



## UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN

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(By Public Information Office)

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## **Highlights**

### **UN/ Agencies**

#### **UN envoy says disturbed by human rights situation in Sudan (ST)**

March 17, 2008 (GENEVA) — The UN Human rights envoy to Sudan expressed concern over the situation of the human rights in the war-torn Darfur region, northern part of the country as well as in southern Sudan.

Sima Samar, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Sudan on Monday, in presenting her report covering her latest visit to Sudan in February and March this year, said the geographical focus of this visit was on North, East and West Sudan.

Presenting her report to the Council, Sima Samar, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Sudan, said she was disturbed by the critical human rights situation in the region and particularly the ongoing major military offensive in West Darfur.

Samar stressed that the government and the rebel groups had failed in their responsibility to provide protection to the civilians in areas under their control and were violating international human rights and international humanitarian law. Reports were received on killings, sexual violence, arbitrary arrest and detention and impunity for such crimes.

It was noted that on 8 and 9 February, Sudanese ground forces and militiamen supported by Government planes and helicopters raided the towns of Sirba, Silea and Abu Suruj in the northern corridor of West Darfur. The attacks were marked by indiscriminate killings, destruction of property and looting and plundering.

More than 100 people were reported killed while many others were displaced to nearby villages and towns. An estimated 12,000 of the displaced crossed over the border to neighboring Chad.

Samar also noted that she had visited Abu Suruj, a village west of Geneina, where, following an attack on the village on 8 February 2008, the majority of the population fled to Chad and Jebel Moon. During the armed attack serious violations of international human rights and international humanitarian law were committed, notable attacks on civilians, forced displacement and extensive destruction of civilian property.

The federal government had provided some information on steps taken in the area of combating violence against women in Darfur, the special envoy noted.

Sima, a former Afghan deputy prime minister, has served as the U.N. special rapporteur on human rights in Sudan since 2005. She has reported war crimes by Sudanese forces and their allied militia in the troubled Darfur region.

## SOUTHERN SUDAN

Other concerns are the repression of fundamental rights and freedoms, excessive use of force, arbitrary arrest and detention and torture and ill-treatment of human rights defenders and political opponents, Samar said

Further she added that measures taken by the Government of Southern Sudan to strengthen the administration of justice remain inadequate in light of the thousands of cases of people under pre-trial detention and considerable numbers of detainees held in detention and prison facilities for extensive periods without their cases being reviewed and without receiving any kind of legal assistance.

The UN rights envoy to Sudan, inter alia, calls on the Government of National Unity and the Government of Southern Sudan to investigate all reports of human rights violations with transparency, to bring perpetrators to justice, to provide reparations to victims and to promote the rule of law.

## NORTHERN EASTERN SUDAN

During the visit, the Special Rapporteur met with a wide variety of interlocutors, including the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Deputy Minister of Justice, and the inter-ministerial committee appointed as focal point for her visit, among others.

Although her trip to the Northern State was cancelled by the State security committee, she had also met with representatives from the affected communities in the Nile valley area where two hydropower dams were being constructed in Khartoum and urged the Government to take all necessary measures to ensure the safety and adequate housing of persons living in the area.

The UN envoy was particularly concerned about the lack of accountability for the killings of protesters in Amri and Kajbar in 2006 and 2007 and urged the Government to make the findings of its investigation committee public and to prosecute those who were responsible without further delay.

Samar also urged the Government to investigate and address allegations of torture and ill-treatment in detention by the National Security and the police.

She also enquired about the 29 January 2005 killing in Port Sudan and called on the Government to make the findings of the investigative committee public and to bring those responsible to justice.

## WOMEN AND DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION

The Government had provided some information on steps taken in the area of combating violence against women in Darfur, the Special Rapporteur noted.

The Committee on Combating Gender-Based Violence was seeking to raise awareness in the community and as a result some police officers and armed forces had been convicted and punished for committing sexual violence in all three Darfur States.

Samar said that the establishment of a unit for women and children in the police station in Khartoum was an important step by the Government and the special envoy called on the government to continue establishing such units all over Sudan and especially in three Darfur States.

She underlined that the slow deployment of the United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) troops in Darfur had disappointed the community, the IDPs and especially the women in the IDP camps.

The international community was called upon to fulfill its pledges to UNAMID so that it could have the necessary resources available to provide protection to the people in Darfur.

Samar urged the government of national unity to accelerate law reform related to the democratic transition and the Comprehensive Peace Agreement especially regarding the reform of important laws, including the National Security Act and the National Human Rights Commission bill.

(ST)

### **GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)**

#### **President Al-Bashir to address opening session of First Forum of Women Parliamentarians Tuesday**

Khartoum, March 17 (SUNA)- President of the Republic Field Marshal Omer Al-Bashir is to address the opening session of the First Forum of Sudanese Women Parliamentarians at the Friendship Hall in Khartoum Tuesday, which is held under the theme "A Sudanese Woman Parliamentarian: Active in Performance, Excellent in Efforts and Strongly Involved in Issues." The Speaker of the National Legislature Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Tahir will also address the session. This was announced by Chairwoman of the Sudanese Women Parliamentarians Caucus Ustaza Samya Hassan Sidahmed at SUNA Press Forum Sunday. Ustaza Samya pointed out that the forum aims at boosting contacts among the women parliamentarians at all levels for exchanging experiences and boosting peace and national unity. She said the forum would be attended by 260 women parliamentarians at the levels of the federal government, the government of southern Sudan and the states. BT/BT

#### **All preparations have been completed for conducting the fifth population census during the period April 15-30 (SUNA)**

Khartoum, March 17 (SUNA) - All preparations have been completed for conducting the fifth population census during the period April 15-30. This was announced by Presidency Minister and Chairman of the National Council for the 5th Population Census Gen. Bakri Hassan Salih at SUNA Press Forum Monday. The Minister urged the media to contribute to raising awareness of the citizens on the importance of the census for planning and development. Gen. Salih pointed to the importance of the census as stipulated by the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and the Interim Constitution, noting that the Presidency has set up the Population Census Council that comprises five committees, including the technical, information, financial, security and monitoring and follow up committees. Meanwhile, Director of the National Statistics Bureau and Chairman of the Technical Committee of the Population Census Dr. Yassin Al-Haj Abdeen affirmed that all equipment and forms for the census have arrived at Khartoum and Juba airports and that they are being distributed to the states, which in turn are embarked on training of the counters to be ready for moving to their

areas on April 12-13 carrying with them the map that shows the area specified for each of them of 150-200 houses. Secretary General of the Ministry of Information and Communications and Chairman of the Information Committee of the Census Abdeldafi Al-Khateeb, on his part, reviewed the efforts made by the committee for launching the media campaign accompanying the population census, including organizing training workshops for media men in the centre and states, holding symposia in universities besides radio and TV programmes and a sport tournament accompanying the census operation. BT/BT

### **Border Demarcation Commission approves performance report (Sudan Vision)**

In the meeting yesterday headed by Professor Abdallah Alsadig boarder demarcation Technical Committee of 1.1.1956 boarders has approved the report about the workshop organized by the committee last February.

The report stated that UN and British Embassy financial support were limited to paying fees of research from Durham University, and the accommodation cost of foreign experts.

The report added that the work papers presented by were Martin Pratt, Alsatair Macdonald, and John Donaldson from Durham University; Robert Mc Kay and Vladimir Bessarabov from UN.

The report undertook the problems that hindered the commencement of the workshop of bordering states. Experts committee were assigned to collect information from Durham University and UN.

The report added that representative of Government of Southern Sudan in the committee submitted a memorandum that expressed the opinion of him and his fellow southerners.

### **GoNU welcomes JEM leader's call for bilateral talks with the GoS (AlRai AlAam)**

The Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) announced its willingness to start direct talks with the Sudanese government considering itself as the only rebel movement that is viable in the region. JEM chairman Mohamed Ibrahim Khalil called on former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan to be the mediator of the peace talks which he said should include Darfur and the rest of marginalized areas throughout the Sudan. The Permanent members of the UN Security Council are meanwhile meeting today in Geneva, Switzerland, in order to reactivate the process of finding a political solution for the Darfur crisis.

International mediators from the UN and the African Union will participate in the talks. Speaking to Miraya FM, the Sudanese Ambassador to the United Nations, Abdel Halim Abdel Mahmoud, said that the meeting aims to unify the Darfur Factions. He said that the Sudanese government has not been invited to attend the meeting. In the meantime, the United Nations/African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) expressed concerns over the conditions of civilians in the Jebel Moon area. UNAMID called on the Sudanese government and the Darfur adequate protection to them. Fierce fighting has occurred recently in the region between the Sudanese army and the armed movements which led to the displacement of large

numbers of civilians and impeded the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the region armed movements to release the civilians in the region to provide an

### **JlUs to put an end to violations by undisciplined SPLA personnel (AlIntibaha)**

The Joint Integrated Unit (JlUs) in Southern Sudan is due to raise a memo to the Joint Defense Board (JDB) demanding putting an end to undisciplined acts committed by SPLA's personnel following assassination of seven of personnel in Kapoeta town.

A high ranking military source told (Alintibaha daily) Monday that repeated attacks carried out against the JlUs personnel brought about state of dismay.

He described attacks launched by SPLA's soldiers against the JlUs as "arrogant acts", saying that such acts were considered a threat to the CPA.

The source indicated that they would raise a memo to the JDB calling for the formation of a military trial to execute the 17 SPLA's personnel, who were arrested by the SPLA's Command after killing the 7 JlUs' soldiers.

He added that their trial should be undertaken under supervision of a joint committee of the UN and the SPLA to follow up the implementation of the verdict.

### **CPA two partners delay resolving on electoral law (AlKhartoum)**

A meeting the National Constitutional Review Commission (NCRC) failed Monday to come out with final version to the controversial electoral law.

However, the NCRC convened Monday evening to listen to the visions of the two partners (NCP-SPLM) on the electoral bill, but the partners notified the commission the did not reach an agreement and requested additional time limit for more consultations.

A source told (Alkhartoum daily) that the two parties failed to arrive at a unified vision on the law and on the formula by which they could discuss the law with other political parties.

He emphasized that the two partners did not live to their promise to contact any political party during the past week.

### **SPLA moves further north, Miseriya approach JlUs (AlWattan)**

Chairman of Abyei Liberation Front Mohamed ALansari has said that the SPLA troops advanced South of Mairam area and settled at Algarf area, 30 km of Mairam, in South Kordofan.

He told (Alwatan daily) that the SPLA moved to the area equipped with military machinery, adding that Miseria tribesmen took prompt measures by informing the JlUs and UNMIS to protect them and raised urgent memo to the Presidency institution for the same purpose.

He noted that Miseria tribe handed a complaint to the Security Council against the SPLA for its violations to the human rights in the recent incidents that led to the death of more than 10,000 heads of cattle and abortion of more than 70 pregnant women.

### **Problems hinder Sudan census preparations (ST)**

March 17, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — Cash-flow problems and logistic headaches are blighting preparations for Sudan's census, a cornerstone of the fragile peace ending a devastating civil war and paving the way for key elections.

Repeatedly delayed already, the largest civic exercise in national history will go ahead from April 15-30, Sudanese authorities claim, despite complaints in the south about disorganization.

The census is considered a vital prerequisite for next year's elections and according to the peace agreement, the results will either redraw or confirm the ratio of central power-sharing between the former warring north and south.

"It's very important for both of them. It's important for the south because they don't know the distribution of people in states in the south," says Yasin Haj Abdin, director of Sudan's central bureau of statistics.

"It's important for the north because part of the distribution of government funds between states - one criteria will be the number of people."

But as the preparations gather pace, the depth of mistrust between north and south three years after the end of Africa's longest running civil war is clear.

Herbet Kandeh, the UN Population Fund officer overseeing the process, says for example that the north vetoed desires in the "African" south to include a question on ethnicity.

The compromise formula is a questionnaire offering the option of being northern Sudanese, southern Sudanese, non-Sudanese or no response.

In the south, there is a pervasive belief the population is far bigger than reflected in previous counts.

This would have huge implications for the 2009 elections and a planned referendum in 2011 in the south on whether to become independent.

"We are tired of being under-counted," says health worker Mary Marle, wearing a T-Shirt emblazoned with the words "Stand Up and Be Counted".

"You may find that we are 25 million," she laughs.

The UN refugee agency, the UNHCR, anticipates a huge surge in repatriation before the census of southern Sudanese from bordering countries.

Since January, there have been 15,700 organised returns — three times the number during the same period last year.

But the schedule for implementing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) is slipping. Under the accord, the census should have been finalised last year.

"The delays in the census and other preparations, such as passage of the national elections law, mean that the electoral timetable is severely behind schedule," warned the International Crisis Group in a recent report.

According to the CPA, general elections should be completed by the end of the fourth year of the interim period - namely July 2009.

UN officer Kandeh acknowledges there is a danger of more delays.

"Possibly only if the south does not accept the estimates of population from the field mapping. The south has also requested additional questionnaires which the north is not likely to approve," he said.

Cash-flow problems are another hindrance.

Officials in the south say they need an extra six million dollars, partly because previous estimates overlooked the obstacles to accessing remote areas.

"There are certain areas with no roads. We are going there by plane," said John Maciek, deputy chairman of southern Sudan's census commission.

"There are rivers and we are going to use boats."

While Abdin of Sudan's statistical bureau says the country's fifth census will be the first for the entire country, parts of Darfur under rebel control, the Egyptian-occupied Halayib triangle in the northeast and remote southern areas are likely to be excluded.

"The census is an absolutely essential prerequisite for the 2009 elections, especially as it seems almost certain that the new electoral law is going to include an element of proportional representation," said Laura James, from the Economist Intelligence Unit.

"It is therefore a major concern if districts are excluded or inadequately counted."

Many Sudanese see little point in the exercise.

"What is the government doing to help the people it knows exist right here in the capital," says Mohamed Bushra, a technician in Khartoum.

"This counting will just make them increase taxation and enlarge the army and police."

(AFP)

## **GoSS**

### **South Sudan civil society raises concern over disarmament (ST)**

March 17, 2008 (JUBA) — Civil society in Southern Sudan raised concerns about the way in which disarmament has been implemented in some areas, and called for a transparent and coordinated approach.

Civil society representatives from throughout Southern Sudan and the transitional areas, including youth and womens' groups, the churches, media, peace and community organisations, met in Juba from 11th to 13th March to discuss community security and arms control issues and to present their views to government and international agencies.

The representative of civil society raised concern that some weapons collected in previous disarmament efforts have not been stored securely and have fallen back into civilian hands, and calls for all weapons collected from civilians to be effectively stored and destroyed.



The meeting welcomed the creation of the Community Security and Arms Control (CSAC) Bureau within the office of the Vice-President of Southern Sudan, and the strategies for peaceful disarmament outlined by the Vice President and the CSAC Bureau.

But it requested the Government to work in partnership with civil society to improve security for people throughout Southern Sudan. It calls for civil society to be represented in and play a more active role in security decision-making processes at both GoSS and State levels and for mechanisms to be established for this purpose.

Following three days of discussion, civil society representatives produced a communiqué making recommendations to the Government about its proposed strategies and actions, insecurity and civilian disarmament processes.

The workshop convened leaders of over 50 civil society organisations and networks from nearly all ten States of Southern Sudan and the transitional areas.

The meeting was opened by, Riak Machar Teny, Vice President of Southern Sudan and by Riak Gok Majok, Director of the Community Security and Arms Control Bureau, recently established in the Office of the Vice President. Government and UN agency representatives attended the opening and closing sessions, to present their strategies and plans to civil society and to hear feedback from civil society.

The workshop was called by an informal working group.

### **Southern Sudan Democratic Front accuses SPLM of undermining right of self-determination of southern people (Rai AlShaab)**

Southern Sudan Democratic Front (SSDF) accused the communist trend at the SPLM of undermining the right of self-determination of the people of Southern Sudan.

SSDF President David Dishan described what, he termed, SPLMs' Communist current as attempting to deprive the Southerners rights in the referendum, saying that the current has been camouflaging by its call for attractive unity to apply the communist ideology in the SPLM.

He said the ideological differences between SPLM Secretary- General and Minister of Cabinet Affairs Pagan Amum and former Foreign Minister Dr' Lam Akol was considered as the cause of conflict among Shuluk tribesmen.

He pointed to a plot masterminded by the communist current to overthrow GoSS Vice President Dr. Reik Machar, stressing that this current was represented by Amum and his Deputy Yassir Arman.

### **Darfur**

### **EU turns up heat on China over Darfur crisis and divest from PetroChina (ST)**

March 17, 2008 (BRUSSELS) — The European parliament took an unprecedented step to sanction China over its unwillingness to pressure Sudan to halt violence in Darfur.

The Independent newspaper reported that the EU divested the shares it owned in Chinese oil giant PetroChina.

The latest move by the EU will likely worry policymakers in Beijing who are desperately trying to contain growing criticism for shielding Khartoum from sanctions in the UN Security Council.

Chinese officials are trying to prevent the negative publicity from hurting their upcoming summer Olympics.

On Monday European Union officials Monday condemned the latest violence in Tibet, but said boycotting this summer's Olympic Games in Beijing would not be the right answer.

James Smith, the head of the Aegis Trust, a human rights group, accused PetroChina of continuing to "bankroll the Sudanese regime while it has attacked its own citizens".

Glenys Kinnock, who led the campaign among members of the parliament said that "the sale of the stockholdings in PetroChina sends a very clear signal that the European Parliament abhors that company's links with a regime which does little to end the violent conflict in Darfur".

However the newspaper did not disclose the value of the shares divested from the Chinese oil company.

A divestment campaign from companies that has financial dealings with Sudan has been launched in different parts of the world particularly in the US.

Last December US president George Bush signed into a law a bill overwhelmingly endorsed by the Congress to support divestment activities in Sudan.

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.

(ST)

### **Agreement reached with Arab League on joint mechanism for Darfur support (Sudan Vision)**

State Minister at the Council of Ministers Prof. Abdul-Rahman Musa has said that agreement has been reached with the Arab League on a joint mechanism to follow up pledges of the Arab states and their contributions in support of Darfur, comprising representatives of the government of Sudan,

the Arab League and the civil society organizations. Prof. Musa said in a meeting with journalists at Sudan embassy in Cairo Sunday the mechanism would follow up pledges and brief the contributors with priorities and urgent needs in Darfur besides the development needs of the three states of Darfur. He pointed out that the mechanism would meet regularly each month in Khartoum and Cairo alternately, where the coming meeting would be held on April 16. The minister pointed out that the technical committee emanating from the higher committee prepared in cooperation with the Transitional Darfur Regional Authority detailed projects with specific priorities

### **International forum on Darfur starts in Geneva (AlAyam)**

Informal talks have started Monday in Geneva among Darfur peace mediators, observers and regional partners.

UN envoy to Darfur Jan Eliasson and his counterpart African Union envoy Salim Ahmed Salim hope to end Darfur conflict through negotiations, which began last Oct. in the Libya city of Sirte.

Eliasson and Salim, who attempt to convince the rebel factions to be prepared for new round talks since then, but till now a few factions agreed to join the talks.

### **Rwanda holds meeting on lessons of Darfur peacekeeping operations (ST)**

March 17, 2008 (KIGALI) — The Rwandan army organises a four-day conference on the lessons of the African Union peacekeeping operation and the current Hybrid Operation in Darfur.

Army officers from 17 African countries have arrived to Kigali to participate in a workshop on the experience of multi-national peace support operations with Darfur as a case study.

In a press release issued by the Rwanda Defence Forces (RDF), the meeting, which is the first of its kind, is expected to focus on the current international peace operations in Darfur and Somalia.

“The workshop will provide an opportunity to veterans of peace support operations to offer their insights, practical problems and solutions,” the RDF release said.

The meeting is organised under the auspices of African Contingency Operations and Training Assistance Programme (ACOTA), which is a United States program to train military trainers and equip African national militaries to conduct peace support operations and humanitarian relief.

“Learning organisation becomes relevant to the future by analyzing developing trends and issues, scanning the environment for changes, challenges and opportunities, then devise ways to control emergent conditions,” the release says.

The Rwandan army spokesman Maj. Jill Rutaremara, said the workshop will be opened by the Army Chief of Staff, Lt Gen Charles Kayonga.

Rwanda has been an active supporter of the peace operation in Darfur since 2004 and currently a Rwandan officer, Maj. Gen. Karenzi Karake is the Deputy Force Commander of the 26, 000 strong UNAMID.

(ST)

### **LIST: Darfur rebel group JEM reshuffles executive council (ST)**

March 16, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — The Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) has announced a reshuffle in its executive council.

The reshuffle coincided with the statements made by JEM leader Khalil Ibrahim in which he expressed readiness to hold one on one talks with Khartoum.

Ibrahim said talks should be mediated by former U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan and negotiations should spread beyond Darfur to cover "marginalised" territories across Sudan.

Below is the text of the decree on the reshuffle

Decrees of President of JEM

Decree No 10 for the Year 2005

Appointment of Executive Board of JEM

In line with authority vested on me as President of JEM and in accordance with JEM Statute, Article 8, Paragraph B, I issue the following appointments, effective as of date of signing:

Secretary for Presidential Affairs Jammali Hassan Jallal Eldin

Secretary for Political Affairs Ahmed Togut Lisan

Secretary for Legal Affairs Osman Wash

Secretary for Financial Affairs Izaaldin Fadul Baggi

Secretary for External Offices Saif Eloula Kuku

Secretary for Intelligence and Security Izzaldin Ushar

Commander General of JEM Forces General Abdel Kareem Cholloy

Secretary for International Relations and Foreign Affairs Bishara Sulaiman

Secretary for Humanitarian Affairs Dr. Alwathig Billah M. A. Elhamadabi

Secretary for Training and Strategic Planning Dr. Abdullahi Osman El-Tom

Secretary for Media and Official Spokesperson Ahmed Husain Adam

Secretary for Social Affairs Khattab Wida'a

Secretary for Women Affairs Name Withheld

Secretary for Students Affairs Name withheld

For immediate implementation by all military and administrative organs of JEM.

Issued under my signature, Liberated Zone, Darfur, Narch 15th, 2008-03-16

Dr. Khalil Ibrahim Mohamed

President &

Supreme Military Commander of JEM