

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS**Media Monitoring Report, 8 May 2007

(By Public Information Office)

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

IN THE NEWS TODAY:**➤ UN/ Agencies/ Partners**

- UN's Ban welcomes Sudan Chad reconciliation agreement
- Eliasson and Salim to draft road-map for Darfur
- Governor in Kassala says it is necessary that INGOs shift their focus from relief to development activities

➤ CPA

- Energy minister says some southern oil companies violating CPA and the Constitution
- Disarmament committee to start arms collection from the SSDF next Thursday

➤ The Transition Debate

- Egypt urges Sudan to seek comprehensive Darfur peace
- AU chairman says pressuring Khartoum and the non-signatory factions to accept
- China willing to send engineers to Darfur to support UN force

➤ Government of National Unity

- Suwar-el-Dahab committee to announce today the results of its efforts for unification of ranks
- Police and the Popular National Forces agree on Khartoum disarmament plan in a bid to restore the rule of law

➤ Southern Sudan

- Sudan denies death of South Sudan Paulino Matip
- Ugandan Lord's Resistance Army team in Sudan gets presidential guards

➤ Darfur/ Darfur Peace Agreement

- British embassy denies claims its envoy travels in Darfur without permission
- Chad to monitor NRF camps in Chad
- Sudan Lawyers' Union sends memo to the ICC

HIGHLIGHTS :

UN/ Agencies/ Partners

UN's Ban welcomes Sudan Chad reconciliation agreement

(*UN News*) Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today welcomed the latest agreement between Chad and Sudan aimed at calming tensions in the strife-torn Sudanese region of Darfur and the eastern area of the neighboring country.

“The agreement is a positive step towards normalizing the relations between Chad and Sudan, which is a very important factor in resolving the tragic conflicts in both Darfur and eastern Chad,” Mr. Ban’s spokesperson, Michele Montas, said in a statement on the agreement signed on 3 May in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

“It is now crucial for the parties to honor their agreements and, in close collaboration with the United Nations and the African Union, to work together to achieve lasting peace and stability,” Ms. Montas said.

She added that the Secretary-General commended King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia, under whose auspices the agreement was signed.

Eliasson and Salim to draft road-map for Darfur

(*AlKhartoum; AlWihda*) Envoys Jan Eliasson and Salim Ahmed Salim are expected in the country today to follow up on their joint mission.

Following a meeting yesterday in Cairo with the Secretary-General of the Arab League, Eliasson told the press in Cairo that ongoing talks with all international players concerned with the crisis in Darfur agree that there is no military solution to the crisis and that the political process remains the only and logical solution.

He expressed hopes that the political and military movements in Darfur would accept talks with the Sudan government and underscored the importance of such talks that he said the UN has started preparations for.

African Union envoy Salim Ahmed Salim said that the meeting with Secretary-General Amru Musa was in a bid to gain the support of the Arab League for efforts to resolve the Darfur issue. He said that the African Union appreciates the League’s efforts in this regard.

On his part, the Secretary-General of the Arab League told the press that his discussions with the envoys also dwelt on whether there was a need for other measures, be in on the implementation or addition aspects, to reinvigorate the DPA. He said that they also outlined the positive aspects of the recent meeting held in Tripoli, the outcome of the Saudi initiative for reconciliation between Sudan and Chad, the importance attached to the ongoing visit to Cairo by President Bashir and his talks with the Egyptian leader.

In a separate development and following his meeting with envoys Eliasson and Salim, the Egyptian foreign minister said that his country intends to open a diplomatic office in Darfur to monitor developments in the situation there.

Meanwhile in Khartoum, Spokesperson Nouredine Mezni says the road-map the envoys have been tasked with drafting will feature a timeline, a perspective on the form the envisaged talks between the government and the non-signatory factions will take and the issues on which these talks will be based.

Mezni says the talks would take a different form from the Abuja talks.

On the implementation of the DPA, the AMIS Spokesperson pointed out that some real achievements have been made in implementation of the deal but added that these important steps are not enough because the DPA has not fully been implemented.

In another development, the Acting head of the AMIS underlined to the visiting Dutch Minister for International Cooperation the need for the international community to meet its obligations towards Darfur especially in the fields of development and easing the suffering of the people of Darfur. She says international support should not be pegged to the signing of an agreement. *[Follow the link to the text of the AMIS statement on the issue [Dutch minister for Development Cooperation visits AMIS Headquarters](#)]*

But Abdelwahid al-Nur, the leader of the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) accused in a statement to Sudan Tribune, the international community of ignoring the root causes of Darfur conflict. “The government confiscated the land, killed Darfurians and replaced them by new comers. So, we need to stop the killing, restitute the land to evicted legitimate owners and allocate individual compensations for IDPs and refugees,” he stressed.

He said the international mediators are working to conclude a new deal and to legalize the status quo. Al-Nur blamed the international actors saying they avoid to meet him, while they are preparing a “New Abuja” under worst conditions: appropriate the land and put pressures on the victims of the conflict. *[Follow the link to the story on AbdulWahid [SLM leader raises doubts over Darfur peace efforts](#)].*

Governor in Kassala says it is necessary that INGOs shift their focus from relief to development activities

(AlSharei AlSiyassi) The Governor of Kassala State held talks yesterday with the visiting representative of the OCHA in Khartoum who is currently on a visit to the region in a bid to consolidate coordination between activities of UN humanitarian agencies operating in the region and within the framework of the steps taken by the international organisations to shift from relief to development programs.

The two sides discussed the role expected of the agencies in the region and means for coordination between the agencies and the HAC. They agreed on the need to exert concerted

efforts for the implementation of the programs and on training and capacity-building in development programs for local organisations and communities.

CPA

Energy minister says some southern oil companies violating CPA and the Constitution

(The Citizen) The Minister of Energy and Mining told parliament yesterday that some petroleum companies in southern Sudan are out of line with the CPA and the Interim National Constitution.

He added that the files of these companies were submitted to the Oil Commission which would deal with them in line with the CPA and the Constitution.

Disarmament committee to start arms collection from the SSDF next Thursday

(Alwan) The DDR Committee starts next Thursday the disarmament of the SSDF in Wau and Raja.

SSDF second-in-command, Commander el-Toum el-Nour Daldoum told the *SMC* that the disarmament exercise will be carried out in line with the Protocol on Security Arrangements as cited in the CPA. He said he will brief the SSDF in Wau and Raja tomorrow to facilitate the work of the committee as agreed. He said that the exercise may be over by next Saturday and that he would return to Khartoum the next day.

Daldoum on the other hand slammed the SPLM on what he termed its dictatorial ways in southern Sudan. He pointed out that the freedom of opinion and expression are totally absent in the south and the SPLA continues to carry out arbitrary arrests.

National Congress Party slams Washington on support for the SPLA

(Allintibaha) The National Congress Party has slammed Washington over its financial support for training and upgrading the SPLA and protection for the GoSS leader.

The party called on Washington to change the way it deals with Sudan and to provide the support for development in the south instead of for the SPLA especially as it is peacetime.

The Transition Debate

Egypt urges Sudan to seek comprehensive Darfur peace

(AFP via SudanTribune.com) Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Monday urged his Sudanese counterpart Omar al-Beshir to seek a comprehensive Darfur peace deal modeled on the agreement that ended Sudan's 21-year north-south war.

"There is no alternative to the broadening of the Abuja accord to include all rebel factions," Mubarak's spokesman Suleiman Awwad told reporters after the two presidents met.

Mubarak stressed that a peace deal in Darfur should be "inspired by the Machakos protocols and Naivasha agreement."

Awwad said Egypt would only send additional police and army forces to Darfur if a more inclusive peace agreement was reached there.

"President Mubarak stressed that Egypt saw as inappropriate the attempt by some international powers to increase the pressure on Sudan," Awwad said. [Follow the links for more on this story [Egypt urges Sudan to seek comprehensive Darfur peace](#); [Egypt, Arabs not willing to pressure Sudan on Darfur](#)].

AU chairman says pressuring Khartoum and the non-signatory factions to accept

(*AlSahafa*) Ghana's President and current Chairman of the African Union says the African Union continues in its efforts for a peaceful settlement to the problems of Darfur and has spared no efforts towards helping restore security and stability in Darfur.

He expressed support for the efforts of the AMIS in Darfur and pointed out that the large area of Darfur makes it difficult for them to totally control the situation.

President John Kofour was speaking at the opening session of the Pan-African Parliament in Johannesburg recently.

China willing to send engineers to Darfur to support UN force

(*AP via SudanTribune.com*) China, which generally has opposed international efforts to bring peace to Sudan's Darfur region, is willing to send hundreds of engineers to the area to support a U.N.-backed deployment of peacekeepers, the U.S. State Department said.

"We see this as a positive development, and we appreciate China's contribution in the international effort to stop the violence in Darfur," department press officer Gonzalo Gallegos said.

He said the engineers will help prepare for the arrival of a hybrid force of 3,000 U.N. and African Union peacekeepers in Darfur. Subsequently, upward of 17, 000 additional troops are due to be stationed there in keeping with a U.N. plan to protect and provide relief for 2.5 million Darfurians confined to camps in the devastated region.

The Sudanese government has yet to agree to the larger force. "We look to China to use its significant leverage in Khartoum to make this happen as soon as possible," Gallegos said.

Other links:

- [Darfur women appeal to the UN following abduction and rape](#)
- [Imposed unity on Darfur rebels will not bring peace](#)
- [Egyptian troops are unwelcome in Darfur - SLM](#)

Government of National Unity

Suwar-el-Dahab committee to announce today the results of its efforts for unification of ranks

(*AlSahafa*) Retired Field-Marshal and one-time interim President of the Republic, AbdelRahman Suwar-el-Dahab, says the security and political situation is so bad that it calls for urgent solutions through dialogue between the stakeholders.

Suwar-el-Dahab who heads a committee charged with reunifying national ranks in the country said that the committee he leads has managed to formulate an acceptable perspective for solutions to the country's problems and is determined to proceed with firm steps towards that end.

He said that Sudan would be able to resolve these problems if only left alone. He cited the incessant attempts by some members of the Security Council to impose sanctions on Sudan as an example of the threats the country is facing from beyond its borders.

Police and the Popular National Forces agree on Khartoum disarmament plan in a bid to restore the rule of law

(*AlSudani*) Khartoum Police and the Popular National Forces [*popularly known by its acronym "GOSH"*] have agreed to work together to collect unlicensed guns in Khartoum State.

A statement issued by the Police warned that the police will deal decisively with any incident of insecurity and called on armed groups to hand over those illegal arms in their possession.

Southern Sudan

Sudan denies death of South Sudan Paulino Matip

(*SudanTribune.com*) The media advisor at the Sudanese embassy in Nairobi, has totally denied reports from Khartoum regarding the death of deputy chief commander of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) Paulino Matip. The media advisor affirmed that Paulino was in good health and had been residing in Nairobi for four days.

The media advisor at the Sudanese embassy in Nairobi, Ms Sumaya Abdelsadiq told the official SUNA that General Paulino was currently in Nairobi at the Grand Regency Hotel. He had arrived on Friday May 4 coming from South Africa from a regular medical treatment trip. Sumayah said she met Paulino this evening at the hotel he is residing in.

She said rumors were spread around in the past few days saying that the leader Paulino had died in South Africa and when the rumors were discredited another one was fabricated saying that Paulino was among the victims of the Kenyan plane crash in Cameroon.

Gen. Paulino also sent out a message to the Sudanese people from his residence in Nairobi reassuring them that he was alive and in good health. He said reports about his death in a hospital

in South Africa or in a plane crash were baseless and merely rumors aimed at creating confusion and to destabilize the country.

His speech which was aimed at those wishing him death said he had not yet died and the speech to those who loved him and wished him life said he was still alive and in the best of health.

Paulino Matib said "No one likes death but it is a reality that everyone faces and there is no way of escaping it, yet I am still alive thanks be to God."

He ended his message by saying "These kinds of rumors makes enemies of peace who do not like stability in the country happy and they seek to bring confusion which causes vandalism and creates division among the people of our dear country".

Meanwhile in Khartoum, prominent SPLM member Atem Garang agrees with Matib that those who spread such rumors of the death of Matib or VP Kiir are enemies of peace.

Garang who is also the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly pointed out that the state security apparatus should find out the identity of those who spread such rumors if professionalism is what they sough, *AlSudani* daily reports.

AlRai AlAam reports that many residents of the Kalakla area south of Khartoum that is home to a number of Matib's supporters left their houses yesterday for fear of what his supporters would do should rumors of his death be confirmed.

Ugandan Lord's Resistance Army team in Sudan gets presidential guards

(*Daily Monitor via BBC Monitoring, 7 May*) The Lord's Resistance Army delegates at the Juba peace talks have been given presidential guards as part of the new security arrangement to boost their confidence and protection. The security detail around the LRA delegates has been greatly increased with more armed guards following consistent complaints that they are under threat.

Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) soldiers have been deployed at the Juba Bridge Hotel where the rebel side resides, while others travel with the delegates whenever they are going for meetings.

Unlike the previous deployment, this time some of the soldiers, both in civilian and military uniform, have walkie-talkies and carry automatic weapons. Four soldiers have been deployed at the entrance to the hotel on a 24-hour basis in addition to others inside the compound. Delegates talking a walk outside the hotel are escorted by the presidential guards.

"They have changed the guards. We have new ones", LRA publicist Godfrey Ayoo said when contacted. "All this is intended to improve our security" he added.

Some of the guards were drawn from the VIP protection unit, protecting President Salva Kiir and the Vice-President, Riek Machar.

According to sources, the VIP protection personnel of the SPLA have been trained by the United States Army. Similar protection like that offered to the LRA is granted to visiting dignitaries.

The increased security around the LRA delegation is one of the conditions, the rebels, UN and the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) reached as a condition to resume the peace talks after they bolted out in January alleging lack of personal security and bias by the mediation.

The LRA claimed that some Ugandan and Sudanese army intelligence operatives would ransack their rooms in search of security related information whenever they are out negotiating with the government side. But both sides have denied the allegations.

Other Headlines from the *SudanTribune.com*

- [Southern Sudan SPLM Mobilization Campaign kicks off in Rumbek](#)
- [South Sudan Jonglei leaders endorse UK oil White Nile](#)
- [South Sudan to increase women participation to 25%](#)
- [SPLM MPs urge Sudan ruling party to hand over Darfur suspects](#)

Darfur/ Darfur Peace Agreement

British embassy denies claims its envoy travels in Darfur without permission

(*Akhir Lahza via BBC Monitoring, 5 May*) The British embassy in Khartoum has denied that the British Ambassador Ian Cliff visited South Darfur state without government permission.

In its response to the report published in *Akhir Lahzah* on 26 April, the embassy said that the British ambassador to Sudan had always requested travel permits from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs [when travelling to any Sudanese states].

Chad to monitor NRF camps in Chad

(*Alwihda*) A member of the NRF Military Council says Chadian officials are monitoring NRF camps in Chadian territory.

He expressed fears that following the recent reconciliation deal between Sudan and Chad, the Chadian authorities may decide to expel the NRF altogether from Chadian territory.

Sudan Lawyers' Union sends memo to the ICC

(*AlKhabar et al*) The Dean of the Sudan Lawyers' Union says the fraternity has drafted a memorandum still under study to be sent to the ICC prosecutor challenging as illegal the summons for Haroun and Kosheib.

Fathi Khalil pointed out that the action by the law fraternity is not in defence of the two men but in defence of humanitarian rights. He said that the union is also in extensive consultation with international and Arab counterparts to stay the ICC summons.