

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS**Media Monitoring Report, 3 May 2007

(By Public Information Office)

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HIGHLIGHTS :

UN/ Agencies/ Partners

UN calls on Sudanese parties to focus on priorities in implementing peace pact

(SMC via BBC Monitoring, 1 May; Rai AlShaab; AlKhabar quoting same source) The United Nations has called on the [Sudanese] government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement to tackle the challenges facing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement by focusing on the priorities. The UN stressed its readiness to help the two sides on any issue if requested.

In a statement to the SMC after the UN extended the mandate of the UN mission in Sudan by six more months, Radhia Achouri, the official spokesperson of the UN mission in Sudan, said the international organization was ready to assist in the issue of border demarcation, disarmament and elections.

Ms Achouri also stressed the need to appreciate the dangers that could result from a delay in implementing the peace accord, and added there were great challenges and priorities that needed tackling.

UN Secretary-General to present to the Security Council next week a comprehensive report on the situation in Darfur

(AIWihda) UNMIS Spokesperson Radhia Achouri says the Secretary-General of the UN will be presenting to the Security Council next week a comprehensive report on the situation in the three states of Darfur.

She told *AIWihda* that the report is currently in its final draft and covers the humanitarian and security issues as well as the political developments that took place in the three states during the last two months.

The Spokesperson also revealed of the abduction of six UNHCR personnel by unidentified armed groups in West Darfur that also stole two vehicles of the agency. The abducted, she said, are a foreigner and five nationals. Spokesperson Radhia said the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator strongly has strongly condemned the incident [*Please see Press attached Press Release condemning the incident and related story from the SudanTribune website [UN condemns attack on UNHCR personnel in Darfur](#)*].

Security in Darfur `total failure` -UN refugee chief

(*SudanTribune.com*) The international community has made progress in easing the humanitarian crisis in Darfur, but those efforts could unravel because of the "total failure" to bring lasting security to the Sudanese region, the top U.N. refugee official said Tuesday.

U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres' assessment came as he took stock of the refugee situation in Sudan and Iraq _ two of the world's biggest refugee challenges.

Guterres, who recently returned from Darfur, applauded gains made in Sudan on the humanitarian front, saying the U.N. had assisted in the return of 30,000 refugees there in the first four months of the year, a figure that trumped repatriation levels for all of 2006.

But for that level to be sustainable, security must be realized in the region, and this can only be accomplished through a comprehensive and effective peace agreement, Guterres said. [*Follow the link to the full text [Security in Darfur `total failure' -UN refugee chief](#)]*

The Transition Debate

Dr. Majzoub el-Khalifa commends UN on its role for peace in Darfur

(*AlWihda; STV via BBC Monitoring, 1 May*) Following a meeting with the visiting foreign minister of Belgium, Presidential Advisor Majzoub el-Khalifa told the press that the meeting focused on efforts to bring the Darfur Peace Agreement non-signatory factions to the negotiations table. He said there is clear improvement in the security and humanitarian situations in Darfur.

He said he had commended the UN decision to extend the UNMIS mandate by six months instead of the 3 months requested by the US and the UK. He said that this decision was in line with the agreements reached in Addis Ababa and further bolsters cooperation between the Sudan and the UN.

He expressed support to the track which the AU and the UN are currently working on and said the government wants to see it unified and joined by other brotherly states such as Eritrea and Libya.

He further pointed out that the point of reference for such Darfur talks should be the content of the meeting with the former secretary-general in Addis Ababa, the content of the recent Tripoli meeting and as contained in the recent UN resolution.

Egyptian foreign minister says envoys Salim and Eliasson have been tasked with a leading role in efforts to bring the non-signatories to the negotiations table

(*AlSahafa*) Egyptian foreign minister Ahmed Abu-el-Gheit says the recent meeting held in Tripoli on Darfur was the first opportunity for major international and regional players to meet and talk in a direct and clear way on the appropriate measures to handle the crisis in Darfur.

In press statements in Cairo yesterday, the foreign minister pointed out that there is a growing notion to grant envoys Salim and Eliasson a lead role in these efforts. He also said that Secretary-

General Ki-moon and African Union Commissioner Konare will focus in the coming stages on preparing a road map that will enable the Sudan government and the non-signatory factions to resume talks.

He said that the Tripoli talks also concentrated on the political process and means to coordinate regional and international efforts under the joint leadership of the African Union and the UN to guarantee that the non-signatory groups come on board.

Meanwhile the Egyptian parliament says it rejects pressures on Sudan to accept an international force for Darfur. The said parliament pointed out that what Sudan is going through is part of a campaign targeting Arab states of which Iraq is a prime example.

On the other hand, the acting head of the AMIS has called on the Sudan government to halt air strikes in Darfur. The acting head of the AMIS pointed out that Commissioner Konare had brought up the issue in recent discussions with President Bashir who assured him that the SAF does not carry out raids in Darfur. The Sudanese president pointed out that the helicopter that the armed factions reportedly downed was on a reconnaissance mission.

The acting head of the AMIS pointed out that the armed factions attack SAF positions and the SAF retaliates to these attacks. She said Konare had requested the government not to retaliate in attack even if provoked.

Rebel leader slams Libyan summit on Darfur

(Akhir Lahza via BBC Monitoring, 1 May) The second in command of the [Darfur rebel] Justice and Equality Movement and one of the leaders of the National Redemption Front [NRF], Eng Abubakr Hamid has played down the significance of the international conference on the issue of Darfur held in Tripoli.

He said the conference was merely a public relations exercise and had excluded the main parties concerned with the Darfur crisis. Hamid also told Akhir Lahzah yesterday that since the NRF had not been invited, this had made the conference simply a meeting for public relations that was expected to end without achieving any objectives to resolve the conflict.

In this regard, Hamid confirmed that their relationship with the Chadian government was excellent and the proof was that NRF political and military leaders were currently in Chad.

Hamid said that the presence of the JEM leader Dr Khalil Ibrahim, Ahmad Ibrahim Diraij, his deputy Sharif Harir and the leader of the Group of 19, Khamis Abakar is aimed at finalizing the NRF's structure and its political coordination, as well as unifying its position.

CPA

Experts warn Abyei may “Turn into another Kashmir”

(*Allintibaha*) Misseiriya students at the Sudan University of Science and Technology organised a symposium on Abyei yesterday that saw participants agree that the parties to the CPA should not go back to war as a result of the deadlock on Abyei.

A participant from the Dinka called upon the government to implement the Protocol on Abyei while another from the Misseiriya criticised the call for the formation of a temporary administration in the area pending the border demarcation. He pointed out that the administration could not be formed without demarcation of the boundaries.

Dinka and Misseiriya representatives called on the political parties to keep away from the Abyei issue citing fears these parties may use the issue to serve their own interests.

A member of the border demarcation team pointed out that the issue of Abyei has been brought to such proportions by power-thirsty SPLM elements.

Experts meanwhile warn that Abyei may turn into a “Sudanese Kashmir” if not properly resolved.

Government of National Unity

Belgian foreign minister starts talks with officials in Khartoum

(*AlAyaam*) The visiting foreign minister of Belgium has expressed concerns over the deterioration in the humanitarian situation in Darfur and has underlined the need for the deployment of a hybrid force in that region and to reach a political solution to the crisis.

Speaking at a joint press conference with his host yesterday, the visiting foreign minister said that such a force is required before the process for peace so as to create a situation of security for the citizens. He warned that Sudan might face sanctions if a hybrid force is not deployed to Darfur.

The visiting minister said he was told by envoy Jan Eliasson that efforts for a solution to the crisis in Darfur are progressing and that they are working towards a hybrid force.

The minister also commended Sudan for accepting the HSP.

He also pointed out that donors had pledged support to Sudan on condition of implementation of the CPA and solution to the Darfur issue.

In his part, foreign minister Lam Akol described talks with his Belgian counterpart as “fruitful” and said Belgium has shown commitment to capacity-building and encouraging investment in Sudan.

Federal government and the GoSS discuss improving decentralised governance

(*The Citizen*) A delegation from the federal government has travelled to Juba for talks with the GoSS counterparts focussing on coordination between the two governments.

In a press release, the head of the federal delegation affirmed the importance of forming a suitable mechanism for coordination and establishing direct channels to exchange experiences and information at different levels.

The two sides agreed on the importance of developing decentralised governance by making available the resources required and agreed on mutual and coordinated work to resolve disagreements with a view to consolidating unity.

Hassan Bargo says the NCP had no hand in his arrest and detention

(*AlWifaq; Rai AlShaab*) National Congress Party member Hassan Bargo who has just walked out of detention has exonerated his party of any links to his arrest and detention by authorities recently.

He says no one in the National Congress Party knows of the reasons for his arrest and that he is seeking an explanation from the National Security on why he was arrested and kept in detention for 60 days.

Other Headlines:

- Foreign ministry formally requests the release of Guantanamo prisoners (*AlAyaam*)
- MP accuses colleague of killing her husband (*The Citizen*)
- National Press and Publications Council reiterates commitments to press freedom (*AlAyaam*)

Southern Sudan

Uganda army says LRA rebels kill 7 in ambush

(*SudanTribune.com*) Uganda's military accused the Lord's Resistance Army rebels on Tuesday of staging a deadly ambush in Uganda, killing seven civilians and jeopardizing a ceasefire that has halted two decades of civil war.

Army spokesman for northern Uganda Chris Magezi told Reuters the rebels attacked three trucks on their way to southern Sudan on Monday night, about 4 km (2.485 miles) from the border.

He said this was the first time the rebels had ambushed vehicles in Uganda — an act which was once their trademark — since peace talks with the government began in south Sudan in July.

The LRA were not immediately available for comment. { *Follow the link to the full text [Uganda army says LRA rebels kill 7 in ambush](#)* }

Hotel bill of Southern Sudan delegation causes trouble in Uganda

(*SudanTribune.com*) A landmark cross-border security meeting between Sudanese government and military officers and their Ugandan counterparts from West Nile ended in nightmare last week, the Ugandan Monitor reported.

The management of White Castle Hotel held back 14 Sudanese delegates who resided there over a Shs2.1 million unpaid accommodation bill.

The historic meeting deliberated on improving bilateral ties, strengthening cross border security, joint management of human and livestock diseases as well as undertaking customs and immigration reforms to ease movement of people and merchandise between the two countries.

However, as the Sudanese team led by deputy Governor of Central Equatoria State Henry Stephano Danga who is also the state minister for local government prepared to leave, it emerged that the organizers had not cleared their lodging fees.

Daily Monitor has learnt that Dradiga, the convener agreed to pay only Shs1.9 million for meals, light refreshments and hiring the conference hall. [*Follow the link to the full text [Hotel bill of Southern Sudan delegation causes trouble in Uganda](#)*]

Darfur/ Darfur Peace Agreement

Darfur peace body reviews progress in implementing peace pact

(*SUNA via BBC Monitoring, 30 Apr.*) The Supreme Executive Committee for the Implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement held today a meeting chaired by Dr Majdhub al-Khalifah, adviser to the president of the republic, and the party's signatory to the agreement. The committee reviewed what has and has not been done until now in the implementation of the agreement. The supreme committee reviewed the inauguration of the transitional regional authority for Darfur, ways to support it, and its continuity and [pledged] to stand behind it so that it can begin its work in various domains in the Darfur states.

Abd-al-Rahim Ali Hamad, minister of state for agriculture and member of the supreme committee, explained in a statement to SUNA that the meeting dealt with the importance of the central role in reducing the differences that have occurred in Darfur. He added that supporting development projects and basic services, highlighting the activities of the Darfur peace agreement, and the voluntary return of 20,000 to the area of Marla in South Darfur. For his part, he said that the purpose of the meeting was the strengthening of the momentum for real peace in Darfur, in addition to the assessment of the joint workshop for the enforcement of the recent Darfur peace [agreement] between the government and the Sudan Liberation Movement. He added that the meeting discussed the Darfur Support Fund and the Transitional Authority, in addition to enforcing all provisions of the agreement.

Last group of Rwandan troops in Darfur to be rotated

(*New Times, Kigali, via BBC Monitoring, 1 May*) The army is set to rotate its last batch of peacekeeping troops in the Sudan's war-ravaged region of Darfur, The New Times has learnt. According to the

Rwanda Defence Forces [RDF] spokesperson, Maj Jill Rutaremara, the process of rotating the soldiers will begin 3 May. "We have two battalions ready here to replace the ones that had not yet been rotated in Darfur and the process of rotation will start on 3 May and end on 17 May," he said by telephone last week.

The army spokesperson also noted that the airlifting of the peacekeeping troops would be facilitated by the United States.

If the process of rotating the two battalions was finalized, Rutaremara said, the RDF would have concluded the replacement of all its peacekeepers in the three Rwanda-manned operations based in the conflict region.

The troops being replaced have been in Darfur for almost a year, though their mandate was to be a maximum of six months.

The process of replacing the two brigades had stalled after two Algerian C130 aircrafts supposed to airlift the troops, only dealt with one battalion that was deployed recently.

The RDF started replacing its Darfur-based peacekeeping contingents this past February.

South Sudan says Darfur talks unlikely before July

(SudanTribune.com) Efforts to bring Darfur rebel groups to southern Sudan for peace talks with the Khartoum government could take up to three months, an official in charge of organizing the possible negotiations said on Tuesday.

The semi-autonomous Government of Southern Sudan, which emerged after a 2005 peace deal that ended 21 years of civil war with the north, has.

Sudanese Foreign Minister Lam Akol told the BBC on Monday the government hoped to meet the rebels in May in Juba, where the southern government, headed by Salva Kiir, is based.

But the secretary of the "task force" set up by the GoSS to contact the rebel groups and bring them to talks in the southern Sudan said his commission has yet to contact any group, adding it may take until July to bring them all together.

"The president (Kiir) expects us to implement our mission in a space of two to three months, so in July if all goes well," he told Reuters about the conference. He said funding was the biggest challenge facing his committee. [*Follow the link to the full text [South Sudan says Darfur talks unlikely before July](#)*]

Darfur interim authority to appoint leaders based on "competence"

(SUNA via BBC Monitoring) The Sudanese Liberation Movement has confirmed that the criterion for selecting workers in the Transitional Regional Authority (TRA) for Darfur will be based only on competence and experience, and that recruitment is not limited to the Sudan Liberation Movement led by the TRA Chairman Minni Arkoi Minawi.

The movement's media adviser, Al-Tayib Khamis, denied in a statement to SMC, the existence of any decision by the president of the Authority, to exempt a number of its leadership and to keep the secretary-general only, as reported by some news media. He emphasized that the decision taken by the president of the Transitional Authority, is for the formation of a committee to choose members of the Authority based on competence and that work in the TRA for Darfur is open to all the people of Sudan. He continued saying: "The criterion is competence and experience only and there is no direction to exclude anyone."

Ethiopian premier, US envoy discuss Sudan

(*Ethiopian News Agency via BBC Monitoring, 1 May – Addis Ababa*) Prime Minister Meles Zenawi held talks here on Tuesday [1 May] with US president's special envoy for Sudan, Andrew Natsios.

After the discussion, Natsios told Ethiopian News Agency that he was apprised of the situation prevailing in Darfur during the discussion with Meles.

Andrew said Meles had also provided him constructive suggestions prevailing in the region.

Family of detained chopper pilot plead on the SLM for his release

(*AlRai AlAam*) Relatives of a SAF helicopter pilot arrested by the opposition SLM in Darfur after his chopper came down there are pleading for the captors to release him.

SLM leader AbdelShafei said that one of the two airmen died when the aircraft burst into flames while the other is in good condition and will be treated in accordance to international laws on prisoners.

Umma Party to organise campaign in solidarity with the people of Darfur

(*AlAyaam*) Political parties, civil society organizations, Darfur activists and prominent persons will endorse today a draft document that seeks a political solution to the Darfur crisis through a "real" Darfur Conference in which all participate and that is covered by regional and international guarantees to end the humanitarian crisis there.

The document will be endorsed at a symposium organized at Umma Party headquarters.

Questions surround ICC letter to Sudan on Darfur suspects

(*SudanTribune.com*) The Office of the Prosecutor at the International Criminal Court (ICC) confirmed the existence of a letter that was sent to Khartoum requesting clarification on its position regarding the extradition of the Darfur suspects to court.

In a statement received by Sudan Tribune on Tuesday, the office of Luis Moreno-Ocampo, chief prosecutor of the ICC, said that a letter was sent to Sudanese Ambassador at the Netherlands on April 12th requesting a response by April 30th. The ICC has not received a response from Sudan by the deadline.

The Chief Prosecutor of the ICC had announced late February that he filed charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity against Ahmed Muhammed Harun the Sudanese minister for Humanitarian Affairs and Janjaweed militia leader Ali Kosheib.

The statement described the letter as part of the attempts by prosecutor to “secure cooperation from the Government of Sudan”. The statement voiced rare criticism of Sudan for lack of cooperation citing “outstanding requests for information, materials, and other forms of cooperation”.

The Sudanese justice Minister Mohamed Ali Al-Mardi commented on the letter by reiterating Sudan’s position rejecting the jurisdiction of the court and refusing to hand over any Sudanese citizen to be tried abroad. According to the ICC’s statement, failure by Sudan to comply with any forthcoming decision by the judges “could justify the issuance of warrants of arrest, subject of course to the Pre-Trial Chamber’s determination”. [*Follow the link to the full text [Questions surround ICC letter to Sudan on Darfur suspects](#)*].