



## UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN UNMIS

### Media Monitoring Report, 11 March 2007

(By Public Information Office)

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- UN urges ban on genital mutilation, forced marriage (*SudanTribune.com*)
- Bashir challenges Darfur peacekeeping deal- UN, (*Alwan ;SudanTribune.com*)
- Militia in Darfur surround camp for displaced people – UN (*SudanTribune.com*)
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- Ugandan rebels continue to destabilize Sudan's Western Equatoria (*SudanTribune.com*)

## **HIGHLIGHTS :**

### **UN/ Agencies**

#### **UN opens repatriation corridors from Ethiopia to Sudan**

*SudanTribune.com* The U.N. refugee agency says it will open two new repatriation corridors from Ethiopia to southern Sudan to help thousands of Sudanese refugees return home.

"The two new return corridors, bringing to three the total number of corridors operating from Ethiopia, will help us repatriate most of the 37,000 refugees living in Fugnido, Dimma and Yerenja camps," said Ron Redmond, UNHCR spokesman in Geneva, Switzerland, Friday.

The first two convoys are scheduled to depart on Saturday, and will bring 800 refugees from camps in western Ethiopia home to Sudan, Redmond said.

UNHCR will provide returnees with blankets, sleeping mats, a water filter and sanitary kits, said the agency's spokesman.

During the brutal civil war in southern Sudan some 500,000 Sudanese fled to neighboring countries while another 4 million were internally displaced, said Redmond. The separate, ongoing conflict in Sudan's western Darfur region has uprooted some 2.5 million people, of whom 230,000 have fled to neighboring Chad.

Since the 2005 peace agreement in southern Sudan between the Sudanese government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army, an estimated 102,000 refugees

returned to Sudan from various countries. UNHCR has aided about a 32,000 of these, said the agency's spokesman.

Tuesday, the agency launched a \$56.1 million appeal to fund this year's repatriation and reintegration operation in Sudan, said Jennifer Pagonis, a UNHCR spokeswoman.

### **UN urges ban on genital mutilation, forced marriage**

*SudanTribune.com* A U.N. women's forum urged the world on Friday to ban female genital mutilation and forced marriages.

The Commission on the Status of Women passed by consensus two resolutions on the issues following two weeks of debate on ending violence and discrimination against girls. Some 6,000 women from governments and grass roots groups attended the conference.

The South African-drafted resolution on circumcision "urges states to take all necessary measures to protect girls and women from female genital mutilation, including by enacting and enforcing legislation to prohibit this form of violence and to end impunity."

An estimated 120 million to 140 million women and girls worldwide are estimated to have suffered genital mutilation, also known as female circumcision, with U.N. agencies estimating that another 3 million a year are subjected to the practice.

The practice usually involves cutting off the clitoris and other parts of the female genitalia. There are degrees of severity and many of the practitioners are untrained and use crude instruments.

It is a custom traditionally believed to bestow status and honour, but it can disfigure, cause psychological damage and sometimes kill.

### **Bashir challenges Darfur peacekeeping deal- UN,**

*Alwan; SudanTribune.com* Sudanese president Omar al-Beshir's reply to a UN request to deploy UN peacekeepers in strife-torn Darfur "seems to challenge" an agreement reached last November, a UN spokeswoman said Friday.

Marie Okabe told a press briefing that Beshir's four-page letter in reply to one sent by UN chief Ban Ki-moon last January was received Thursday along with a 14-page annex in Arabic.

"The letter itself contains some positive elements, including a strong expression of support for the joint African Union-UN efforts to re-energize the political process, and some assurances with regard to humanitarian assistance to the people of Darfur," Ban's deputy spokeswoman said.

"But it also contains some elements which seem to challenge the agreement reached last November in Addis Ababa and Abuja on peacekeeping in Darfur," she added.

Okabe said the 14-page annex in Arabic was being translated and would be reviewed along with the letter itself, which was drafted in English.

"The secretary general will then consult with the Security Council on the next step," she added.

In his letter, a copy of which was obtained by AFP, Beshir said that some aspects of Ban's plan to send an initial force of 2,300 peacekeepers to Darfur to pave the way for a joint AU-UN force of more than 20,000 troops "need to be clarified".

Beshir's reservations centered on the role of the UN in any future large-scale peacekeeping operation in Darfur, which he stressed must be in line with provisions of the Darfur peace agreement he signed with rebel groups last May.

"Our understanding of the United Nations support packages (meant to pave the way for the joint UN-AU mission) is that the UN will provide technical, logistical, financial expertise and civil and military consultants with rank below that of the military commander appointed by the African Union," the Sudanese leader said in his letter dated March 6.

"In phase three, the AU forces implementing that phase, in terms of control or command, must remain forces of the African Union supported by the United Nations as per the two packages," he added.

The Sudanese envoy proposed that a tripartite commission grouping Sudan, the AU and the UN meet to resolve the issue and ensure that the UN plan is aligned with the DPA.

### **Militia in Darfur surround camp for displaced people - UN**

*SudanTribune.com* Hundreds of Arab militia in Sudan's strife-torn Darfur region recently surrounded a camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs) after abducting two civilians from inside the camp, forcing the temporary suspension of humanitarian work there, the United Nations mission to the impoverished country said today.

On Wednesday, Arab militiamen swept through Ardamata IDP camp in west Darfur, capturing two civilians in connection with the killing of one of their relatives, the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) said in a press release, adding the two suspects had then been taken to the Government police station but the militia refused to allow the officers to investigate.

Later, they handed the two suspects over to the Military Intelligence/Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) camp in Ardamata.

“Some 250 militiamen surrounded Ardamata camp on the east and north side demanding a meeting with community leaders. Humanitarian operations in the camp have been temporarily suspended,” UNMIS said.

Separately in south Darfur, deadly fighting again erupted between the Targem and Rezegat tribes in Yara, 40 kilometres northwest of Kass, during which three Targems were killed while in their homes.

### **Sudan asks UN to resume humanitarian activities in Darfur**

*SudanTribune.com* The Sudanese government on Saturday asked the United Nations to resume its humanitarian relief activities in the western Sudanese region of Darfur.

Ali al-Sadig, spokesman of the Foreign Ministry, told reporters that the Sudanese government would coordinate with the UN and other parties in order to prevent reoccurrence of an assault on a refugee camp operated by the world body in Darfur.

"We hope that the UN will reveal the identification of the attackers so that the Sudanese government and local authorities in Darfur will take precautions to avoid such an incident," he said.

"The UN must know exactly that it is carrying out its activities in a region where security can not be completely guaranteed," he said.

The spokesman urged the world body to resume its humanitarian relief activities, saying that suspension was not a solution but a signal to militant groups in the region that the UN had yielded to blackmail.

The UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) announced on Friday its decision to suspend humanitarian activities in the West Darfur state after a group of armed men attacked the Ardamata refugee camp operated by the UNMIS.

The UNMIS said that Arab militiamen swept through the Ardamata camp on Wednesday without causing casualty.

### **MFA comments on media reports on stopping UN humanitarian assistance in West Darfur, AlSahafa, 10 March**

*AlSahafa*, Commenting on media reports that the UN has stopped humanitarian assistance in West Darfur; the MFA Spokesperson said the MFA was not informed by the UN. He said the UN should provide information on who attacked the camp instead of stopping humanitarian work.

## **Sudan dashes hope for UN deployment soon in Darfur**

*SudanTribune.com* Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir has refused to accept an interim U.N. plan to bolster African troops in Darfur, calling for more negotiations despite an earlier agreement in principle.

Responding to a letter from U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, obtained by Reuters on Friday, Bashir said it was still unclear whether the African Union, which has 7,000 under-financed troops in Darfur, would retain total control.

The letter, anticipated over the past six weeks, dashed hopes U.N. peacekeepers could be deployed soon, even in auxiliary functions in Darfur, where at least 200,000 people have died, 4 million need emergency aid and 2.5 million are in makeshift arid camps.

Ban's letter spelled out plans for an interim U.N. force with some 3,000 personnel, mainly engineers, logistics and medical units as well as helicopter pilots. That group would plan for a far larger African Union-U.N. operation of more than 22,000 troops and police.

In reply, Bashir wrote a three-page letter in English with a 14-page annex in Arabic yet to be translated. He based most of his objections on provisions in the Darfur Peace Agreement, or DPA, signed last May between one rebel faction and the Khartoum government that he said contravened Ban's plans.

Since the DPA agreement, the process has moved on, with a U.N.-Sudanese negotiated deal in Addis Ababa on Nov. 16 that was endorsed by Sudan at an African Union meeting in Abuja, Nigeria, two weeks later.

Still Bashir wrote, "Proposals that tend to amend, nullify or suspend any article of the DPA will not be acceptable as it may reopen discussions over issues that were previously settled without difficulty."

"The Darfur peace agreement is the framework and reference upon which the United Nations should ... deliver its proposed support packages," Bashir said in the letter.

He added he was available to "discuss any and all issues to clarify the situation and resolve any outstanding matters."

U.N. spokeswoman Marie Okabe said Sudan's letter, which arrived on Thursday, "contains some elements which seem to challenge the agreement reached last November in Addis Ababa and Abuja on peacekeeping in Darfur."

## **Aggressive anaconda against the foreigner, *Alwan***

UNMIS in Khartoum is keeping secret the story of the aggressive anaconda which had despite strict measures and advanced security equipment managed to infiltrate and swallow

the security guard who was completely drunk. In the morning, they searched for the guard but they did not find him at the building. Eventually, they found the anaconda dead as a result of electric shock. To their surprise they found the security guard in the stomach of the anaconda.

## **CPA**

### **Sudanese Presidency meets, discusses security arrangements and formation of JIUs**

*AlRai AlAam*, Presidency Meeting: President al Bashir, the two VPs, the two Ministers of State at the Presidency and the Commanders of the Joint Defence Board held a meeting yesterday.

According to Tilar Deng, Minister of State at the Presidency, the meeting was briefed by the Head of the JDB Wiay Deng on the work of the Board on issues under discussion. The Head of JDB said the work of the Board on security arrangements is progressing well as planned and as stated in the CPA, especially on the issues of JIUs. The Presidency called for good coordination between SAF and SPLA. The Presidency has also called for training all JIUs personnel within one month (training started yesterday).

The only problem which the JDB has raised is pending financial entitlements of the SPLA troops in the JIUs. The Presidency urged the Federal Ministry of Finance to settle this problem soon.

The Presidency resolved to discuss the issue of the OAGs and Abyie at the next meeting on 23 March.

## **GoNU**

### **US rights official visits Sudan, *sudantribune.com***

March 10, 2007 (KHARTOUM) — US Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights has met with a senior Sudan official on Saturday, who explained why a UN rights delegation was not allowed to visit.

Othman Mohammed Taha, the representative of the official Consultative Council for Human Rights, told Barry Lowenkron "the reasons for Sudan's rejection of the delegation from the human rights council," according to the SUNA press agency.

The two officials also discussed the human rights situation in the western region of Darfur where a civil war has claimed 200,000 lives and displaced at least 2.5 million people, according to the United Nations.

In mid-February, Sudan refused to grant visas to a delegation from the UN Human rights Council, stating that one of its members, Bertrand Ramcharan, had a hostile attitude because he referred to the situation in Darfur as genocide.

The decision to send the mission was made in December 2006 over the objections of Khartoum during heated discussions in an extraordinary session of the rights committee.

Lowenkron will also visit Darfur in the course of his trip, which comes on the heels of a visit by Andrew Natsios, the US envoy to Sudan.

Lowenkron will also be visiting the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa to meet with members of the African Union, which has a peacekeeping force in Darfur.

The visit was announced on Tuesday, the same day the US State Department released its annual human rights report, which listed Sudan as a state guilty of genocide.

(AFP)

### **Justice Minister renews GoS stance on ICC addresses Human Rights Council today.**

*AlSudani* Minister of Justice Mohamed Ali El Mardi renewed in a press conference yesterday in Cairo Sudan's position rejecting the trial of any Sudanese outside the country. He said the Sudanese Government has not ratified ICC agreement.

The Minister explained that the issue of the suspects announced by the ICC prosecutor has been referred by the Ministry of Justice, three months before the statement of the ICC prosecutor, to the Judicial System for trial. The Minister of Justice said it is possible to reach a common ground with the international community on the ICC and international troops in two

### **MFA: UN comment on Bashir's letter weak.**

*AlSudani*, while the UN commented on Bashir's letter to the UN Secretary General by saying that the letter raises implicit doubts on the agreement on Tripartite Mechanism, the US descried the UN comment as weak and hasty particularly on the third phase of UN support to AMIS. MFA spokesperson said Bashir's letter was based on the resolutions of Addis Ababa and Abuja meetings and the DPA.

## **Southern Sudan/ SPLM**

**Governor inaugurates Nile Commercial Bank in S. Sudan's Torit, *sudantribune.com***

Sunday 11 March 2007.

By Isaac Vuni

March 10, 2007 (TORIT) — “I am extremely satisfied for realizing my cherish dream of setting up a bank for people of Eastern Equatoria State, accomplished by Nile Commercial Bank (NCB), said Governor Aloisio Ojetuk after the inauguration of the NCB here today. As we celebrate the official inauguration of Nile Commercial Bank



Branch in Torit, I urge all people in the state to support and promote the NCB by buying shares and also depositing their money in NCB custody.

He said NCB was initiated and established under SPLM/A administration before the signing of the CPA on January 9th 2005. However, Ojetuk said then there were many questions raised by NGOs operating under SPLM/A administrative area such as, “Bank in the bush this people must be joking!” What security do they have for its operation? What about guarantees for the share holders?

NCB has 25 branch offices all over southern including neighboring Uganda and Nairobi Kenya to cater for financial transactions needs of southerner Sudanese and friends in those countries.

(ST)

### **Former Minister of Cabinet Affairs, Martin Malual arrested, accused of financial corruption,**

*AlHayat* reported that the authorities of GoSS have arrested yesterday the director general of Ministry of Finance following allegations of financial corruptions. The GoSS has also arrested retired Brig. Martin Malual, former Federal Minister on similar allegations. The legislative assembly of Southern Sudan has resolved to establish committees to investigate on these issues.

### **Darfur/ Darfur Peace Agreement**

#### **150 AMIS translators on strike in Darfur.**

*AlAyam* 150 AMIS translators, including 6 foreigners went on strike since Wednesday last week. The strike was organised in protest against delays of payments of the translators' salaries for the months of December, January and February.

#### **Sudan hails supportive Egyptian stance on Darfur, *sudantribune.com***

Sunday 11 March 2007.

March 10, 2007 (CAIRO) — Sudanese Minister of Justice Mohamed Ali al-Mardi Saturday praised Egypt's supportive stances regarding establishing peace and stability in Sudan's Darfur. At a press conference held at the Sudanese embassy in Cairo, Mardi asserted his country's firm stance concerning the establishment of peace in Darfur which, he said, did not accept any compromising of the national sovereignty of the country. The trial of those involved in human rights violations in Darfur should take place inside Sudan and in conformity with the Sudanese justice system, the minister said He pointed

out that the stance of the International Criminal Court regarding Sudan did not help settle the Darfur problem as it sent the wrong signals to the movements which only complicated the situation, the Egyptian MENA news agency reported.

(ST)

### **US seeks Libyan help on Darfur force**

Sunday 11 March 2007.

March 10, 2007 (TRIPOLI) — The US envoy to Sudan, Andrew Natsios, called on Saturday for Libya to help convince Khartoum to accept a UN force for its war-torn western region of Darfur. At the end of a two-day visit, he said Washington wanted Libya to encourage Sudan to drop its opposition to a joint UN-African Union (AU) force that would be led and supervised by the United Nations.

Libya hosted a February 21 summit in Tripoli with Beshir, Eritrea's President Issaias Afewerki and Chad's President Idriss Deby to discuss the Darfur crisis.

(AFP)

### **More Darfuris flee, begging for UN troops to help**

*SudanTribune.com* Four years after the Darfur conflict erupted, new refugees continue to pour into growing makeshift camps telling of murder, pillage and rape.

In Ardamata in West Darfur, thousands have only torn plastic sheeting propped up by sticks as shelter from dust and searing sun, after militia attacks drove them from their homes.

Tired aid workers battle on in the world's largest humanitarian operation to provide food and healthcare to those who are fleeing attacks on their villages and on the roads.

Those who have suffered for years are also tired of waiting for U.N. forces. An African Union (AU) force mandated to protect civilians, they say, does nothing to help and its troops are usually too scared themselves to leave their camp.

"The only way to solve this problem is for the United Nations to come here to protect us," said Abdallah Hamad, whose village was attacked in December, forcing him to seek a haven in Ardamata, near the state capital el-Geneina.

He said the AU troops were incapable of fighting the militia, known as Janjaweed.

"The African Union are useless. They themselves need U.N. protection," he said. He added that when armed militia entered the camp a few days earlier, the AU troops fled.

Ill-equipped and underfunded, the AU force often comes under attack itself. This week two AU soldiers were killed in South Darfur.

President Omar Hassan al-Bashir refuses to accept large numbers of U.N. troops in Darfur, calling such proposals an attempt to colonise the country. Observers says he really fears those troops will arrest officials likely to be indicted by the International Criminal Court for alleged war crimes.

Ardamata, four years old, houses more than 20,000 people. The Darfur violence, described as genocide by Washington in a term Khartoum rejects, has driven 2.5 million from their homes and killed an estimated 200,000.

### **Al-Jazeera TV airs discussion on Sudan Darfur issue developments 9 Mar 07**

*BBC Monitoring*-- Sudan-related issues were highlighted by Al-Jazeera TV in Arabic on 9 March as follows:

At 1905 gmt, Al-Jazeera carries a new episode of its talk show "More Than One Opinion." The programme discusses the ICC request for the extradition of a former Sudanese minister and the commander of the militias in Darfur on charges of committing crimes against humanity between 2003 and 2004, and Sudan's announcement of launching its own investigation. It hosts Majdhub al-Khalifah, official in charge of the Darfur file and adviser to Al-Bashir, from Khartoum; Dr Abd-al-Wahhab al-Afandi, lecturer at Westminster University, in London; Ibrahim Ahmad Ibrahim, secretary of foreign relations in the Sudan Liberation Movement, in London; and Dr Mahmud Rif'at, professor of international law, in Paris. Al-Khalifah denies that Sudan seeks to circumvent the resolutions of the Security Council and the ICC. He says that Sudan's position is fixed and declared. He says that Sudan is not bound by the ICC. Mahmud Rif'at discusses the role and powers of the ICC. Rif'at says that trial must be public, and not secret. Ibrahim Ahmad says that his movement cooperates fully with the ICC. He says that his movement is willing to extradite any criminal. He denies that his movement committed crimes against humanity.

At 2100 gmt, Al-Jazeera carries the following announcer-read report: "Sudanese President Umar al-Bashir said that any proposals by the United Nations that lead to amending or stopping the implementation of any article of the Darfur peace agreement will not be acceptable. He said this in his reply to a letter by the UN secretary general, in which he explained the details of the proposals related to the proposed African and international force for the Darfur region. Al-Bashir said that a political solution to the problem of Darfur under the umbrella of the African Union and the United Nations is the best way in view of the nature of the Darfur problem and its complications."

BBC Mon ME1 MEPol sg

### **Sudan: Darfur's Arab tribes complain of marginalization**

*Text of report by Sudanese newspaper Al-Khartoum on 10 March*

*BBC Monitoring* --Arab tribes in Darfur have warned that discord will spread in the region if their claim to the power sharing, stipulated in the Abuja agreement, is ignored. They further blamed the international community, as custodian of the agreement, for this marginalization and said it was targeting Arab tribes as part of its project to divide Sudan along tribal and ethnic lines.

The head of the Arab tribes' shura [consultative] authority, Eng Mahmud Musa Uthman, pointed out that the implementation of the Abuja agreement had shown that the Arab tribes in Darfur were the most marginalized in terms of power sharing. He said this was contrary to what the agreement had stipulated. He said that out of 90 posts stipulated in the agreement, only six had been allocated to Arab tribes in Darfur. He further said that current arrangements towards finalizing peace were heading towards increasing the armed movement's share even though they do not represent 10 per cent of the population in Darfur.

Uthman said the Arab tribes were the first to be targeted by the rebels who, despite talk of marginalization, had destroyed the infrastructure present since independence and had stopped the implementation of development projects at a time when a just distribution of power and wealth should have been sought in Khartoum. He said the real nature of the rebels had become clear when they began struggling over who would be governor, deputy governor or other positions gained through the Abuja agreement.

Uthman said the targeting of Darfur's Arab tribes was closely linked to US schemes related to its interests in west Africa and were aimed at countering what it considers an Arab and Islamic encroachment westwards into Africa.

Uthman pointed out that the international community which made Arab tribes a part of the problem had to accept the tribes' participation in finding a lasting and fair solution. He warned that any compromise to resolve the problem of Darfur that sidelined the Arab tribes would fail.

He further rejected descriptions they were given by the western media. "We are not Janjawid," he said. Uthman further reiterated that Arab tribes were the most marginalized saying a pregnant woman would give birth in the morning and move on to the desert in the evening without receiving any medical care for her or her child and no veterinary care for the animals.

BBC Mon ME1 MEEau 100307/se/hh/sg

## **Other Developments**

### **Ugandan rebels continue to destabilize Sudan's Western Equatoria**

Saturday 10 March 2007.

March 9, 2007 (YAMBIO) — The Ugandan rebels have looted a village in Western Equatoria state. They also abducted some people in order to carry the loot reported a

press release issued by the head of the Western Equatoria Azande Community. The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) has looted, on March 7, 2007, the village of Wowo in Nabanga Payam sending hundreds of people fleeing from the area. Some people were reported abducted by the LRA in order to carry the loot but were freed later on as the LRA moved into the dense forest of Congo and Sudan borders. The Eastern Equatoria is also suffering from the insecurity posed by LRA, Governor Ojetuk says the LRA must go back to their country or they will be evicted by force from Eastern Equatoria territory.

(ST)