

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS**Media Monitoring Report, 10 May 2007

(By Public Information Office)

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HIGHLIGHTS :

UN/ Agencies/ Partners*

Coverage on the UNMIS regular briefing to the press [please refer to the transcript attached separately for more on the briefing]

(Xinhua via SudanTribune.com; the local press) The United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) said on Wednesday that the deployment of some 3,000 UN personnel to reinforce the African Union (AU) force in the western Sudanese region of Darfur would start after six months.

UNMIS Spokesperson Radhia Achouri told a press conference that "You should not expect any of these people to be deployed under the Heavy Support Package (HSP) before six months."

In order to start the implementation, "we need the actual groundwork to be done and for that we need the land, we need to provide water resources," the UNMIS spokesperson stressed.

She added that the UN personnel could not be sent to Darfur if the logistical side that would provide for their actual accommodation and offices were not ready yet with the requirements in terms of security and so on.

On the humanitarian situation in Darfur, the spokesperson said that new displacements continued to be reported throughout Darfur, as result of inter-tribal fighting and militia attacks.

She said that food distributions in Kalma Camp in south Darfur remained suspended since a riot of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the camp on April 26.

"The IDPs did not proceed in an orderly fashion and provoked a riot and of course riots present an immediate and obvious threat to the conducting of any operation so this suspended the food distribution," Achouri added.

She said that weapons and alcohol had been spotted in some IDP camps and various armed groups had also been founded around certain camps.

Most of the major dailies printing in Arabic language have reported on the press conference ... each with its own focus. Most of the coverage was factual and, presumably, based on the transcript from the Office of the Spokesperson. Akbar Alyaum daily goes a step ahead and produces the full length of the transcript bar the "Questions and Answers" part.

The briefing has not been covered by any of the local English language dailies.

Two UN vehicles hijacked by unknown gunmen in Darfur

(Xinhua via SudanTribune.com) Two vehicles of the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) have been hijacked by unknown gunmen in the conflict-torn western Sudanese region of Darfur, well-informed sources said on Wednesday.

The sources told Xinhua that an unidentified number of international and local staff, members of the UNMIS Darfur Office, in the vehicles were believed kidnapped.

The two vehicles were on a routine duty on the outskirts of Fashir, the capital of North Darfur State, when the UNMIS Darfur Office in the city lost contacts with them, according to the sources.

Meanwhile, the sources announced that two Sudanese employees of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and their driver, who had been kidnapped in Fashir, were released by the abductors on Wednesday.

On Tuesday, three gunmen hijacked the vehicle which the three Sudanese were driving and drove it northward to Katam, an area where rebel National Redemption Front (NRF) are actively launching military actions against the government forces.

The abductions took place at a time when the UN was considering how to implement a plan of sending some 3000 soldiers, policemen and civilian officers to reinforce the African Union (AU) peacekeeping force in Darfur.

The plan, which known as "the Heavy Support Package (HSP)", is the second step of a three-phase deal on the deploying a UN-AU hybrid force in Darfur, was approved by the Sudanese government on April 16.

UNMIS has called for a cessation of hostilities before the HSP could be delivered from the UN to the 7800-strong AU force in Darfur.

UN demands end to Darfur air strikes

(AFP via SudanTribune.com) UN chief Ban Ki-moon on Wednesday called for an end to reported air bombardments by Sudanese government forces in war-ravaged Darfur and urged all sides to cooperate with mediation efforts to end the conflict.

UN spokeswoman Michele Montas said Ban was "deeply concerned by reports of aerial bombardments in north Darfur over last three weeks" which have caused destruction, loss of life and new displacement of civilians.

She gave no further details on exactly when and where the air strikes took place. [*Follow the link to the full text [UN demands end to Darfur air strikes](#)*].

Darfur Peace Agreement Joint Commission meets in Khartoum for the first time

(AlSahafa; AlYaam) The Darfur Peace Agreement Joint Commission met for the first time in Khartoum yesterday.

The joint committee comprises the Government of Sudan, the African Union, the UN and observers from the US and the EU.

Speaking to the press following the meeting that dragged until late yesterday, AMIS Spokesperson Nouredine Mezni said that the agenda contained a number of issues including violations of the ceasefire with the chairperson citing five instances of violations including the continued attacks on AMIS forces. He said that their aim is to determine the perpetrators of these violations.

AlAyaam meanwhile reports that the acting head of AMIS, Monique Mukaruliza, has announced the formation of two teams from the government and the AMIS to deliberate on an African Union document on the issue of the Janjaweed. She underlined the need for the two sides to meet as soon as possible to discuss the paper.

The deputy head of AMIS told the press following the meeting of the Darfur Peace Agreement Joint Committee that the meeting discussed also the measures the AMIS has taken to cut down on the number of representatives of the armed movements in the committee. She pointed out that time was not enough for the participants to come out with a joint position to deliberate on the violations.

Egypt to launch new peace plan for Sudan's Darfur

(*AP via SudanTribune.com*) Under Western criticism for doing little to pressure Sudan to curb violence in Darfur, Egypt announced Wednesday that it is offering a new peace plan in the war-torn African nation.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Aboul Gheit described the Egyptian proposal as "a road map" for a political process that would also "alleviate international tension."

Aboul Gheit said the plan would set certain goals to be met in a specific timetable for bringing peace back to Darfur.

"In addition, it will include a set of incentives and punitive measures in order to ensure a fast agreement between the rebel movements and the government," said Aboul Gheit.

The minister offered little details about the plan but said it include an international conference on Darfur similar to one held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in November. At that meeting Sudan accepted a hybrid African and international peacekeeping force in Darfur - though it has since balked at implementing the joint force of 20,000 peacekeepers.

US wants France playing bigger role in Darfur peacekeeping

(*SudanTribune.com*) The United States wants the new elected French president to play an important role in Darfur peacekeeping mission, particularly in the no-fly zone, state department spokesman Sean McCormack told reporters in Washington on May 7.

One idea that would require French help is creating a "no-fly" zone to protect Darfur, should the "international system" decide to take that step, McCormack said.

French President-elect Nicolas Sarkozy's well-publicized admiration for the U.S. creates an atmosphere for improved relations after years of friction, according to political analysts and former diplomats.

Elizabeth Jones, former assistant secretary of state for Europe, now an executive vice president of APCO Worldwide, a Washington-based consulting firm, told Bloomberg that better U.S.-French relations at NATO headquarters may translate into an effective collaboration to address the Darfur crisis.

The *AFP* meanwhile reports that more than 100 US lawmakers signed a robustly worded letter calling on China's President Hu Jintao to take immediate action to stop bloodshed in Darfur, a senior lawmaker said Thursday.

"The international community is stepping up to its responsibilities, but unless China does its part to ensure that the government of Sudan accepts the best and most reasonable path to peace, history will judge your government as having bank-rolled a genocide," the letter to Hu read.

The letter also warned China's image could be tarnished ahead of the 2008 Beijing Olympics if it failed to do more to curtail Khartoum.

** Please refer to Special Media Monitoring Report attached separately for more on the activities of envoys Eliasson and Salim and related issues.*

CPA

Military commanders of the peace forces call for reintegration of remaining forces

(*Alwan*) High-rank officers of the Sudan Peace Forces under Commander el-Toum el-Nur daldoum have called waged fierce criticism of the government for what it termed its "policies of cheap polarization" targeting some SPLM figures.

Abu-Younis, a high rank officer of the said forces based in South Darfur also singled out criticism on the Border Intelligence Unit for carrying out activities that sow dissent between the tribes of the region.

Another officer called on the government to draw clear-cut policies for the reintegration of the other armed factions.

SPLM calls for withdrawal of its representatives in Blue Nile State government

(*AlAyaam*) The SPLM has ordered all its representatives in the executive and legislative organs of government in the regional government of Blue Nile State to withdraw until further notice.

This step follows differences sparked by differences over the inclusion of the areas of Oulo and Diuk to the new-formed Tadamoun Locality.

A spokesperson for the SPLM in Blue Nile region said that representatives of the SPLM, the National Congress Party and the local administration had requested the state governor not to include those areas into the new locality but he acted against their advice.

Government of National Unity

Southern Sudan

1000 killed in Lakes State inter-klan fighting since two year

(SRS via SudanTribune.com) The Governor of Lakes state said inter-klan fighting and cattle rustling have hampered the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in state. He further added 1000 people have been killed since two years.

Speaking in Nairobi on Sunday, The Governor of Lakes stat Daniel Awet Akot claims more than 1000 people have been killed in ethnic clashes since the CPA was signed in Lakes state, the Sudan Radio service (SRS) reported.

He said over 500 people have been arrested for “causing insecurity” in the state, among them chiefs who are accused of hiding guns.

Akot said the main challenges to his administration’s efforts to implement the CPA fully are insecurity and an overstaffed civil service. However, he pointed out that security in the state has greatly improved following a recent, successful disarmament exercise.

Lakes Governor of Akot also said that his government has stopped pastoralists from crossing into Western Equatoria state with their cattle to avoid conflict between the farmers there and the pastoralists.

He added that he and the governors of Warrap, Unity, Central Equatoria, and Jonglei states have all deployed security units to patrol their common borders and try to control cattle rustling.

Other Headlines:

- [SPLM veterans criticize Salva Kiir management of Southern Sudan](#)

Darfur/ Darfur Peace Agreement

Ex-rebel leader, Dutch minister discuss Darfur

(Sudan Radio via BBC Monitoring, 9 May) Senior Presidential aide Mani Minnawi and Dutch Development Cooperation Minister [Bert Koenders] yesterday in Al-Fashir [capital of Northern Darfur State] discussed the security situation and humanitarian issues in the Darfur states and means of including the Abuja Agreement non-signatories in the peace process.

Minnawi reiterated the support of the Transitional Darfur Regional Authority [TDRA] to all earnest attempts and initiatives aimed at reaching a comprehensive and lasting peace in Darfur.

The Presidential Aide also called on the international community to support the TDRA.

Israel mulls \$5 million for Darfur

(UPI via SudanTribune.com) Israel's foreign ministry has recommended donating \$5 million in aid and supplies to help refugees in Sudan's war-torn western Darfur region.

Daniel Miron, head of the ministry's Human Rights Division, made the announcement in Jerusalem Wednesday, saying the recommendation was to give \$4 million to four international aid organizations and to purchase \$1 million in medicine and water purification equipment from Israeli companies for the refugees, YNetNews reported.

"Israel cannot stand by while such a severe humanitarian crisis is taking place — the most severe in the world today — without trying to reach out and help," Miron said.

As well, he said the ministry's Center for International Cooperation wants to establish a treatment camp in Kenya where two Israeli doctors would care for patients.

The report said senior ministry officials will hold several meetings before deciding on the recommendations.

Other Developments

Danforth receives peacemaker award for Sudan deal

(St. Louis Journal via SudanTribune.com) Former US President envoy to Sudan John Danforth received the Catholic Theological Union's (CTU) 2007 "Blessed are the Peacemakers" Award, the ST Louis Business Journal reported Wednesday.

The former U.S. senator brokered peace talks between the government of Sudan and the former rebel Sudan Liberation Movement to end a 22 years north-south war. He was appointed on September 2001.

Danforth received the award Wednesday at CTU's 17th annual Trustee Dinner at Chicago's Westin Hotel. CTU, in Chicago, is the largest graduate school of theology and ministry in the United States. [*Follow the link for more on this story* [Danforth receives peacemaker award for Sudan deal](#)]