

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN
UNMIS**

Media Monitoring Report, 12 March 2007
(By Public Information Office)

NOTE: Reproduction here does not mean that the UNMIS PIO can vouch for the accuracy or veracity of the contents, nor does this report reflect the views of the United Nations Mission in Sudan. Furthermore, international copyright exists on some materials and this summary should Not be disseminated beyond the intended list of recipients.

IN THE NEWS TODAY**⇒ UN/ Agencies/ Partners**

- Abiodun Bashua: UN unable to complete light support package for Darfur. UN admits not being able to implement light support package due to lack of response from troops contributing countries in Africa
- UN plots airlift for some South Sudan returnees
- UNHRC to discuss the worst report on Darfur crisis.

⇒ GoNU

- Sudan rejects deployment of foreign troops in Darfur - official
- Bashir accepts the SG nomination over UN/AU representative after deliberation.
- Socialist Union to launch its political platform
- Differences between parties in government delay taking decision on ICC.
- Sudan criticises UN rights mission as 'biased'
- Meeting with donors next week to set JAM plan. Sudan welcomes UNSC move.

⇒ Southern Sudan/ SPLM

- Two South Sudan officials arrested on corruption charges
- United Democratic Front (UDF) accuses West Bahr el Ghazal Governor of targeting their Minister and calls for investigation of said Minister.
- SSDF prefers reintegration through the DDR.
- Medical team dispatched to contain cholera in south Sudanese.

⇒ Darfur/ Darfur Peace Agreement

- Darfuris demand external trials for war crimes suspects
- Rape haunts women of Darfur
- Humanitarian organization in West Darfur denies suspension of activities.
- Escalation of tensions within the Free Will faction.
- SLM- Minawi threatens to use decisive military option over militias.

HIGHLIGHTS :

UN/ Agencies/ Partners

Abiodun Bashua: UN unable to complete light support package for Darfur. UN admits not being able to implement light support package due to lack of response from troops contributing countries in Africa.

Alshafa; SudanTribune, A senior UNMIS official, Abiodun Bashua, revealed that many countries have not responded by sending their troops to be deployed in Darfur within the context of the LSP which the UN has decided to provide to AMIS.

The LSP provides for 105 officers (only 34 have been deployed in Darfur, other four officers are expected to arrive). Bashua explained that the most important thing is the acceptance of the GoS of the heavy support package (Phase Three) because it takes the troops contributing countries a long time to send their troops.

UN plans airlift for some South Sudan returnees

SudanTribune.com AlIntibaha U.N. officials in Sudan are planning the first major airlift to help tens of thousands of south Sudanese return home after years of conflict.

"We're looking to set up an air operation from Khartoum to Juba," said David Gressly, the U.N. deputy resident and humanitarian coordinator for southern Sudan.

The 2005 peace deal that ended more than two decades of war between the north and south of Sudan was preceded by a yearlong ceasefire.

Return figures are notoriously unclear, but U.N. officials estimate some 400,000 people have been returning to semi-autonomous southern Sudan every year since then.

The government and the United Nations have planned for 300,000 assisted returns in 2007, but an equal number of people are expected to head home on their own, which could make this the biggest year yet for returnees.

Grassley said the planned airlift would be the first such operation of this scale to the south.

UN Human Rights Council to discuss the worst report on Darfur crisis.

AlSudani The focus would be today on the UNHR Council which will discuss a critical report on the government of Sudan, which is believed to be the worst as it contains a request to the Security Council to put in place the principle of protection and forceful intervention in Darfur.

GoNU

Sudan rejects deployment of foreign troops in Darfur - official

SudanTribune.com A senior Sudanese government official said here on Sunday that his country would not relinquish its inalienable principle rejecting the deployment of foreign troops in Darfur.

Sudanese Minister of Justice Mohammed Ali al-Mardi made the remarks in a pre-departure statement when he left here in the day for Geneva on a several days' visit to Switzerland.

Al-Mardi noted that his country would not be intimidated by the threats to impose sanctions on Sudan.

As for his trip to Switzerland, Al-Mardi said that he would attend in Geneva the fourth session of the Human Rights Council to express Khartoum's rejection of the way a fact-finding committee on Darfur was formed.

Al-Mardi also said that Khartoum would not send any of its nationals before the international tribunal outside Sudan.

Bashir accepts the SG nomination over UN/AU representative after deliberation.

Alwan; Sudan Vision; Al-Rai Al-Aam, Al-Rai Al-Aam-- President al Bashir has informed the UNSG that in principle Sudan has accepted the UN nominations for SRSG in consultation with the AU. However, he said, Sudan will study the list of nominees before giving final word. Al Bashir has extended an invitation to the UNSG to visit Sudan. The UNSG accepted the invitation. The time of the visit will be agreed later.

Sudanese Socialist Union to launch its political platform

SudanTribune.com The Sudanese Socialist Union (SSU) party yesterday announced the launch of its political program and the setting up of its 14 member executive office headed by Fatima Abdulmahmoud. The party is expected to register itself with the competent authorities.

The leader of the new organization, Fatima, said the party would create an intellectual movement with socialist union principles and based on religious values.

She pointed out that the party would move forward to establish the meaning of coexistence in order to become a national party. She further reaffirmed that the party would support dialogue for resolving problems rather than resorting to violence and would reinforce national unity.

Differences between parties in government delay taking decision on ICC:

Al-Rai Al-Aam Due to differences between the various parties in the GoNU, a decision on the government's position on the ICC (trial of Sudanese suspects) has been delayed.

Sudan criticises UN rights mission as 'biased'

SudanTribune.com Sudan's justice minister blasted the UN rights mission to his country as "biased" on Sunday as he headed to Geneva for a meeting of the UN Human Rights Council.

The council will open a three-week session on Monday with member states and top officials bristling over Sudan's decision to rebuff a mission to assess the situation in strife-torn Darfur.

At the meeting in Geneva, Justice Minister Mohammed Ali al-Mardhi is expected to seek to justify his country's decision not to grant the visas for the UN mission in February.

Mardhi, in Cairo en route to Geneva, was quoted by Egypt's official MENA news agency as saying that the mission was "biased" and made up of individuals prejudiced against Sudan.

The mission was set up by a rare consensus of the Council's 47 members following hard bargaining between Western, African and Islamic nations during a special session in December on human rights violations in Darfur.

Mardhi, however, maintained that the mission was formed without sufficient consultation of regional blocs in the council.

Mardhi also said Sudan would not be intimidated by threats of sanctions to allow foreign troops or let its citizens be tried by international courts.

Meeting with donors next week to set JAM plan.

AlSahafa; Sudan Vision The Cabinet has directed the establishment of a higher committee that would include the Presidency, Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) in addition to Ministries involved in Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) Projects.

That Higher Committee would be responsible for enhancing coordinating and implementing JAM Projects. The Cabinet has deliberated yesterday on a report on JAM represented by the Minister of Finance and International Cooperation.

In the report, the Cabinet reviewed many Jam- related issues such as the donors' pledges fulfilment during 2005-2006 and Government financial commitments. The Cabinet has underscored the Humanitarian issues in Darfur outside the scope of JAM projects.

The Cabinet called for the distinction between JAM courses of action in Southern Sudan and those in Darfur as the International community present pledges emphasis on Darfur.

Sudan welcomes UNSC move.

Sudan Vision The Ministry of Foreign Affairs Spokesman, Ambassador Ali AlSadiq stated that the UNSG could influence the movements opposed to Darfur Peace Agreement if he wanted to do so.

He added that, as the UNSG could pressure the movements through asking UN member States to refrain from cooperating with the opponents.

The Spokesman hoped that the UN, AU efforts would succeed in bringing the movements to the negotiating table.

Southern Sudan/ SPLM

Two South Sudan officials arrested on corruption charges

SudanTribune.com The Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) has taken the bold step of arresting two prominent leaders in Juba.

A member of the Salvation Revolutionary Command Council, retd Brig-Gen Martin Malwal Arop, who is currently closely linked to the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and the general manager of the GoSS ministry of finance, Isaac Makor Atim, were arrested and imprisoned in connection to accusations of corruption.

The Khartoum based Akhir Lahzah daily said the amount of money involved could exceed 200m dollars.

Akhir Lahzah's sources said the accused were treated roughly during their arrest yesterday and were placed in prison directly without first being taken to a police station.

Martin Malwal Arop was involved in all the work relating to internal and external GoSS purchases. Meanwhile, Isaac Maker threatened his captors saying that he would be forced to reveal documents naming high-ranking officials implicated in corruption scams and said he will not be made a scapegoat.

UDF accuses West Bahr el Ghazal Governor of targeting their Minister and calls for investigation of said minister.

Sudan Tribune; AlIntibaha The United Democratic front has issued a request for an investigation by Salva Kiir into the charges labelled against West Bahr el Ghazal Agriculture Minister who was dismissed by Salva Kiir on January 2007. In a press conference the UDF states that the dismissal was a shock with the failure of the Governor to notify officially the party leadership of the Charges.

SSDF prefers reintegration through the DDR.

Rai AlShaab Southern Sudan Defence Forces (SSDF) announces willingness to joint CPA parties through DDR arrangements. SSDF commander Al Tom Told (smc) there are many SSDF troops which have already joined SAF and SPLA at different stages. He noted that "SPLM is negotiating with us to join the movement," said Al Tom.

Medical team dispatched to contain cholera in south Sudanese.

Sudan Tribune; A fact finding team was sent by the Federal Ministry of Health to investigate the outbreak of cholera in the south. The team will be charged with running diagnostic tests on samples to determine the exact nature of the disease, wherever the team will be operating in Malakal and other areas.

Darfur/ Darfur Peace Agreement

Darfuris demand external trials for war crimes suspects

SudanTribune.com Angry and dismissive, Darfuris who fled their homes to the relative safety of overcrowded makeshift camps demand Khartoum hand over two war crimes suspects to an international court.

Standing in the dusty Dorti camp, shielding his eyes from the relentless sun, Mohamed Eid is a world away from the crisp, clean air in The Hague where the International Criminal Court (ICC) prosecutor named the first two Darfur war crimes suspects.

But last month's announcement resonates loudly in remote West Darfur.

"They have to be sent outside for trial," Eid said of the junior government minister Ahmed Haroun and militia leader Ali Kushayb, who is from el-Geneina.

Eid has been sitting in Dorti camp outside West Darfur's state capital waiting for peace and security for four years.

Now he's tired, frustrated and fed up.

He dismissed as unworthy a trial which Sudan's special Darfur court set up for Kushayb and others, which has been delayed over an appeal by the defendants.

Mostly non-Arab rebels took up arms in early 2003 accusing the central government of marginalising the arid region. Observers say Khartoum mobilised militia to quell the revolt, but failed to disarm the

Rape haunts women of Darfur SudanTribune.com

SudanTribune.com The 25-year-old Darfuris woman was raped in front of her two young children, whose screams haunted her during an attack which she is too ashamed to tell her husband about.

Despite a recent lull in fighting, rape continues in Darfur's conflict. The crime is so sensitive it is seldom reported by victims who fear retribution and social exclusion.

The 25-year-old, who asked not to be named, was raped by a man carrying a gun. She said he was a member of a pro-government militia, mobilised to quell a four-year-old rebellion.

She said she was fleeing an attack on her village in late December and was on the way to the Ardamata camp near el-Geneina town in West Darfur.

She was so badly beaten and distressed; she lay on the road side for nine days while her two cousins tended to her wounds.

Humanitarian organizations in West Darfur deny suspension of activities.

Sudan Vision UN field humanitarian agencies in west Darfur denied they have given up work in the area, affirming their intentions to extend their operations beyond the state boundaries.

In The meeting held yesterday in UN premises in Al Genina in west Darfur, media reports were dismissed on the suspension of the relief as baseless. Meanwhile, HAC commissioner in the state says that humanitarian organisations concerned were amazed at the news of their withdrawal.

However, A UN spokesperson said the humanitarian work in West Darfur (Ardamata Camp) has been resumed on Thursday after being suspended for hours only.

Escalation of tensions within the Free Will faction.

AlHayat; Tensions escalated among the Free Will yesterday when a faction within the group dismissed a leader on charges of acting alone in the management of the party and doubting selection of members into ministerial posts.

SLM- Minawi threatens to use decisive military option over militias.

AlSudani; Minnawi demanded Ministry of Defence and Southern Darfur authorities to curb loose militia that SLM accuses of attacking and burning Angabu village. SLM spokesperson threatened to resort to the military option if the militia continues attacks that are believed to have taken place during the last Wednesday and Thursday.

Other Developments:

Indications of possible confrontation between SPLA and the people of Abu Jebaiha

Al-Intibaha Events in Abu Jebaiha are deteriorating following explosion of a granite bomb by SPLA personnel. Indications of a possible confrontation between the people of Abu Jebaiha and SPLA are already clear.

The political and executive leaderships in the area have called for relieving the SPLM Commissioner of the Locality (County). A statement issued by the leaders of the area said the Commissioner has forced the only medical doctor to leave the area and closed the offices of the Martyrs Duty stamp. The leaders gave the government of the State 72 hours to replace the Commissioner. Oil bonanza strains Sudan social fabric