise details but made clear the implementation would engage the EU, the AU, and the U.N., who between them are deploying security and peacekeeping forces in both eastern Chad and in Darfur in a bid to stem the violence there.

Wade said the intention was to "give to the coming accord a solemn stamp, which will even bring in the (U.N.) Security Council as it does all the other forces present".

He acknowledged the deal did not involve at this stage the Chadian rebels who are fighting to topple Deby, nor the rebel groups in Darfur pitted against the Sudanese army and militia.

The Senegalese president said he had been asked by part of Chad's opposition, including some of the anti-Deby rebels, to try to start up a dialogue between them and Chad's president over a possible power-sharing deal.

"Chad's government has not been favourable towards this to begin with, and even up to now it has not given its agreement, but I think we can eventually manage to persuade it to discuss some kind of power sharing," he said.

Wade said obtaining Chad and Sudan's commitment to a lasting peace between them was the first step towards disentangling the interlocked regional crisis that covers their common border, Darfur and parts of Central African Republic to the south.