

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS**Media Monitoring Report, 15 May 2007

(By Public Information Office)

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HIGHLIGHTS :

UN/ Agencies/ Partners

Sudan faults United Nations for delaying Addis Ababa agreement

(The Citizen; AlSahafa) Foreign ministry spokesperson Ali el-Sadig notes that the US and some European countries used to blame Sudan for blocking United Nations and African Union activities in Sudan but Sudan's acceptance of the Heavy Support Package, the ball is now in the court of the United Nations.

He said it is up to the United Nations Secretary-General to take steps to ensure adequate financial support to the other parties, namely the Government of Sudan and the African Union. Ambassador el-Sadig expressed regret that the United Nations is yet to take any serious step towards activating the agreement and that Sudan is therefore not to blame for delays in implementation.

The spokesperson was responding to recent statement by the United Nations saying the United Nations was waiting for the Sudan government to provide the land necessary for accommodation and logistics of its personnel to be deployed to Darfur as part of the HSP.

Commenting on recent statements attributed to Congolese President Denis Sassou-Nguesso that the African Union troops were ineffective in Darfur, the foreign ministry spokesperson said that this was completely untrue and an irresponsible talk. He pointed out that the African Union and not the United Nations had the full responsibility in Darfur. He also maintained that no African president had come to such a conclusion before.

EU approves 40 million euro aid for African force in Darfur

(AFP via Sudantribune.com) EU foreign ministers on Monday gave the green light for a 40-million euro aid package to the African Union peacekeeping force in the troubled Sudanese province of Darfur, EU officials said.

For the money to be released, the decision must still be approved at a meeting between EU and foreign ministers from African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) nations in Brussels on May 25.

This is because the 40 million euros would in effect be pulled out of unused European development funds which are co-managed by the EU and the ACP.

The European Union has already handed out 400 million euros worth of funding to the African mission in Somalia (AMIS), including 240 million euros from a special African peace fund which is now empty. [Follow the link to the full text [EU approves 40 million euro aid for African force in Darfur](#)].

Canadian military team visits African Union Mission in Sudan in el-Fasher

(*Khartoum Monitor*) A Canadian military team of six paid a visit to the African Union Mission in Sudan Force Headquarters in el-Fasher, North Darfur, on 10th May.

A press release issued by the African Union Mission in Sudan said that the team was in el-Fasher to inspect and assess Canada's military contribution and support to African Union Mission in Sudan.

The team had audience with principal officers of the mission and was briefed on the AMIS' efforts at providing sustainable peace and security in Darfur.

Finance ministry says Oslo donors committed on 2.3 million in 2006

(*AlSahafa*) The Government of Sudan has received in 2006 a total of 2.3 million dollars of the 913 million pledged in Oslo while the GoSS has received 45 million from the total of 1.5 billion dollars pledged in Oslo during the same period, says Sudan's finance ministry.

The head of the Directorate for Development at the Ministry of Finance told reporters that this only shows the risks of total dependence of funding for development projects on foreign funding that comes with a lot of obstacles.

Government of National Unity

Sudan defense minister hails ties with Ethiopia

(*SudanTribune.com*) Sudan's Defense Minister has hailed bilateral ties with Ethiopia, saying the multifarious cooperation between the governments of Ethiopia and Sudan has been growing.

After talks with Prime Minister Meles Zenawi on Monday, the Sudanese Minister Lieutenant General Abdelrahim Mohamed Hussein told journalists that cooperation between the governments and peoples of the two countries in, among others, economic, political and social sectors was boosting.

Ethiopia is a strategic partner to Sudan, he said. Sharing a common border that runs 1,700 km, the two countries have been working closely for mutual benefits, the official ENA reported Monday.

He said discussions with the Prime Minister focused on the Ethio-Sudan bilateral cooperation as part of the ongoing consultations. He also delivered a message sent by Sudanese President Omar Hassan Al-Beshir.

Ethiopia expressed concern over the use of the Sudanese territory by Ethiopian rebels based in Eritrea. Since last January Ethiopia says the Asmara backed rebels attack the positions of the army through the Sudanese border. Sudan at the beginning but after admitted the existence of such movements.

Experts says the Sudanese minister's visit to Ethiopia was to discuss ways to end these infiltrations.

Parliament calls for fair mass media

(*Khartoum Monitor; The Citizen*) Members of parliament and parliamentary groups called yesterday for a fair representation of all groups in the mass media.

The Minister of Information and Communications who presented his ministry's performance report before parliament yesterday pointed out that Sudan has witnessed a major revolution in terms of information with communications networks covering all parts of the country.

But a number of MPs were critical of government-owned media houses especially radio and television. They argue that state broadcast organs should help promote the culture of peace and broadcast parliamentary sessions. They accused state-owned broadcast services of bias.

On his part, the information minister conceded that national television could allocate 15 minutes everyday to reflect the happening at the National Assembly or, alternately, air 45 minutes of the same every Friday.

Foreign ministry optimistic over forthcoming visit of Chadian leader

(*Alwan*) The Ministry of Foreign Affairs says it is optimistic that the forthcoming visit here by Chad's president will help improve relations between the two countries.

Ministry spokesperson Ali el-Sadig expects the meeting of the leaders of the two countries would discuss means to implement the Riyadh and Tripoli agreements. The ambassador said Saudi Arabia could play a role in resolving the Darfur crisis.

Pressure from the big powers will only fuel our determination, says interior minister

(*AlHayat*) The Minister of Interior says the fierce attacks from the big powers will only make Sudan more determined.

The minister who was addressing a police unit in Kharotum last Sunday said that this states have always been looking for a foothold for intervention in the internal affairs of the country and to sow sedition in an attempt to weaken ability of the Sudanese to defend their potentials and gains. He said the people of Sudan are ready to confront any hostility.

Southern Sudan

Salva Kiir reaffirms commitment to South Sudan development

(*SudanTribune.com*) In a speech before the southern Sudan parliament, the First Vice President and Government of southern Sudan chief, Salva Kiir Mayardit, yesterday reaffirmed the commitment of his government to development plans

In his policy statement at the first session of the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly in Juba on Monday, President Kiir assured the House that the GOSS is committed to full and objective implementation of the 200-Day Action Plan, and stated that on average the plan has been fairly well executed.

Kiir noted that progress is being achieved on improvement of physical infrastructure, provision of services, rebuilding of economy and maintenance of peace and security.

The GOSS President explained that the inter-state and seasonal roads are increasing daily, and revealed that the US Government has donated 70 million US dollars to support road constructions in Southern Sudan. On social service provision, General Kiir said that this sector is improving in terms of both quality and outreach, and stressed that health care service is reaching more people in Southern Sudan than 18 months ago.

However, he indicated that more effort is needed to curb the growing health problems. To improve work in the health sector, General Kiir called on sons and daughters of Southern Sudan who had excelled in the field of medicine and are in the Diaspora to return for the aid of their people at home.

On education, the GOSS President said that about eight hundred thousand (800,000) children had enrolled in schools this year. He stated that the GOSS Ministry of Education, Sciences and Technology are earnestly pursuing the "Go to School initiative" programme. The President appealed to parents to encourage female education because it is the key for the future and strength of the nation.

On the shortage of water, the First Vice President said that he recognized the problem, and disclosed that the Ministries of Cooperative and Rural Development and Water Resources are implementing rural water programme to provide water to citizens who are residing in areas far away from the River and streams.

Further more, General Kiir assured the House that the GOSS has achieved a lot in strengthening public institution. He affirmed that the principle of good governance is being pursued in diligence, adding that measures to ensure transparency is being consolidated. The GOSS President called on the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly MPs, the Ministers and UN agencies to stand up to the challenges of repatriating Southern Sudan IDPs and refugees from northern Sudan and neighboring countries.

Kiir went on to describe the forthcoming national census as a huge undertaking that Southern Sudan has not conducted before, recalling that the Southern Sudan population used to be determined by northerners for their interest.

However, this time, Kiir said that they would prove to the international community that Khartoum was wrong. The President added that the coming general elections would determine many articles of the CPA, and called on citizens to prepare for it.

On economy, President Kiir announced that there is tremendous expansion in the economy of Southern Sudan as he informed the lawmakers that the Southern Sudan centre for statistics would soon release data on economic performance of the region. President Kiir noted that his government has experienced financial hick up early this year because of total reliance on oil revenue as the only source of income for the government.

He stressed that this problem has highlighted the government to find other sources of income. General Kiir reiterated that the recent decision of the cabinet to pay fully employees salaries and wages as originally budgeted with the government bearing the 20% burden.

The President declared that the war on corruption would continue unabated despite the difficulties, and he called on the MPs to protect rigorously public funds and government properties from being misused by officials and their agents.

The First Vice President of the Republic and GOSS President reassured the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly that in the states he visited, he found the communities are peaceful and committed to rebuild their land.

However, he warned perpetrators of barbaric activities that GOSS would not condone such act of violence against civilians. He directed the Governors of the States of Southern Sudan to involve local people and traditional leaders in settlement of communal disputes amicably.

Finally, President Kiir called on Southern Sudanese to stay united to achieve greater goal of the people of southern Sudan, and stated that our earnest goal is to serve the interest of the people not of our political parties. [*Full text of the GoSS President's address attached separately*].

Kiir – new committee for NCP-SPLM resolution

(*Gurtong.org, 14 May*) The President of the Government of Southern Sudan Salva Kiir said on Monday that a new north-south committee has been set up to overcome obstacles in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

Kiir said that the two parties to the CPA, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement and the National Congress Party remained 'determined to solve issues on contention' while speaking at the opening of the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly (SSLA) in Juba on Monday.

"The sub-committee is to be chaired by Vice President Ali Osman Taha and the Vice President of the Government of Southern Sudan, Riek Machar," said Kiir.

Kiir said despite recent talks between the two parties, five outstanding issues of contention remain, including the fate of the transitional area of Abyei and the oil sector.

Kiir called the SSLA to play a leading role in what he called the war against corruption in the South.

“Unless all three of the executive bodies, the executive, the legislative and the judiciary are fully involved in fighting corruption, it will not be an easy task to decisively win this war,” said Kiir.

Kiir also asked the SSLA to quickly pass the Public Accountability and Finance Bill as well as a Revenue Bill to begin turning South Sudan away from its dependency on oil revenues.

He said that the amounts of money received in February and March from oil production were less than expected and highlighted the need to develop sources of non-oil revenue.

Southern Sudan militia disbands troops

(SudanTribune.com) A southern Sudan militia, the Sudanese peace force, has surrendered its weapons and officially announced to integrate into the civil society.

In line with the policy of implementing the disarmament programme, layoff and integration, the Sudanese peace forces in the towns of Waw and Raja have surrendered their weapons and promised to work in the field of implementing the security arrangement of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

This came following a ceremony organized on Monday by the joint commission between the Sudan armed forces, Sudan People’s Liberation Army/Movement and the UN in the towns of Waw and Raja.

The ceremony was addressed by the armed force commanders, politicians and administrators who said that they were cooperating in the fields of security arrangements as stipulated in the CPA which has taken a progressing steps in southern Sudan.

At least 600 officers affiliated to armed groups have surrendered their weapons in a bid to implement the articles of the disarmament programme, layoff and integration.

Darfur/ Darfur Peace Agreement

Sudan admits the signing of Darfur agreement was a mistake

(SudanTribune.com) Sudan has acknowledged that the signing of the Darfur Peace Agreement with one rebel faction was a mistake, nonetheless it reaffirmed commitment to the peace deal signed in Abuja on May 2006.

Presidential Advisor Mustafa Osman Ismail admitted that his government made a mistake by signing the peace agreement in Abuja with one faction only, something that made the factions that did not sign seek to weaken the faction that did sign.

Ismail emphasized that the government was committed to the Abuja Agreement and had no preconditions for talks with the non-signatories rebels groups, including the time and place of the meeting, the Sudanese Al-Sahafa reported on Saturday.

Addressing a press conference at the Sudanese Embassy in Abu-Dhabi on Thursday May 10, Ismail said that Khartoum rejected international pressures on trying those accused of war crimes in Darfur. He said the Security Council had backtracked on Resolution 1706 but the International Criminal Court (ICC) prosecutor was still exercising pressure.

Ismail said the government had agreed to an internal trial under international and external supervision, in which the same accusations are levelled. He played down the effectiveness of international pressure in this connection, adding that only diplomatic efforts were capable of solving the crisis.

Regarding the negative reaction to the Saudi reconciliation initiative between Sudan and Chad, the presidential advisor said the Saudi move comes in the context of the Arab League Summit, but he hailed the Libyan role in the resolution of Darfur crisis. However, he added that there is no reason for susceptibleness in this regard. He further reiterated Sudan's commitment to Tripoli agreement. He pointed out the importance of Saudi Arabia as the largest Arab country that helps Sudan in the humanitarian fields.

Ismail said it was the right of the government to defend itself against the armed movements, even by using military aircraft.

On the clashes that took place in Khartoum between the Sudanese police and the SLM-Minawi soldiers, he said that the security of the capital was "a red line on which we shall accept no bargaining".

Khartoum and Asmara to coordinate efforts to bring the DPA non-signatories on board

(*AlAyaam*) Presidential Advisor Mustafa Osman Ismail led a Government of National Unity delegation to Eritrea recently and delivered a letter from President Bashir to his Eritrean counterpart.

The letter covered bilateral relations between by two countries and efforts to bring DPA non-signatory groups on board the agreement and unify these groups as well as efforts to unite the regional and international initiatives on Darfur.

Egypt committed to consultations will all political forces in Sudan

(*AlHayat*) Egypt's foreign minister has underlined the importance of Egypt's role in linking between all the Sudanese parties in a bid to preserve Sudan's unity and territorial integrity.

The minister was speaking to the press following a meeting with NDA leader Mohamed Osman el-Mirghani.

He said that the talks covered the situation in the Sudan and efforts being exerted to reach a solution to the crisis in Darfur.

Darfur rehabilitation commission moves to Nyala today

(Rai AlShaab) The Darfur rehabilitation and reconstruction commission says it is determined to intensify its projects inside IDP camps in Darfur by way of studying the situation in the camps and working towards improving the same.

A high-level delegation of the commission travels to South Darfur today to witness the signing of a Brotherhood and Reconciliation document between the tribes in the camps and to implement some project in the camp.

Sources say the program will be witnessed by representatives of the African Union, the United Nations, local administration, voluntary agencies and the regional government.