

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS**Media Monitoring Report, 7 May 2007

(By Public Information Office)

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HIGHLIGHTS :

UN/ Agencies/ Partners

Eliasson, Salim expected in Khartoum tomorrow

(*AlSahafa; AlWihda*) Envoys Jan Eliasson and Salim Ahmed Salim are expected in Khartoum Tuesday on a two-day visit.

This is the third time the envoys are on a joint mission to the country in their bid to reinvigorate the peace process in Darfur. The envoys are likely to present new suggestions for solutions to the Darfur crisis to be discussed with the government, *AlWihda* daily adds.

The envoys are expected to pass through Cairo where they were to hold talks with the Secretary-General of the Arab League and high rank Egyptian government officials.

Darfur deal generates violence hindering humanitarian efforts - UN

(*VOA via SudanTribune.com*) United Nations said the Darfur Peace Agreement signed one year ago has led to more violence, which has crippled the world's largest humanitarian operation.

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Darfur said relief work in Darfur has been jeopardized by the very agreement that was supposed to bring peace to the region.

The U.N. organization pointed out the splintering of rebel factions, which followed the signing of the accord has led to anarchy in Darfur.

Antoine Gerard, manager of the Darfur section at the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, says aid access has dwindled.

"We have seen a progressive deterioration of the situation in Darfur since May 2006. For the humanitarian community it's a nightmare. It's a nightmare in terms of security. It's a nightmare in terms of designing your humanitarian response," said Gerard.

Aids groups say the obstacles to relief work are now immense.

Humanitarian workers no longer know which rebel groups they should contact when traveling in relief convoys to provide aid.

When convoys come under attack, it is almost impossible to identify the culprits.

Gerard said attacks on aid workers, which increased late last year, caused the withdrawal of humanitarian staff across the region. [*Follow the link for the full text of the story [Darfur deal generates violence hindering humanitarian efforts - UN](#)*].

SPLA soldiers kidnap senior militia officer, loot money - UN

(SudanTribune.com) SudanTribune.com quotes the United Nations Mission in Sudan News Bulletin (6 May '07) as having reported that soldiers of the Southern Sudan army kidnapped a senior officer of a southern Sudan militia in Torit and looted money from his home.

On 3 May, in Torit town, armed men, allegedly Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) soldiers entered the residence of a senior officer of Other Armed Group Consultative Committee (OAGCC) and attacked him and his three wives, the UNMIS bulletin is quoted as reporting.

The bulletin didn't disclose the identity of the officer, *SudanTribune.com* goes on to say and adds that the attackers kidnapped him and also looted two million Sudanese dinars, personal belongings, arms and ammunition. The abducted officer was involved with the DDR activities in Torit.

The Joint Military Team (made up of UNMIS Military/SAF and SPLA representative) has been investigating the incident to locate the abducted officer. So far, no information on his whereabouts has been provided.

The same day, a wild lifeguard and a civilian were allegedly shot by JIU (SAF) patrol in Torit. The two injured persons were admitted to hospital. The case is under investigation by the local Police.

Iraqi man climbs tall antenna in Khartoum for Canada visa

(Reuters via SudanTribune.com) An Iraqi man climbed a tall telecommunications antenna in the Sudanese capital and stayed there for 13 hours on Sunday to protest the U.N. refugee agency's refusal to send him to Canada.

Hesham Faleh, 20, climbed the 30-metre (98 foot) antenna at 3 a.m. (2400 GMT) carrying a Canadian flag, a bottle of water and a hat to protect him from Khartoum's scorching sun, his wife said.

He stepped down after more than 13 hours and turned himself over to Sudanese police, witnesses said.

Samira Youssef, 20, said her husband had fled Iraq after the fall of Baghdad in 2003. She said he has applied to be resettled in Canada through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) agency in Sudan.

"On April 30, I got my rejection letter," said Youssef, an Eritrean refugee. "And he got his on May 3. It was a shock for him," she added.

Youssef earlier told Reuters Faleh had climbed the antenna "to attract attention to his problem".

Scores of onlookers gathered near the UNHCR offices to watch Faleh. At one point he took off his shirt and wrapped a blue rope around his neck, a Reuters photograph showed, in an apparent threat to hang himself.

Chrysantus Ache, the UNHCR representative in Sudan, said Faleh did not have a refugee status.

The United Nations says around 2 million Iraqis have been displaced inside the country since the invasion, while the others are being sheltered in neighboring countries, mainly Syria and Jordan.

CPA

Armed groups hand over their weapons in Equatoria

(*Khartoum Monitor*) In the presence of UN representatives, armed groups handed over to authorities in Juba more than 120 pieces of weapons.

Those who addressed the ceremony called on the UN to do its best in the DDR program.

Commander of the Murle militias, Brg. Tilang Karbino, assured that his group is ready for disarmament and called upon leaders of the armed groups to hand over weapons of combatants as soon as possible to achieve total disarmament.

A SAF representative who was present at the ceremony described the disarmament exercise as a good step. He said that similar operations are set to take place soon in Upper Nile and Bahr-l-Ghazal states.

The SPLA representative who attended the ceremony said that the UN is responsible for monitoring "how the disarmament is taking place" in addition to encouraging the program. He urged the UN to carry out its obligations and provide the assistance necessary.

Parties to the CPA discuss procedures and guarantees for forthcoming elections

(*AlRai AlAam*) The Abyei issue has been put to the shelf for future discussions as the parties to the CPA set out to discuss outstanding issues.

Malik Aggar, investment minister and also head of the SPLA team to the talks, said that talks between the parties to the CPA have taken place in a positive spirit as they sought solutions to

the outstanding issues. He said that the meeting has approved a plan to discuss the three issues of the Elections Bill, the Census Questionnaire and the Human Rights Commission. These three issues will be tabled before the forthcoming meeting of the partners next Saturday and Monday.

SPLA forces arrest members of mosque committee in South Kordofan State

(*Rai AlShaab*) A group of SPLA soldiers recently arrested a committee running the affairs of a mosque in Oum Heitan, S. Kordofan, on the grounds that the *imam* and the others had issued an edict discouraging believers from joining the SPLM and describing as infidels those who join the movement.

The SPLA officers had demanded that the *imam* apologise for his statements but the scholar refused to do so claiming he had not said any such things as he has been accused of.

Citizens from that area residing in Khartoum have issued a statement condemning this SPLA action.

Government of National Unity

Council of Ministers confirms commitments to the Riyadh agreement between Sudan and Chad

(*Alwan*) The Council of Ministers sitting yesterday lauded the role the Saudi leader played in reconciling between Sudan and neighbouring Chad.

Following a briefing by President Bashir, the Council expressed commitment to the implementation of the deal between the two countries.

In what *AlWihda* daily has described as seeds of a political crisis between Sudan and Libya, Libyan envoy Ali AbdelSalam el-Tireiki has chosen to cancel a plan to fly to Khartoum and has chosen instead to proceed to Addis Ababa and Nairobi. The paper assumes that the recent Riyadh Agreement between Sudan and Chad could have spurred this change of plan.

But state minister for foreign affairs, Ali Karti, says the agreement has nothing to do with relations with Libya and is instead based on the provisions of the Tripoli Agreement.

Sudanese president receives message from Dutch premier on ties

(*SUNA via BBC Monitoring, 6 May*) President Bashir received yesterday the visiting Dutch foreign minister who delivered to him a message from the Dutch Prime Minister. The written message dwelt on bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries.

During the meeting, President Bashir affirmed Sudan's keenness to remove all obstacles to the full implementation of the CPA and the DPA and welcomed and expressed appreciation to the contributions of the Netherlands to the peace process and its efforts to convince non-signatory parties of Darfur Peace Agreement to join the peace process.

State minister for foreign affairs AlSammani AlWasila told *SUNA* that the meeting also touched on development issues such as the rehabilitation of the River Transport Corporation.

On his part, the Dutch official affirmed the strong desire of his country to boost relations with the Sudan. He said in a statement to the press that convincing the non-signatories of Darfur Peace Agreement would reinforce the peace process, urging Sudan to continue its cooperation with the African Union and the UN in order to achieve comprehensive peace in Darfur.

AlSudani adds that the visiting diplomat expressed deep concern over the humanitarian situation in Darfur and pointed out that the armed factions are also partly to blame for the deterioration in the humanitarian situation.

He also said that it was also important to note that the Sudan government did violate the agreements in a number of incidents.

The Dutch minister also revealed that he had also called for the disarmament of the Janjaweed.

The visiting minister also held talks with Presidential Advisor Majzoub el-Khalifa.

Committee for unification of ranks suggests formation of a “Council of the Wise” for national reconciliation

(AlSahafa) The Suwar-el-Dahab committee tasked with charting a road to national reconciliation will unveil tomorrow its plan towards that goal.

The committee had managed to organise a rare meeting between President Bashir and leaders of key opposition political parties.

Sources reveal that among the proposals are that a Council of the Wise be formed comprising President Bashir, VP Kiir, Mohamed Osman el-Mirghani, Sadiq el-Mahdi, Dr. Turabi, Nugud, Minnawi, el-Sheikh el-Hadiya, Ali el-Sanhourri and three members of the committee, namely Suwar-el-Dahab, Dafallah el-Haj Yusif and Osman Abdalla. Another suggestion is that a round-table conference of 30 persons representing a wide spectrum of the political forces and including the Darfur Peace Agreement non-signatory groups, civil society organisations and *Sufi* sects. A third suggestion is for the formation of a National Council composed of 100 persons representing all shades of the political spectrum that bases itself on the admittance of the political mistakes of the past and commitments to chart a way to a commitment that such mistakes do not occur again.

Surprise reshuffles in government ministers to take place

(AlWihda) London-based *AlHayat* reports that the parties to the CPA discussed yesterday possible ministerial reshuffles which, sources say, will carry a number of surprises.

Key ministries such as finance and interior may be affected alongside changes in the National Security apparatus.

US report describes Sudan as 'strong partner' in war on terrorism

(Los Angeles Times via SudanTribune.com) Members of the Senate Intelligence Committee on Friday challenged a recent State Department report that described the government of Sudan as a "strong partner in the War on Terror," citing the killing of hundreds of thousands of people in the Darfur region of that country.

The principal killers in Darfur have been militias widely believed to be backed by the Sudanese government.

In a letter Friday, Sens. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.), Russell D. Feingold (D-Wis.), Olympia J. Snowe (R-Maine) and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.) asked Director of National Intelligence J. Michael McConnell to back up the report's assertion that the Sudanese government had "aggressively pursued terrorist operations directly involving threats to U.S. interests and personnel in Sudan."

They said they wanted details on what actions Sudan had taken in support of U.S. counter-terrorism efforts against Al Qaeda and other groups.

The senators also questioned how Sudan could be considered a strong ally in the counter-terrorism campaign if the same State Department report listed it as a state sponsor of terrorism that provides "critical support to non-state terrorist groups." The department's list of state sponsors of terrorism includes Iran and North Korea.

"We need to understand the basis for this description, especially since some are suggesting that Sudan's cooperation on counter-terrorism is a good reason for the U.S. not to intervene to stop the genocide in Darfur," Wyden said in an interview.

Sudan's ambassador to the United States, John Ukec Lueth Ukec, said Friday that he could not discuss what the country was doing to help fight terrorism. "These are confidential issues," Ukec said. "But it is significant that these U.S. officials know that this government of Sudan has changed."

Ukec also said that the transitional government established two years ago was not involved in the mass killings in Darfur. "What happened a long time ago does not exist, and I invite the senators to come to Khartoum to see the new reality." [*Follow the link for the full text [US report describes Sudan as 'strong partner' in war on terrorism](#)*].

Summit meeting between Sudan and Egypt to discuss Darfur forces and the ICC, among other issues

(AlSahafa) President Bashir is due for talks in Cairo today with his Egyptian counterpart. The talks will focus on issues pertaining to bilateral relations between the two countries.

The Sudanese president is also set to meet the Secretary-General of the Arab League and a meeting with NDA leader Mohamed Osman el-Mirghani may also take place.

A spokesperson for the Egyptian presidency told reporters yesterday that situation in Darfur, Sudan's relations with the international community and the issue of the ICC will also feature in the talks.

Money laundering body applies 10,000 US dollar ceiling for travellers

(*National Radio via BBC Monitoring, 6 May*) The administrative committee for combating money-laundering crimes resolved at its meeting yesterday that Sudanese citizens travelling abroad be allowed to carry with them amounts within the limit of 10,000 US dollars in cash or the equivalent in other currencies.

The meeting also agreed that commercial banks and forex bureaux to facilitate the process of conversion and at reasonable rates.

Other Headlines:

- ❖ [Sudanese police use rubber bullets to break up student protest](#) (*SudanTribune.com*)
- ❖ Ministry of Interior warns of tough measures against illegal immigrants by the end of this month (*AllIntibaha*)
- ❖ Police accuse “an armed movement” of being behind the recent murder of the student of the Nilein University in Khartoum (*AlKhartoum*)
- ❖ National Congress Party and the DUP agree on coalition for forthcoming elections (*AlWifaq*)
- ❖ Police says gun collection plan for Khartoum proceeding as planned (*AlSudani*)

Southern Sudan

Kiir to address GoSS parliamentary session

(*AlWihda*) Salva Kiir is to address the GoSS parliament as it comes out of recess today.

Sources say that the GoSS President will brief parliament on the performance of the GoSS during the first quarter of this year and that his statement will focus on issues pertaining to development, services and progress in implementation of the CPA.

SPLA denies US support

(*Khartoum Monitor*) The Spokesperson for the SPLA has denied that the SPLA has received financial support to the tune of \$30 million from the USA.

He said that the SPLA has not officially been informed of any such support from the US but pointed out that the GoSS “may know better”. “We have no direct relation or military cooperation with the US,” he pointed out.

He said that the SPLA receives its funds from the GoSS and the central treasury in addition to assistance offered from friendly states.

In a separate statement, SPLA Spokesperson Kuol Diem has described as “baseless” recent rumours being spread in Juba of the death of Lt. Gen. Paulino Matip.

He said that Mr. Matip is in good health and is on private visit to Kenya from which he returns later today.

Wolves kill 3, injure 136 in Aweil

(*AlRai AIAam*) Security authorities are on high alert in Aweil town in North Bahr-el-Ghazal as they brace themselves to face an expected attack by a pack of wolves on the town.

The town has been tense since last week following an incident that wolves kill three and injure 136 people.

Darfur/ Darfur Peace Agreement

Sudan demands restricting ICC’s prosecutor visits to UN

(*SudanTribune.com*) Sudan’s envoy to the UN accused the chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), Luis Moreno-Ocampo, of jeopardizing Darfur peace process, requesting to restrict his visits to UN headquarters.

Sudan’s permanent representative to the UN, Ambassador Abdalmahmood Abdalhaleem told al-Sahafa daily that Ocampo’s is starting to add a political dimension to his work through his continuous visits to the UN and meetings with Security Council permanent representatives.

Meanwhile *AlAyaam* reports that an MP for el-Fasher (on an SPLM ticket) has slammed the National Congress Party for discouraging potential witnesses from testifying against Kosheib and Haroun. Speaking to the paper over phone, the MP said that the National Congress Party would have done better by encouraging the witnesses to testify because, he adds, the ICC issue is more of a legal than a political issue. He called upon government to hand over the two suspects to the ICC if government was sure of their innocence.

Dr. Turabi of the Popular Congress Party has also requested government to hand over the suspects to the ICC, according to *AlSahafa* daily.

Darfur governor raps humanitarian organizations over security issues

(*SUNA via BBC Monitoring, 6 May*) The governor of Southern Darfur State, Al-Haj Ata al-Mannan Idris, has said that the humanitarian and security situations in most areas of the region was stable, and this, he said, would help in giving humanitarian assistance to people who have voluntarily returned to their areas of residence.

In a meeting with the humanitarian affairs committee today, and in the presence of Mr. Hasbu Muhammad Abd-al-Rahman, the humanitarian commissioner in Sudan the governor called on

[humanitarian] organizations, to participate in the work of distributing relief foods which will also help in stabilizing situations particularly in areas where there are voluntary return.

In this regard, the governor criticized the work of some foreign [humanitarian] organizations in the region particularly in their evaluation of security situation.

He said that the work of evaluating security situation is the work of regional government represented by security committee that has the mandate of restoring security [in the region].

Joint ceasefire monitoring team to convene in Khartoum next Wednesday

(AlWihda) The parties to the Darfur Peace Agreement have agreed that a meeting of the joint ceasefire monitoring committee be held in Khartoum next Wednesday under the chairmanship of the AMIS.

Informed sources say the forthcoming meeting will see an extensive regional and international attendance with the participation of representatives of the UN, the Arab League, Canada, France, Libya, Egypt and the US and a possible Saudi and Chinese representation.

Darfur rebel movement gives cautious welcome to Riyadh agreement

(AlRai ALAam via BBC Monitoring, 6 May) The JEM has given a cautious welcome to the Riyadh agreement between President Bashir and his Chadian counterpart Idris Deby sponsored by the Saudi King last Thursday.

Chad and Sudan have both reiterated commitment to the implementation of the agreement but Chadian opposition factions have described the agreement as being naive.

In the context, the official spokesperson of the JEM Ahmad Hussein said that his movement supports, in principle, any Sudanese-Chadian settlement and welcomes a natural relation between the two peoples. He explained that such relations have positive influence in resolving the issue of Darfur, adding that the positive atmosphere between Khartoum and N'djamena could pave for a peaceful solution. Hussein described the agreement as positive agreement. He says that it means that the government has abandoned security solution and endeavours to overthrow the regime in Chad.

He told Al-Ra'y al-Amm that the agreement would not affect JEM from the procedural aspect because it has no military presence inside Chad and its leadership do not live in the Chadian capital N'djamena, pointing out that leaders of the movement visit Chad as their visits to any other countries. He stressed that JEM exists inside Sudan and fights starting from Sudanese lands.

AbdulWahid Nur refuses to coordinate with the NRF

(Alwan) The leader of the non-signatory SLM faction says his movement will never join the NRF and will have no political or military coordination with the Front.

Addressing over phone a political forum organised by a students' political group in Nilein University, Khartoum, the AbdulWahid Muhamed Nur pointed out that the NRF is the same as the JEM. He said that the SLM and the JEM do not share the same views as the JEM seeks to establish an Islamic state in Sudan while the SLM is advocating a liberal, democratic state.

He said that the solution to the problems of Darfur lies in a regime change in Khartoum, the return of IDPs to their villages, protection for the civilians and disarmament of what he dubbed "government-backed militias".

He vowed that the SLM will change the government.

NRF reportedly faces "division"

(SMC via BBC Monitoring, 4 May) The National Redemption Front [NRF] faces the risk of division that may be the greatest division that is spreading within the factions' active in the Darfur Province crisis. This is due to the declaration by the Sudan Liberation Movement's [SLM] field leaders of their refusal of the NRF's intention to name AbdulWahid Muhammad Nur to the post of secretary-general within the framework for the integration of the Abuja rejectionists' factions.

Commander Othman Muhammad al-Bushra, the prominent field commander in the movement, said: "The field commanders of the movement will hold a conference," which he described as urgent, "to discuss the possibility of appointing a revolutionary liberation council to lead the movement militarily and politically in the event that Abd-al-Wahid Nur is officially named the NRF's secretary general."

He stressed that the meeting will discuss the general conditions in the NRF movement and the situation in the province, focusing on the humanitarian situation as well as the composition of a revolutionary liberation council to manage the movement, in war and peace, and prepare for the general conference.

In the same context, Abd-al-Aziz Nur Ushar, a leading figure in the Justice and Equality Movement [JEM] and leader in the NRF, launched a vicious attack on Dr Ahmad Ibrahim Dirayj.

Ushar announced in a press statement on behalf of the general secretariat of the NRF, that the assumption of Dr Dirayj to the presidency of the NRF is a scheme in which the elected secretariat was not consulted in, according to the statement which explained that the composition of the front's structures has not yet been agreed upon, and that the reports on Dirayj presidency of the NRF are unfounded.

It is noteworthy to mention, that NRF sources had confirmed late last week that the Front will announce that Dr Dirayj, president of the Federal Alliance faction, as president of the NRF, with Dr Khalil Ibrahim as his deputy and Abd-al-Wahid Muhammad Nur, SLM president, as secretary-general.