

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS**Media Monitoring Report, 1 May 2007

(By Public Information Office)

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HIGHLIGHTS :

UN/ Agencies/ Partners

UN renews Sudan mission; condemns Darfur violence

(*SudanTribune.com*) The U.N. Security Council on Monday extended the U.N. mission in southern Sudan for six months, lamented the lack of a chief U.N. envoy and called for an end to atrocities in the Darfur region.

But the United States, which drafted the resolution, was forced to water down the text on Darfur and delete calls for a large U.N. force in the western Sudanese region.

Instead council members insisted the resolution focus mainly on the 10,000-strong U.N. peacekeeping force in southern Sudan, where troops are helping to enforce a 2005 peace pact after decades of an intermittent civil war between the Arab-dominated north and the Christian and animist south.

"What is important was not in any way to send a signal that we were undermining our continued support for an agreement, which was crucial after all to ending a 35-year civil war," said British Ambassador Emyr Jones Parry, the current council president.

Still, the text expresses "grave concern" over the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Darfur, condemns attacks on civilians and calls on all parties to "put an end to the violence and atrocities in Darfur" where at least 200,000 people have died and 2.3 million are homeless.

The resolution also asks Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to appoint "urgently" a new special representative for the U.N. Mission in Sudan, known as UNMIS, which has been without a chief of mission since Khartoum expelled Dutchman Jan Pronk last October.

It renews the mandate of UNMIS until Oct. 31, although the United States had wanted only a three-month extension, mainly to keep pressure on Sudan to approve a large "hybrid" United Nations-African Union peacekeeping force in Darfur. [*Follow the link for more on this from the United Nations News Center* [SECURITY COUNCIL EXTENDS UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN FOR SIX MONTHS, UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTING RESOLUTION 1755 \(2007\)](#)]

UN News Bulletin reports death in Abyei of the SAF soldier in Abyei

(AlAyaam) AlAyaam quotes the UNMIS News Bulletin* (30 April) in its story on the death by stabbing of a SAF soldier and injury of an SPLA soldier as a result of an argument. Also quoted is the part on the killing of a woman at the hands of a soldier claiming to be from the SAF.

The paper also highlights the movement restriction of UNMIS personnel in the north and south of the Abyei area as cited in the bulletin.

* UNMIS News Bulletin are available at www.unmis.org

UN special envoy praises Tripoli conference on Darfur

(JANA via BBC Monitoring, 29 Apr. '07) UN Secretary-General Special Envoy to Darfur Jan Eliasson has expressed his appreciation and that of the secretary-general for the results reached at the Tripoli international conference on the situation in Darfur and the efforts to achieve security in the province.

In a speech delivered at the concluding session today, he said: "Together, we have become stronger .. [ellipses as published] and I assure you that the secretary-general has phoned me to thank you on the efforts exerted."

He added: "I am happy that my colleagues had worked hard with me, day and night .. [ellipses as published] and I am happy for the constructive ideas we have arrived at unanimously, which I call the 'Tripoli Consensus'."

He noted that the consultations that took place on the sideline of the meeting were hard work. He also said: "What is important for us is the spirit of cooperation that has dominated the conference and our joint contribution in finding a lasting solution .. [ellipses as published] and we have conveyed an important message to peace in Darfur and the Sudanese people."

WFP executive head cites armed robbers as the major threats to operations in Darfur

(AlHayat; AlIntibaha) The WFP Executive Director concluded her tour of Africa with a call for the realisation of security and stability.

She said malnutrition rates in Darfur are down by 50% and cited armed robbery as the obstacles to WFP because they hamper access to IDPs.

She said that the achievements of the food program for Darfur must be sustained.

The WFP chief had held talks with government officials in Sudan, Ethiopia and Chad and donor states. [Follow the link for more on this from the UN News Centre [Insecurity threatens aid operations in Africa, UN food agency chief warns](#)].

Other Headlines:

❖ Khartoum supports Cairo's opposition to a UN request that it reopen investigations into the el-Muhandisin incident in Cairo where a number of Sudanese refugees were killed (Alwan)

The Transition Debate

UN Secretary-General says there is a need to push for a hybrid force for Darfur

(*AlAyaam*) The Secretary-General of the UN says he discussed with African Union Commissioner Konare on means to make progress on the issue of the hybrid forces for Darfur.

Secretary-General Ki-moon said that the Sudan government had finally accepted the Heavy Support Package for Darfur and that the UN is now working to implement the deal and deploy those personnel as soon as possible but need to sustain the push towards a hybrid force for Darfur.

“I still have hope that we will be able to achieve our goal and enable the people of Darfur to get the protection they have long waited for,” the UN chief told Qatar-based *AlRaya*.

UN says hybrid peacekeeping operations still under study

(*AlKhartoum*) UNMIS Spokesperson Radhia Achouri says the issue of what number of hybrid peacekeeping troops will be required for Darfur is still under study and that the coordination mechanism of the African Union and UN will announce its findings on the issue once they reach a final agreement.

Radhia pointed out that the priority at the moment is to support the peace process within the framework of consolidating security in Darfur as per the recommendations and agreements reached in meetings of the African Union Peace & Security Council.

In another development, the head of the legislative council of the JEM says the JEM is waiting for note from the mediators to begin talks with the government. He said his party will present a comprehensive view on solutions to the Darfur problem at the meeting envisaged and that the meeting may culminate in a peace deal should there be goodwill.

Ibrahim Yahya says the JEM is committed to the ceasefire and has managed to return property looted from the African Union.

Arab League denounces US Congress statement on Darfur

(*Sudan TV via BBC Monitoring, 29 Apr.*) The Arab League [AL] has denounced in a statement what was mentioned in a US Congress resolution that the AL was working to obstruct the deployment of UN forces in Darfur. The statement said that the resolution came at a time in which no international or regional organization has used the term genocide to describe the situation in Darfur.

The statement said the broad cooperation existing between the AL, AU, and UN since the Abuja negotiations demonstrate the AL role towards the Darfur issue.

Ghanaian chiefs call for immediate deployment of UN troops in Darfur region

(GBC via BBC Monitoring, 30 Apr.) Africa Talks Organization and the chiefs and people of Akropong Akuapem [in southern Ghana] have called for immediate deployment of UN Peacekeeping force to augment that of the AU [African Union] to end crisis in Sudan's Darfur region. This is because the worsening humanitarian situation there must be seen as a global challenge.

This was contained in a communiqué read by the secretary to the Akuapem State, Kwame Bekoe, at a ceremony held at Akuapem Akropong as part of international activities to draw attention to the Darfur crisis. [Correspondent] Seth Eyiah has filed this report.

Other Headlines:

❖ [Feature: US says Sudan looking for way out on Darfur force](#) [*SudanTribune.com*]

CPA

Interview: Only SPLM is capable of achieving unity of Sudan–Amum

(*SudanTribune.com*) The Secretary General of the SPLM told Sudan Tribune that the SPLM is the key to the unity or separation of Sudan. The New Sudan vision “is the only political program that can create a country enabling all Sudanese to feel the sense of belonging, and to create space for all the Sudanese.” Amum said.

In an interview conducted last week, the SPLM leader said the party is still has good relations with its former allies of the National democratic Alliance. He further affirmed the possibility of political coordination with the NDA forces.

Regarding the partnership with the National Congress Party (NCP), Amum showed optimism about the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). He said the SPLM is able to reach a solution with the NCP. He indicated that the SPLM wants to see implemented not only the CPA but also the Cairo deal with the northern opposition, Darfur agreement and eastern Sudan peace deal.

Asked about the Abyei issue, he said that the NCP is still rejecting implementation of Abyei Protocol, adding that the impasse might be broken through a US arbitration. [*Follow the link for more on the story* [Interview: Only SPLM is capable of achieving unity of Sudan–Amum](#)].

316 IDPs return to Rumbek

(*SudanTribune.com*) Lakes State government received 316 persons but State authorities still saying that other 99 IDPs are on their way to Rumbek before this weekend.

In statement released Friday 27 April, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) said a great trip had led to Shambe using river transport to Yirol counties. The statement remarked that those IDPs will be given seeds by Food Agriculture Organization (FAO) for first year cultivations.

Government of National Unity

Armed forces condemn burning of crash-landed plane in Darfur

(*Sudan TV via BBC Monitoring*) The SAF issued a statement condemning the attack by elements of the NRF on one of the helicopters of the armed forces which crash-landed in Northern Darfur State.

Official spokesperson for the SAF, Brg. Gen. Osman el-Aghbash, told *STV* over phone yesterday that the aircraft was on a reconnaissance mission and later developed a mechanical fault which forced the captain to crash-land in an area where armed gangs were present. These armed groups arrived the site of the crash-landing and killed one of the two officers on board then burnt down the aircraft. He described this as a heinous act of aggression especially in light of ongoing efforts to end the war.

He pointed out that this act has its own meaning and warned that the SAF is capable of dealing with these saboteurs of the peace process for Darfur.

Will strike twice as hard, says SAF statement

In a related story, *SudanTribune.com* says the SAF has issued a statement on Monday vowing to crush the armed factions for killing the airman in the helicopter crash.

"The armed forces, while condemning this brutal and treacherous act, vow that they will strike back twice as hard ... and will crush those rebels," the official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) quoted an armed forces statement as saying.

The statement blamed the incident on the National Redemption Front, an alliance of several rebel groups that rejected a May 2006 peace deal between Khartoum and one rebel faction.

But several groups have claimed responsibility for gunning down the aircraft, the first of which was a faction of the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) whose leader said his men held the helicopter's pilot and found the body of another officer burned.

The group identified the pilot as Lieutenant Mouaweya Huseein Mohamed.

Open to peace talks with rebels, says state minister Al-Waseela

Sudan's State Minister for Foreign Affairs Al-Samani Al-Wasyla told Reuters on Sunday the government was open to peace talks with the Darfur rebels but was not expected to stay idle if they attack army forces in the region.

Khartoum to host military talks between Sudan and Chad

(*AIRai AlAam*) Talks between representatives of the military in Sudan and Chad kick off later today with the participation of representatives from Libya and Eritrea.

Participants will seek to discuss means to deploy forces from these four countries along the border strip between Sudan and Chad in a bid to halt border conflict.

Defense minister witnesses destruction of thousands of landmines; SPLM to follow suit

(*Akhbar Alyaum*) A SAF team destroyed yesterday 4,488 pieces of landmines in el-Sileit, Khartoum North.

The Minister of Defense officiated at the event and said that this constitutes 48% of the SAF's anti-personnel landmine stores and pointed out that the remainder will be destroyed by the end of the year 2014.

He also said that work is in progress to de-mine the Babanousa-Wau road and the road will soon be opened.

The minister also said that the SPLA is also due to destroy next week its store of landmines in Aweil.

Belgium foreign minister arrives in Sudan

(*SUNA via BBC Monitoring, 30 Apr.*) The Belgium foreign minister, Mr Karel De Gucht, arrived in the country this evening for an official seven-day visit.

While in the country, the minister is expected to hold talks with Foreign Minister Dr Lam Akol on the progress of implementing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and the situation in Darfur.

Other Headlines:

[Sudan embassy in Belgium attacked by pro-Darfur demonstrators](#)

Darfur/ Darfur Peace Agreement

Presidency of the Republic denies having issued a statement relieving all TDRA post holders

(*Alwan*) The Office of the President of the Transitional Darfur Regional Authority has issued a statement saying TDRA head, Mini Minnawi, has not issued a statement relieving TDRA post holders of duty as reported by some papers recently.

The statement pointed out that the TDRA is passing through a period of stability and harmony and has indeed inaugurated its offices in Khartoum and Darfur.

Efforts to unify views of the Darfur non-signatory factions

(*AlSahafa*) Vice-President Kiir will host in Juba sometime this month leaders of the Darfur non-signatory factions in a bid to unite their views ahead of envisaged talks with the government.

On the other hand, foreign minister Lam Akol who returned recently from a meeting in Tripoli said that Ali AbdelSalaam el-Tireiki, an envoy of the Libyan leader, is expected here next Friday to brief President Bashir on the outcome of the recent meeting in Tripoli and efforts exerted to reunite the views of the non-signatory factions.

Mr. Akol said that the Libyan envoy may propose a date for a meeting between the Sudan government and the Darfur armed factions. He said that the meeting may probably take place in Juba.

The minister further expressed hopes that the non-signatory factions may unify their views and pointed out that the government is ready to talk with them.

Khartoum offers food supplies to Darfur armed factions in return for an end to robbery

(*AlRai AlAam*) Khartoum has offered food to the non-signatory factions in Darfur and asks them to stop attacks on civilians in return, says State Minister Ahmed Haroun of the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs.

In a statement published on *AlWattan* newspaper of Saudi Arabia, the state minister called upon these factions to assemble at a specific area and specify where they want the food to be sent them. He said that the local police has documents in its possession that prove that these armed groups are involved in robbery activities mainly targeting the Arab tribes of Darfur.

The state minister also accused these factions of not abiding by the ceasefire agreements. He points out that the fact that violations of ceasefire have ceased in southern Sudan is proof that the Sudan government is committed to the ceasefire agreement.

Sudan ready for talks with Darfur rebels- official

(*SudanTribune.com*) Sudan is ready to negotiate with Darfur rebels once they unite their leadership but should not be expected to sit idly by if government forces in the region are attacked, the junior foreign minister said on Monday.

Al-Samani Al-Wasyala blamed the fragmentations and divisions among the many rebels in Darfur, along with "negative messages" sent by western powers, notably the United States, for hindering the prospects of peace negotiations.

"Sudan has not closed the door in the face of any party that could convince the rebel groups (to join peace negotiations) ... because these groups are Sudanese. Peace cannot be achieved without them," he told Reuters in an interview.

"(But) there are countries ... like the United States that have been sending negative messages, thinking that pressure and threats of sanctions will make the Sudanese government accept anything," he said. [*Follow the links for the full text* [Sudan ready for talks with Darfur rebels- official](#)]

Arab countries step to front stage on Darfur issue

(*SudanTribune.com*) Through a multipartite ministerial meeting held in the Libyan capital Tripoli at the weekend, Arab countries have stepped up to the front stage regarding the Darfur, local analysts said on Monday.

The meeting was held at a time when Darfur rebel movements were continuously boycotting a resumption of peace talks and Khartoum was under mounting pressures to approve the deployment of UN peacekeepers in Darfur.

Before the Tripoli meeting, all the regional and international meetings regarding the Darfur issue as well as contacts and negotiations between the Sudanese government and Darfur rebel groups had been held in non-Arab countries of the African continent.

Arab countries have played no apparent mediation role in either the crystallization of the N'Djamena ceasefire accord or the Abuja agreement, leaving the non-Arab African countries to perform the sponsorship of the Darfur peace process.

However, the Tripoli meeting signalled a change of the Arab countries from a low profile policy, which they had pursued to avoid a complication of the Darfur situation, to a public intervention due to their cautiousness of what they think the real intentions of the Western countries in Darfur, according to local analysts. [*Follow the link for more on this story* [Arab countries step to front stage on Darfur issue](#)].

Rebel group reportedly attack, loot commuter bus in Darfur

(*SMC via BBC Monitoring, 30 Apr.*)A group affiliated to the [Darfur rebel] Justice and Equality Movement has attacked a bus travelling from Nyala [capital of Southern Darfur State] to Al-Fashir [capital of Northern Darfur State] at Abu-Humrah area and grounded it completely.

A follow up made by the Sudanese Media Centre confirms that the bus was carrying 45 passengers and that their luggage have been looted and some of them have been seriously injured following the assault.

The bus was grounded for 10 hours forcing the passengers to travel on foot.

The report says that the passengers have arrived in the area known as Abu-Risha, which is situated between the Northern Darfur and Southern Darfur states, and have reported the case to the police.

Regional body urges Chad, CAR to improve relations with Sudan

(*AlWihda website, Chad, via BBC Monitoring*) Meeting in N'djamena, the Chadian capital within the context of the eighth summit of the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa [CEMAC], heads of state of the CEMAC member countries have urged Chad and the Central African Republic [CAR] to pursue relations of good neighborliness with Sudan and at the same time they condemned the destabilization attempts in the two countries. The Chadian president, who made efforts to convince his colleagues to condemn Sudan, seemed deceived. However, CEMAC expressed its support for the consolidation of peace both within and outside the two

countries that are facing rebellions and it decided to set up a special solidarity fund to rush to the aid of populations in Chad and the CAR who are victims of atrocities.

CEMAC is made up of six countries of the central African sub-region, namely Cameroon, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Congo-Brazzaville, the Central African Republic and Chad.

Other Headlines:

[ICG urges new approach for Darfur peace settlement - report](#)

[Save Darfur to campaign against US firms dealing with Sudan](#)