

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS**Media Monitoring Report, 21 May 2007

(By Public Information Office)

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Highlights

UN/ Agencies/ Partners

African Union to assess root causes of Sudan, Chad CAR tensions

(*SudanTribune.com*) A delegation from the African Union will start a ten-day visit to Sudan, Chad and the Central African Republic (CAR) to assess root causes of the tensions created by the Darfur crisis in the region, an AU statement said Sunday.

The statement said six envoys from the African Union Peace and Security Council would this week visit the Sudan and its two western neighbors to "undertake a comprehensive assessment of the situation on the ground."

"The mission is also tasked to identify the obstacles impeding the implementation of the agreements signed by Chad and the Sudan, in particular the Tripoli Agreement, in order to make recommendations that would lead to a durable solution to the problems of the region." it added.

The AU delegation will be led Obioma Philip Oparah, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to Ethiopia and the AU, the country chairing the Peace and Security Council (PSC) for the month of May 2007, and will include five other members of the PSC, one member per region, and some officers of the AU Commission.

The visit follows the decision of the 70th meeting of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU), held on 12 and 13 February 2007, in which the Council decided to dispatch a mission to Chad, Central African Republic (CAR) and the Sudan to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the situation on the ground.

The delegation is planning to visit Sudan from 21st to 24 May, Chad from 24 to 27 May and CAR from 27 to 29 May 2007.

Sudanese government officials, UN human rights experts to meet 23-25 May

(*SUNA via BBC Monitoring, 20 May, Geneva*) President of Switzerland and Foreign Minister Micheline Calmy-Rey told journalists here that the UN Human Rights Council regained the spirit of cooperation after Sudan agreed to cooperate with the committee of experts and special rapporteurs of the UN Human Rights Council concerned with evaluating humanitarian situations in Sudan.

Speaking at an annual meeting with journalists accredited to the United Nations, the Swiss President said the UN Human Rights Council faced difficulties at the onset of its work but has now began restoring its confidence.

Meanwhile, UN Human Right Council experts committee concerned with Darfur is to hold an important meeting with senior Sudanese government officials during 23-25 May in Geneva to determine required steps for improvement of the situation of human rights in the region.

IOM begins air movement of IDPs from Khartoum to southern Sudan

(Khartoum Monitor) The International Organization of Migration and its partners in the Joint Organized returns Program – the Government of National Unity and the United Nations – will begin the transfer of IDPs from Khartoum by to southern Sudan in June. Nile barge operations from Kosti on the White Nile to southern Sudan will also be employed.

According to the IOM Public Information Officer Simona Opitz, the IOM has provided transport assistance and medical screening to more than 50,000 IDPs, both organized and spontaneous, since December 2005 from Khartoum and South Darfur to South Kordofan and southern Sudan.

In May, organized returns from South Darfur to North Bahr-el-Ghazal had been closed due to the onset of the rainy season. Organized convoys continue to travel, however, from Khartoum to South Kordofan and Unity State, she said.

Within southern Sudan, the IOM continues to organize convoys for IDPs wishing to travel from Wau in Western Bahr-el-Ghazal to neighboring Warrap State, she adds. The IOM, in partnership with the UNHCR, has since March 2006 assisted with the return of 28,763 refugees from the CAR, Kenya and Ethiopia. Of this number, some 12,170 refugees were provided assistance by air and 16,593 by land, Opitz disclosed.

Red Cross says no Sudanese detainees in Chad

(SMC via BBC Monitoring, 17 May, Khartoum) The Red Cross office in the Chadian capital of Ndjamena confirmed there are no Sudanese in Chadian detention centers and that the office conducted intensive surveys of all Chadian prisons and found no Sudanese detained for political or any other reasons. Sudanese Ambassador to Chad Abdullah al-Sheikh said he participated in intensive meetings with the Red Cross offices in Chad about the loss of some Sudanese families of their sons in Chad; however, the office assured him that there are no Sudanese inside Chadian prisons.

Al-Sheikh pledged to continue efforts to bring into play all agreements that have been signed recently between Sudan and Chad at all political and security levels to bring relations between the two countries back on track. He expects that the visit of President Idriss Deby Itno to Khartoum will occur following the completion of the Sahel and Sahara countries summit that will be held in Libya early next June.

Others:

Attached separately is an article by Colum Lynch of the Washington Post titled *Sudanese Police Attack On Aid Workers Tests U.N. Chief's Diplomacy*

UN support Package

Chinese envoy arrives in Khartoum

Chinese envoy calls for implementation of the United Nations support package:

AlAyaam daily reports that the Chinese Special envoy to Africa, Liu Guijin, has stressed the need to implement the United Nations support package to the African Union Mission in Sudan.

The paper gives no further detail but *Alwan* daily quotes Dr. Majzoub el-Khalifa as having said that China's entry into the scene through the appointment of the Special Envoy will contribute to restoring the right perspective to the Darfur issue and will help clarify a number of realities to the international community. He said that China would surely put efforts that will contribute to the realization of peace especially on the basis of its clear commitments to territorial integrity of states and to encourage talks through the AU-UN initiative.

Majzoub further said that the Sudan has accepted a joint [*African Union-UN*] operation with a unified force under the African Union command and supports the peace process and that it is time now that the international community determine its support for the peace process for Darfur. He pointed out that multiplicity of initiatives only further complicates the issue and that this is what encouraged the government to take the position following the Tripoli conference to work within the framework of the AU-UN initiative.

Presidential adviser, Chinese peace envoy discuss Darfur

(*STV via BBC Monitoring, 20 May, Khartoum*) The Chinese Special envoy to Africa, Liu Guijin, discussed with Presidential Advisor Majzoub al-Khalifa the peace process for Darfur, particularly the agreement on the United Nations support package to the African Union Mission in Sudan.

The Chinese envoy affirmed his country's support to the peace [process] in Sudan and said that China's attitude is based on non-intervention in internal affairs of other nations.

Sudan lauds Chinese efforts to resolve Darfur conflict

(*SUNA via BBC Monitoring, 20 May, Khartoum*) In a press statement after his meeting Sunday with the state minister at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Al-Samani al-Wasila, at the premises of the Council of Ministers' Secretariat General, the Chinese envoy said that there is no need for a new plan or a road map for solution of Darfur crisis. He affirmed China's support to the agreement between Sudan government, the African Union and the United Nations on the second stage of heavy aid for Darfur.

The Chinese envoy indicated that his current visit to Sudan is aimed at exchanging views with Sudanese officials on Darfur issue.

Meanwhile, the state minister at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Al-Samani al-Wasila, said that the solution for the Darfur issue depends on a future vision for permanent peace and security in region.

The minister expressed Sudan's appreciation for the international community's efforts concerning Darfur issue, calling for prevalence of the peace spirit in Darfur and refrain from any foreign trend for political capitalization from the situation in Darfur.

Al-Wasila lauded the efforts of China toward reaching a permanent solution for Darfur issue, which is based on respect of Sudan's unity and sovereignty.

Rai AlShaab adds that the state minister said Sudan's doors are open for anyone from the international community to see for himself the facts surrounding the crisis in Darfur. He pointed out that the Sudan is part of the international community and does not object to contributions from the international community for the peace process in Darfur. But, he adds, the people of Sudan are more versed with what is lacking and what they need. He said that the signals the international community send do not encourage the spirit of peace.

The state minister said that peace can only be forged through the hands that brought about the conflict in the first place and not through troops, however many they may be.

US Senator Biden to meet with UN Secretary General on Darfur

(*SudanTribune.com*) Joseph Biden, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and a Democratic presidential candidate, will meet with the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon on Monday to discuss progress in resolving the conflict in Darfur.

Biden has been one of the most outspoken US lawmakers in urging the US administration intervention in Darfur. He called last April for the use of military force to end the suffering in Darfur. [Follow the link to the full text of this story [US Senator Biden to meet with UN Secretary General on Darfur](#)].

CPA

SPLM calls for the demobilisation of the PDF in Blue Nile State

(*Sudan Tribune*) The Deputy Secretary-General of the SPLM, Lt. Gen. Malik Agar, has called for the rapid demobilization of the Popular Defense Forces based in Blue Nile State in conformity to the protocols of the CPA.

Agar who is also Federal Minister of Investment was addressing a rally in Damazin to mark the 24th Anniversary of the SPLM.

Agar pointed out that the SPLA withdrew from Blue Nile State all its forces that are not part of the Joint Integrated Units and asked the SAF to reciprocate. In his strongly-worded address, Agar demanded that the NCP evict the "Al-Zayina" [nomadic tribes] police forces out of Blue Nile State and accused some NCP elements who have "never known hunger or war" of trying to undermine the CPA.

Agar also warned that the SPLA is ready for war if provoked. He described the CPA as a sound agreement and pointed out that the problem lies with “those who have for 16 years been acting as judge and executioners”. He lamented the disproportionate representation of the indigenous citizens of Blue Nile in the state’s civil service and security organs.

The Deputy Governor of Blue Nile State who also doubles up as the highest SPLM representative in the state said that the SPLM and the NCP have major disputes but pointed out that the CPA will not fail despite frequent harassment.

Deputy Governor Zayid Isa pointed out that the NCP reign in Blue Nile State is over and its governor, Abu Madian, will now have to hand the keys over to the SPLM.

Pro-government militia commanders join ex-rebels

(*SMC via BBC Monitoring, 19 May*) First VP Salva Kiir issued a resolution absorbing 17 generals from Paulino Matib's forces into the SPLA.

Commander Bol Jatcoth of Matib’s forces told the *SMC* that the resolution was undertaken based on a previous agreement reached by Paulino and the SPLA. He noted that a similar resolution is expected that will absorb all Matib’s forces into the SPLA.

Commander Jatcoth added that Salva Kiir will visit Juba in due days to brief the respective generals on the resolution.

GoNU

Sudan attributes shortfall in revenues to decline in oil production

(*SudanTribune.com*) The Federal Minister of Finance and National Economy attributes the shortfall in revenues to the decline in petroleum production from the Adariel oilfield in Upper Nile State, in Southern Sudan.

Minister Zubair Ahmed Al-Hassan, told cabinet in a session on May 17, that revenues were about 70% of projections, and this was due primarily to the decline in oil revenues. He further said that the new petroleum fields in Adariel still produces in the range of 160,000 barrels daily, but the main reason is that although the production is there work on the port has not been completed to allow the full amount to be exported.

The Minister further said his ministry will seek to redress the shortfall in revenues during the second quarter of the year by increasing the Value Added Tax (VAT) by two percent. [*Follow the link to the full text [Sudan attributes shortfall in revenues to decline in oil production](#)*].

Other Headlines:

- Talks between representatives of Northern State and Kajbar residents over the issue of the construction of the Kajbar Dam have reached a dead-end, reports *AlAyaam*.

- Against the background of the money-laundering case, attorney for the defense calls on the Presidency to strip the justice minister of immunity, reports *AlWatan*

Southern Sudan

Southern Sudan workers union if formed

(*AlAyaam*) The Vice-President of the Federation of Sudan Workers' Unions has revealed that a workers' union for southern Sudan has been formed and its president has also been appointed the Vice-President of the Federation.

He said that the body was formed on request from the GoSS.

Other Articles:

- [Growing anger over elusive peace dividend in South Sudan](#)
- [South Sudan development and the World Bank, which perspectives](#)

Darfur

Darfur movements to hold consultations ahead of talks with government

(*Rai AlShaab*) A well-connected source that has opted for anonymity has revealed that non-signatory Darfur groups – barring the JEM – are holding important meetings in a bid to reach an agreement towards the formation of a united movement or to reach a unified negotiations position ahead of talks with Khartoum. He said that the talks will be held within one week in a “neighboring capital” that he declined to mention.

He said that the JEM absented itself without any clear reason from the consultative talks between the factions. He said however that no non-signatory movement will be barred from the meetings with Khartoum.

Meanwhile, leaders of the factions of the SLM say that talks for their unification have had a change of venue and may be held in a “European capital” by the end of this month.

It has been learnt that the south and east Darfur faction of the SLM under Ibrahim Ahmed Ibrahim and Issam el-Haj, the northern Darfur faction under Jar-el-Nebbi, the Sherif Harrier, Osman el-Bushra and the Ahmed Abdel-Shafi factions are to meet in Europe in a bid to unite under a committee to be headed by Abu-el-Gassim Ahmed Abu-el-Gassim who was detained by authorities in Khartoum on alleged links with the assassination of the newspaper editor but later released.

Isam el-Haj has meanwhile revealed that the United Nations and the African Union are making arrangements to transport the field commanders from the different parts of Darfur to the venue of the talks. He said they are suspending talks with Khartoum until they unite.

He said that they do hear of an Eritrean initiative through the press but do not see it on the ground. He said that the Eritreans may have contacted some other factions but notes that Ahmed Abdel-Shafi is currently in Darfur and only field commander Khamis Abdallah is in Abeche. Isam further pointed out that all the initiatives on Darfur have not yet reached the practical phase.

On African Union reports that one of the non-signatory factions has signed agreement with the Sudan government, Isam el-Haj said that this must be a faction created by Khartoum and the African Union.

Movement denies minister detained by its field commanders

(SMC via BBC Monitoring, 18 May, Khartoum) According to the official spokesperson of the Sudan Liberation Movement/Minni Minnawi faction (SLM/MM), al-Tayeb Khamis, the Senior Assistant to the president and president of the Darfur Transitional Authority will end his current visit to the provinces of Darfur and return to Khartoum after two days.

The movement denied the detention of the minister of health and the South Darfur province adviser by the movement's field commanders. Khamis said that the minister and the adviser are in Dar-al-Salam region in North Darfur province, indicating that they had conducted an ordinary visit to the field within a specific programme.

Khamis pointed out that Health Minister Yahya Hassan Neel [as published; records show Tabita Sokaya as minister of health], represents the deputy chief of staff of the movement, while Government Adviser Haroun Muhammad Haroun, represents the political adviser to the secretary general of the movement. He said that the troops could not arrest their leaders, in reference to the minister and the adviser.

Investment minister says government should pay compensations instead of sending troops to Darfur

(AlAyaam) The Secretary-General of the SPLM's Northern Sudan Chapter says government has failed in its efforts to restore security in Darfur.

“The people of Darfur have demanded the rights they have been denied and took up arms when denied,” says Malik Agar who is also the Federal Minister for Investment. He added that the government should have paid compensations to the people of Darfur instead of sending in troops and wasting money to buy ammunition.

He pointed out that donors do not assist a state that does not enjoy stability.

Salva Kiir praises ongoing efforts to end Darfur crisis

(SuadnTribune.com) First Vice-President and President of the Government of Southern Sudan Salva Kiir Mayardit has lauded all the ongoing political efforts to resolve the Darfur crisis.

During a meeting at his office today with Rev. Clement Janda, the chairman SPLM Task Force and Special Envoy on Darfur, Mayardit expressed satisfaction with all the successes which have been reached so far.

For his part, Rev. Janda said that during the meeting the vice-president was briefed on the ongoing political efforts in the region and the results of meetings with several leaders. The Bishop also disclosed of a visit by Mayardit to Darfur to meet several local leaders.

The SPLM is preparing to hold a conference in Juba for the Darfur rebel groups in order to adopt a joint position paper on the hold out rebels' demands for Darfur peace talks.

China offers \$10 m humanitarian aid to Darfur

(SudanTribune.com) The Chinese government has offered 10 million US dollars worth of humanitarian aid to the troubled Darfur region of Sudan, said the visiting Chinese envoy to Darfur.

The Chinese Special envoy to Africa, Liu Guijin, said that his country has extended humanitarian aid to Darfur at a cost exceeding 10 million dollars to enhance conditions in the region.

In a press statement after his meeting Sunday with the state minister at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Al-Samani al-Wasila, the Chinese envoy affirmed China's support to the agreement between Sudan government, the African Union and the United Nations on the second stage of heavy support package for Darfur.

The Chinese envoy indicated that his current visit to Sudan is aimed at exchanging views with Sudanese officials on Darfur issue.

Egyptian foreign minister calls on the international community to monitor the political process in Darfur

(AlAyaam) Following meetings in Cairo yesterday with African Union Commissioner Alpha Oumar Konare, Egypt's foreign minister underlined the need for respect for Sudan's sovereignty over its territories, a balance in exercising pressures and desisting sanctions.

He also called on the international community to play a role in monitoring the political process in order to make each side of the conflict in Sudan bear meet its obligations.

Sudanese state minister unveils Afro-Arab initiative on Darfur

(SUNA via BBC Monitoring, 20 May, Khartoum) Minister of State in the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Abd-al-Qadir Muhammad Zayn, has unveiled an Afro-Arab initiative for solidarity with the people of Darfur.

The initiative aims to correct the false image circulated by the Western media about the situation in Darfur, said Muhammad Zayn Sunday [20 May] at the Sudan News Agency press forum. The

initiative backed by the Sudanese ambassadors and cultural societies abroad will create contact between African and Arab world and raise financial support for the affected people in the region.

The initiative is neither political nor politicized, said Secretary-General of the Afro-Arab forum, Sulayman al-Amin. Al-Amin reviewed the role of the forum, pointing out that it tends to show solidarity with the people of Darfur through arts and culture.

Other Headlines:

- Sudan, Saudi to hold talks in Morocco over Darfur (*Rai AlShaab*)
- Workshop organised by Egyptian Council for African Affairs in Cairo calls on Darfur movements to unify negotiations strategy (*AlSahafa*)

Other Developments

Presspersons' alliance ends sit-in; authorities release detained *AlSudani* journalists

(*Sudan Tribune; Khartoum Monitor*) Authorities have decided to release detained *AlSudani* Editor-in-Chief and columnist after days of detention following pressure from the journalist fraternity here.

Irwa and Osman were summoned by authorities for interrogation and investigation after being accused of defamation against the Minister of Justice in a column by Osman appearing on the paper's issue of the 17th of this month. Osman called in his column for the resignation of the minister of justice for lying about a money-laundering suit.

Reporters have called off their sit-in following the release of the two.

The incident also spurred the formation of a new fraternity, the Sudanese Journalists Solidarity that calls, among other things, for coordinated efforts to protect the rights of journalists and recognise the freedom of expression as stipulated in the Interim National Constitution. The journalists have also called for a repeal of Article 130 of the Procedures Act.