

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS**Media Monitoring Report, 13 May 2007

(By Public Information Office)

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

- Justice Minister criticizes UNMIS Spokesperson over “exaggerations” in reports
- Sudan has met obligations towards support packages, says Sudan representative to the UN
- UN to triple repatriation rate of Sudanese refugees in Uganda
- UN says to check on 45,000 Chadians in Darfur
- UN rights chief accuses Sudan of "disproportionate" attacks
- Sudan poised to discuss Darfur crisis with openness

➤ CPA

- Daldoum says SPLM seeking secession of the south before the referendum
- Parties to the CPA differ over census questionnaire

➤ Government of National Unity

- Government says willing to study evidence against Kosheib and Haroun
- Darfur envoys support Salva Kiir initiative on Darfur
- China appoints special envoy to focus on Darfur crisis
- International community ineffective in Darfur: African MPs
- Minnawi calls on the international community to refrain from sending negative signals to the DPA non-signatories

➤ Southern Sudan

- GoSS agrees to unify education curricula
- Over 300 arms handed over to authorities in Wau
- SPLA graduates Special Forces
- Paulino Matip calls for calm in South Sudan

➤ Darfur/ Darfur Peace Agreement

- Darfur border demarcation committee to wind up its work within 10 days
- SLM-AbdulWahid sets conditions for talks with government

➤ Other Developments

- Sudan to hold talks with eastern group in Eritrea

HIGHLIGHTS :

UN/ Agencies/ Partners

Justice Minister criticizes UNMIS Spokesperson over “exaggerations” in reports

(The weekend local press) The Minister of Justice Mohamed Ali Al Mardi criticized the emotional and nonobjective statements made by Radhia Achouri the Spokesperson of UNMIS. In statements to the press yesterday, he accused the Achouri of exaggeration in its reports. He stated that what Achouri said about IDP camps is not accurate, and she knows that the increase of IDP influx to camps is mainly the result of rumors circulated by organizations (I think he means NGOs) about instability. He added that Achouri is sending wrong messages to the armed groups and those who oppose peace, which encourages them to continue threatening peace. He said that Achouri's style is the same style of Jan Pronk. He noted the suspicious silence of the UN about the attacks of armed groups on UN and AMIS personnel. The Minister stated that UNMIS Spokesperson omits talking about the mistakes of the UN and the false reports on the situation in Darfur, as well as the infractions committed by UN personnel. In this regard, the Minister stated that legal measures were taken against UN staff, and that these measures were legally sound, affirming that the Agreement with the UN does not justify that its personnel commits crimes in breach of the law.

The Humanitarian Commission also condemned statement attributed to Radhia Achouri, UNMIS Spokesperson, in which she accused the Government of violating the Joint Communiqué on facilitation of humanitarian work in Darfur signed by the UN and the Sudanese Government. A statement received by the Sudan Media Centre (SMC), signed by Hassabou Mohamed Abdul Rahman, the General Commissioner, and accused Achouri of providing false information and negative signals on the humanitarian situation in Darfur. He requested Achouri to conduct her work in conformity with tasks assigned to her and not to politicize the humanitarian situation in Darfur.

The statement requested the humanitarian organizations to commit to the principles of neutrality, transparency, independence, and nondiscrimination between citizens and to work based on the criteria on the needs inside and outside the camps. He affirmed that the Sudanese Government has continued to provide special facilitation to humanitarian assistance in the context of the "fast track procedures". Professor Hassabou affirmed that the statements attributed to Achouri are void of truth and that Achouri has continued to provide negative and erroneous information. He added that the Government was praised last week by the joint committee (the one that follows up on the Joint Communiqué implementation for its facilitation of humanitarian work, and expressed his surprise at the irresponsible statements made by Achouri. The statement said that the high technical committees toured the three States of Darfur and met with the Walis and Security officials, and the joint sub- committee as well as all the UN agencies and NGOs. All these reported that the humanitarian situation in Darfur was stable. The statement also says that humanitarian indicators are stable and denied that some groups of people in Darfur are not receiving assistance, be it by the Government or the WFP and the Red Cross. He added that the joint committees, which comprise the Government UN and the Organizations that work at the federal and state levels, meet regularly to follow up of the facilitation of humanitarian assistance

delivery. He added that the SOFA Agreement mentioned by Achouri applies only to the CPA and the UN's role in Darfur is limited to Human Rights Monitors, logistical and technical support to AMIS, and that UNMIS has nothing to do with the organizations (humanitarian).

Sudan has met obligations towards support packages, says Sudan representative to the UN

(*Allintibaha*) Sudan's ambassador to the United Nations says Sudan has met all its obligations towards the implementation of the Light and Heavy Support Packages and the agreement with the United Nations on facilitating humanitarian operations.

Ambassador AbdelMahmoud AbdelHaleem pointed out that what is now required is for the United Nations to make avail the necessary resources and support as lined out in the support packages so that African states can then decide to contribute troops.

He also pointed out that the United Nations should reinforce the peace process by intensifying the joint efforts of envoys Eliasson and Salim with the view of rejuvenating the peaceful process. He said that during their last visit to Khartoum, the two envoys noticed how serious Khartoum was in trying to bring the DPA non-signatory factions on board and bring an end to hostilities in order to achieve a lasting ceasefire agreement.

The representative pointed out that the accusations being levied on the Sudan from time to time by some agencies only reflects the failure of the other side to meet their obligations. This, he said, is a cover to their failure to commit financial and logistic support.

UN to triple repatriation rate of Sudanese refugees in Uganda

(*Xinhua via SudanTribune.com*) The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has said it is to triple the repatriation rate of Sudanese refugees in Uganda following the improved security and assurances from the government of southern Sudan.

A joint communiqué between the governments of Uganda, Sudan and the UN refugee agency sent to Xinhua on Friday said the parties agreed to gradually increase weekly repatriation numbers from the current 1,200 per week to 3,600 per week.

"The parties recognized the need to expedite the pace of voluntary repatriation in an orderly, phased, humane, dignified manner, and finding effective and timely solutions to outstanding questions," the communiqué issued after the first meeting of the Tripartite Commission on repatriation of Sudanese refugees in Uganda said. [*Follow the link for the full text [UN to triple repatriation rate of Sudanese refugees in Uganda](#)*].

UN says to check on 45,000 Chadians in Darfur

(*Reuters via SudanTribune.com*) Sudan has asked a United Nations team to travel to its troubled Darfur region to evaluate the status and needs of 45,000 men, women and children who have crossed over from Chad, the U.N. refugee agency said on Friday.

The Chadians, who have crossed the border in the last three months, appear to be mainly Arab nomads. It was not clear whether they were refugees fleeing conflict in Chad or had just crossed the border, UNHCR spokeswoman Helene Caux said.

"The Sudanese government has asked us to provide assistance. An assessment mission of different U.N. agencies is trying to go at the weekend," Caux said in Geneva.

"At this point we don't know who they are and we need more information — are they refugees or nomads, have some been fighters in Chad? We have to determine their status."

Sudanese authorities have told the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) that the Chadians have gathered at the border near Foro Baranga, in West Darfur, according to Caux.

Kingsley Amaning, U.N. humanitarian coordinator in Chad, said he was not aware of the exodus but said there seemed to be fewer Arabs in eastern Chad, where the number of displaced Chadians has tripled to 150,000 since November. [*Follow the link for the full text [UN says to check on 45,000 Chadians in Darfur](#)*].

UN rights chief accuses Sudan of "disproportionate" attacks

(Reuters via SudanTribune.com) The United Nations' human rights chief on Friday said recent air raids by Sudanese forces on at least five Darfur villages appeared to be "indiscriminate and disproportionate", and violated international law.

The attacks between April 19 and 29 have already been condemned by U.S. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, although Khartoum says they never took place.

Making no reference to the Sudanese denial, the office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights Louise Arbour said the attacks were reportedly carried out by helicopter gunships and Antonov aircraft.

There were "numerous civilian casualties and destruction of property," with school children amongst the wounded, Arbour's spokesman Jose Luis Diaz said in a statement. [*Follow the link for the full text [UN rights chief accuses Sudan of "disproportionate" attacks](#)*]

Sudan poised to discuss Darfur crisis with openness

(SudanTribune.com) Presidential Assistant Nafei Ali Nafei has reiterated Sudan's commitment to peace process in southern and western parts of the country. He further expressed government's readiness for dialogue and negotiations with openness with the international community over Darfur.

In a meeting with new European Union Special Representative to Sudan Torben Brylle, the presidential assistant, Nafei Ali Nafei, has affirmed Sudan's commitment to the peace process in a bid to end conflicts in Darfur. He also affirmed readiness of his government to negotiate with the non-signatories of Abuja peace agreement.

Nafei said that the talks centered on the progress of the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, and in this regard, pointed out the efforts being made in the implementation of the articles of the peace agreement.

He further discussed the efforts being made by the two partners in the peace process in pushing forward the peace process in the country.

He explained to the EU official the importance of having cooperation with Sudan in a clear and transparent way far from double standards and private agenda.

For his part, the EU representative said that the meeting discussed how to push the political process forward and the studying of the various issues regarding the problem to outline ways in which the EU could help in pushing the peace effort in the right direction.

Brylle is expected to visit Darfur Sunday. The visit also aims to evaluate EU's contribution and continue talks with UN and AU to draw the parties to political talks.

CPA

Daldoum says SPLM seeking secession of the south before the referendum

(Rai AlShaab) The ongoing changes in school curriculum in southern Sudan, the opening of the borders with Kena and Uganda, the modernization of the SPLA are all signs that the SPLM is preparing for secession of southern Sudan from the north even before the referendum, says SSDF Commander Mjr. Gen. el-Toum el-Nour Daldoum.

Daldoum warned of dangers lurking ahead because "all SPLM figures have their tribal militias within the SPLA" and this, he points out, may make minority groups in southern Sudan face extinction.

He however admitted that there is an improvement in the performance of the GoSS but added that the ideal is to allow the participation of the other factions in power.

Parties to the CPA differ over census questionnaire

(AlSudani) A meeting of the parties to the CPA last evening saw differences emerge between them over the census questionnaire with the NCP rejecting a suggestion to include the tribe of the respondent in the questionnaire while the SPLM backs such a suggestion.

Government of National Unity

Government says willing to study evidence against Kosheib and Haroun

(AlSudani) The Sudan government has expressed readiness to study evidence compiled by the ICC against Haroun and Kosheib and to refer the same to the competent courts in the country.

Presidential Advisor Mustafa Osman Ismail said that Sudanese courts are qualified enough to cover the case with regional and international observers.

Darfur envoys support Salva Kiir initiative on Darfur

(*SudanTribune.com*) UN envoy Jan Eliasson and AU envoy Salim Ahmed Salim said they support fully Sudanese First Vice-President initiative to unify the rebels around common ground before the beginning of Darfur peace talks.

In a press conference held Thursday in Khartoum Darfur envoys said they back Salva Kiir initiative to facilitate the unification of the position of the movements before the negotiations. They expressed satisfaction that the ruling National Congress Party is also behind this initiative.

"We will give all assistance to the efforts of the SPLM, but we will also be in very close contact with the regional actors." UN Jan Eliasson said.

The two envoys had just returned from Juba, the capital of south Sudan, where they held talks with First Vice President and southern leader Salva Kiir over his initiative to convince holdout rebels to join the peace process.

The meeting had discussed Salva Kiir initiative and ways of coordinating it with other initiatives to accelerate the process of finding a final solution for the problem. The meeting was attended by the Sudan People's Liberation Movement's (SPLM) special envoy to Darfur, Reverend Clement Janda, and some of the members of his task force which is assigned to liaise with the Darfur movements.

Hailing the increase in regional initiatives to find a political solution for Darfur, the envoys stressed the importance of converging regional efforts towards the same goal, after initiatives by Libya, Saudi Arabia, Eritrea and Egypt to end the Darfur violence.

"There's hope for (progress) in the political process if everybody moves in the same direction," Eliasson said. "The time is now for mobilisation."

Salim called for the process to be speeded up, warning that "the process cannot be endless."

"We expect from the parties to demonstrate a political will and to reduce the level of violence. We expect respect of the ceasefire as part of this process," he added.

Salim also noted that solutions to regional conflicts also played a role in ending the violence in Darfur, adding he was "very much encouraged" by a reconciliation deal between Sudan and Chad.

"Without normalisation between Sudan and Chad, it will be very difficult to achieve a breakthrough," he said.

Sudan and Chad accuse each other of supporting rebel forces in their respective territories amid international fears that the continuing strife in Darfur will spill over into Chad and ignite a regional war.

Salim urged for the disarmament of the Khartoum-backed Janjaweed militias, accused of atrocities in Darfur, underlining that it was the "responsibility of the government" to ensure this.

[Full transcript of the press conference transcript is attached to the article above at Sudantrine.com]

China appoints special envoy to focus on Darfur crisis

(AP, AFP via SudanTribune.com) China, criticized for not pushing its close ally Sudan to resolve the Darfur crisis, said Thursday that it had appointed a special representative on African affairs to focus on the issue.

The move comes a day after 108 members of the U.S. House of Representatives sent a letter to Chinese President Hu Jintao demanding China do more to persuade Sudan's government to stop the bloodletting in the Darfur region.

The letter suggested that unless China changes its policies in Sudan, the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games could become a disaster for the Chinese rather than the image enhancer the Chinese government is expecting.

This step by China has been welcomed by the US but the US has also urged Beijing to do more to press Sudan to allow peacekeepers into the war-torn region. [Follow the link for the full text of these stories [China appoints special envoy to focus on Darfur crisis](#); [China defends Darfur role, deflects Olympic warning](#); [US urges China to pressure Sudan over Darfur peacekeepers](#)]

International community ineffective in Darfur: African MPs

(AFP via SudanTribune.com) The Pan African Parliament (PAP) on Thursday labelled the international community's role in solving the conflict in Sudan's Darfur region as unclear and ineffective.

"The role of the international community has not been particularly lucid in Darfur," said a report by a parliamentary committee on conflict resolution, presented for debate by Swazi parliamentarian Marwick Khumalo.

"If we are to review the actual strategies and divergent interests of the main international actors in the Sudan, it becomes clear that the use of megaphone diplomacy with the National Congress Party has narrowed the margin of engagement rather than broadening it."

The report was popularly adopted by parliamentarians of PAP, an African Union body created three years ago, which has no legislative powers and serves an advisory role.

The committee report urged the PAP to consider a fact-finding mission to Darfur to assess progress with a peace agreement struck between the Sudanese Liberation Movement and government.

Khumalo said funding peace efforts was a problem as western powers willing to give money to fund missions in Darfur insisted on being fully involved in the process.

Minnawi calls on the international community to refrain from sending negative signals to the DPA non-signatories

(*Sudan Vision*) Senior Presidential Aide Mini Minnawi has called on the international community to play a constructive role to resolve the Darfur issue.

He called on the international community to refrain from sending negative signals that encourage DPA non-signatories to demonstrate intransigence. He stressed the importance of the effective role played by the UN in carrying out returns programs.

The Senior aide received in el-Fasher yesterday a UN delegation and expressed the TDRA's readiness to support local and international efforts rendered to bring peace to Darfur along the lines of the Darfur Peace Agreement.

On his part, the head of the UNMIS delegation expressed his organisation's support to the political endeavours that push forward the momentum of political dialogue in addition to backing the TDRA.

Southern Sudan

GoSS agrees to unify education curricula

(*Alltibaba*) The GoSS has agreed to harmonise school curricula with the north but insists English will be the medium of instruction in southern Sudanese schools.

The director of the National Centre for Curriculum says that his counterpart at the GoSS had requested the harmonisation of the curricula.

Over 300 arms handed over to authorities in Wau

(*Khartoum Monitor*) The Government of Western Bahr-el-Ghazal State says more than 300 pieces of arms were handed over to authorities in Wau yesterday by the Peace Forces militia.

Commander of the Peace Forces, Mjr. Gen. el-Toum Daldoum pointed out that he hoped the move would lead to bilateral work for the development of southern Sudan.

SPLA graduates Special Forces

(*Khartoum Monitor*) SPLA spokesperson Mjr. Gen. Kuol Deim said at a press release that the SPLA has graduated Special Forces. He said that these officers will improve the military capacity of the SPLA to deliver effective security in southern Sudan and Sudan at large.

He further said that they will continue to train more Special Forces and pointed out that this was consistent with the general strategy of the SPLA to transform into a modern army.

Paulino Matip calls for calm in South Sudan

(*SRS via SudanTribune.com*) Former South Sudan Defense Forces leader who integrated Sudan People's Liberation Army earlier last year urged calm in the south saying he is in a good health and would be back to the country soon.

The Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the SPLA, Lieutenant General Paulino Matip, has called for calm in southern Sudan in response to widespread rumors that he died in a South African hospital last week.

Paulino told Sudan Radio Service from Nairobi "I am in Nairobi. I have come back from South Africa and the disease I went to seek treatment for in South Africa has been treated and I am healthy now, planning to go back to my duty station."

General Matip called the rumor of his death "a fabrication" by those he called "the enemies of peace" in Sudan. He also threatened to track down those responsible for the rumor.

"We are investigating where this rumor came from. Whether it will be found or not, we will still find the person slowly because it's disturbing a lot. If that person who did this in my name is found, whether it's one person or two, three or four, the southern Sudanese or Sudanese will hear what will be done to them."

General Matip also said he wants to assure the people of southern Sudan that the Juba Declaration, the agreement intended to integrate his militia into the SPLA, is intact and asked his supporters not be disturbed by the rumor.

He said he will return to Juba soon to resume his duties.

Darfur/ Darfur Peace Agreement

Darfur border demarcation committee to wind up its work within 10 days

(*Allintibaha*) The Border Demarcation Committee for the states of Darfur says it will wind up demarcation of the boundaries between Northern State and North Darfur in 10 days time.

The head of the committee says the delay in carrying out the task was due to the intensive researches being carried out at the national archives. He said Minnawi had promised full support for the task.

SLM-AbdulWahid sets conditions for talks with government

(AlSudani) SLM-AbdulWahid says talks with the government can only start if the government stops attacks on civilians, allow for the return of IDPs and refugees and disarm the Janjaweed militias.

In a press release issued yesterday that the beginning of talks with the Khartoum government requires a conducive climate for such talks and that these conditions they cited are towards bringing about a conducive climate for the talks.

Other Developments

Sudan to hold talks with eastern group in Eritrea

(SudanTribune.com) A Sudanese government delegation including Mustafa Osman Ismail, the Presidential Advisor, and Malik Agar, the Federal Minister of Investment, will leave on Monday for the Eritrean capital, Asmara, to participate in the East negotiations.

The head of the delegation, Ismail, in press statement issued yesterday at the NCP headquarters, said that the delegation will confer with the East Front for the objectives of reactivating the power-sharing and security arrangements protocols, adding that the government is probing venues for implementing the east agreement.

He further said that the visit comes within the context of conveying a message from President Bashir to the Eritrean President Afworki, related to aspects of the Darfur issue that had been discussed during Afworki's recent visit to Khartoum.

Ismail on the other hand stated that the government was pressured into signing the Abuja deal with the SLM/Minawi faction by the British government, represented in its Foreign Ministers, though, he suggested that, it would have been better to resume the talks until all the factions have signed.

In response to a query regarding statements he was reported to have made in respect of taking local proceedings against Haroun and Kushayb, Ismail denied that h had made any statements to that effect and affirmed that the government will not hand over the two.

North Korea, Sudan make worst regimes list

(UPI via SudanTribune.com) North Korea, Sudan and Uzbekistan continue to be among the most repressive countries in the world, a Washington-based group says.

According to the democracy advocacy group Freedom House, those countries stood out even among the 17 nations which were found to have the worst record for political rights and civil liberties over the last five years or more. [*Follow the link for the full text [North Korea, Sudan make worst regimes list](#)*].