



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN

UNMIS

Media Monitoring Report

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By Public Information Office

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## **Highlights**

### **Main News**

#### **Kiir directs SPLA to withdraw from Abyei, says problem lies in non-implementation of Abyei Protocol**

**(Al-Rai Al-Aam)** The FVP Salva Kiir said the problem in Abyei lies in non-implementation of the Protocol of Abyei Area, which was violation of the CPA.

Kiir while addressing SPLM Silver Jubilee celebrations yesterday said he had rang up President Bashir yesterday in order to calm the situation in Abyei. He said he had made a commitment to President Bashir to withdraw SPLA outside the area provided SAF should also do the same and JIUs and UNMIS peacekeepers should take over.

Commissioner of Abyei Locality Mohamed Al-Doweirak said situations returned to normalcy in Abyei and was under full control.

However, sources said the situation in the area was tense and there were fears that fighting might resume.

#### **NCP Leadership Council condemns SPLA assault on Abyei**

**(Al-Khartoum)** The NCP Leadership Council condemned SPLA attack on Abyei, saying it was violation of the CPA. The NCP Council of Leadership met yesterday under the chair of President Bashir to discuss Abyei.

Minister of State at the Ministry of Information and Communications and NCP spokesperson Dr. Kamal Obeid following the meeting said SPLA troops advanced north of 1956 border, which was violation of the CPA.

### **UN/Agencies**

#### **Incidents in Abyei all-out war – UN**

**(Al-Sudandi)** UNSG Ban Ki-Moon has urged NCP and SPLM to commit themselves to ceasefire agreement in Abyei.

UNMIS spokesperson Mr. Khaled Mansour speaking to BBC has described the recently resumed clashes as all-out military confrontations.

SRSR Ashraf Qazi had earlier said renewal of clashes in Abyei impeded delivery of humanitarian assistances to the Area.

On the other hand, UNMIS Regional Coordinator for Southern Sudan David Gressly paid one-day visit to Abyei yesterday to familiarize himself with the humanitarian situations on the ground and the needs of thousands of civilians displaced by fighting.

EU foreign policy chief in a press release yesterday said EU was concerned of fighting in Sudan region of Abyei. The press release said the parties to the conflict should abide by CPA provisions to resolve the dispute.

US Administration is also making efforts to find solution to Abyei problem. US Secretary of State asked her Assistant for African Affairs to find ways for defusing crisis in Abyei which could derail the CPA.

### **No guarantees for cessation of fighting – UN**

(**Ray Al-Shaab**) Head of UNMIS Abyei Christ Johnson who is currently in Khartoum said she had reports to the effect that there were no guarantees that fighting would not resume despite calm in the oil rich area.

### **SAF and SPLA cancel meeting on Abyei confrontation - UN**

(**ST**) May 21, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — Talks sponsored by the UN mission in Sudan between the northern and southern Sudanese armies to end the fighting have been postponed.

Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) had reached an agreement last week to stop the fighting and to redeploy troops, however clashes resumed yesterday between the two parties who trade accusations of the responsibility of the breaches.

UNMIS spokesperson said today that a joint ceasefire military committee between SAF and the SPLA scheduled to take place today had been cancelled. The meeting which had to be chaired by the UN may be held on Thursday.

Also, the First Vice-President Salva Kiir might fly tomorrow to Khartoum to hold a meeting with the President Omer al-Bashir on Abyei fighting.

UN envoy for Sudan, Ashraf Jenhagir Qazi, regretted yesterday the resumption of military confrontation after the parties had met at the level of Ceasefire Joint Military Committee (CJMC) on 18 May 2008. He said they had reached "a number of very important decisions."

Kiir said today that SAF had to withdraw its infantry brigade from the town while the Sudanese army said it would not redeploy its troops as long as the SPLA exist in the disputed area.

### **UNICEF following up issue of JEM child soldiers captured in assault on Omdurman, Hilda Johnson meets with Salva kiir and Taha**

(**Al-Sudani/Al Khartoum/The Citizen**) The United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), which works for the survival, protection and development of all children

worldwide, held a press conference yesterday in Khartoum on the situation of children in Sudan.

Ms H. Johnson told reporters that there were many children recruited as soldiers in the period of war in the South and East of Sudan. She said that UNICEF has demobilized them but they are facing problems in joining them in schools because of their big numbers.

With regard to the recent incidents in Omdurman, she said UNICEF backs the UN in its condemnation of the attack pointing out that recruitment of children constitutes violation of their rights. She expressed concern towards children being abducted and recruited by JEM saying that UNICEF would deal with them as children and not as warriors and they would receive social and psychological support as well as medical care.

Concerning Abyei, she said she discussed with FVP Salva Kiir and Vice President Taha the situation in the area.

### [GoNU](#)

#### **[Umma Party: signing agreement with NCP does not mean the party participates in GoNU \(Al-Sahafa\)](#)**

**(Al-Sahafa)** The National Umma Party led by Sadiq Al Mahdi announced that signing of an agreement with NCP did not mean that the Party would join the government.

The party said any participation in the government depends on the establishment of a national government or conduction of free and fair elections.

#### **[Khartoum and London agree to resume dialogue in June](#)**

**(Al-Khartoum)** Presidential Advisor Dr. Ghazi Salah Al Din received at his office yesterday the visiting British Foreign Ministry Undersecretary and discussed with him bilateral relations between the two countries.

The British Undersecretary told SUNA that an agreement was reached at the meeting to resume dialogue between the two countries in Khartoum in June. He said his visit to Sudan comes within the framework of reviewing issues of mutual concern.

#### **[Arab League says concerned with developments in Abyei](#)**

**(Sudan Vision)** The Arab League is making intensive communications with the AU, the UN, the peace partners in Sudan and the Assessment and Evaluation Commission for resolving the present situation in Abyei as well as the other problems that face the peace agreement.

Zaid Al-Saban the Arab League official in charge of Sudan's file indicated that the Arab League was concerned over developments in Abyei. Al-Saban further expressed his conviction that the people of Sudan are capable of resolving Abyei problem,

ascribing the conflict in Abyei to the complicated tribal nature of the region's population.

## GoSS

### **Kiir is SPLM candidate for presidential elections**

(**Al-Ayyam**) SPLM National Liberation Council endorsed yesterday recommendations of the SPLM 2<sup>nd</sup> General Convention's recommendations notably that Salva Kiir would be SPLM candidate for presidential elections.

The Council also demanded the review of the South's share of oil revenues.

## Darfur

### **25 killed and wounded in armed confrontation between Darfur factions**

(**Al-Rai Al-Aam**) SLA (Free Will) led by Dr. Abdul Rahman Musa said SLA (Minni Minawi) attacked the village of Muree in North Darfur killing 25 SLA/FW fighters.

However, SLA (Minnawi) denied the attack.

An informed UNAMID sources in El Fasher told SUNA that the intense fighting that erupted yesterday between the two groups prevented a military mission to the area as the helicopter carrying UNAMID military team could not land.

### **Darfur rebel group meets with UK special envoy to Sudan**

(**ST**) May 19, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — A Darfur rebel faction met with the UK special envoy to Sudan in the Eritrean capital for discussions on a peace initiative made by the British prime minister last month.

The Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) faction led by Khamis Abakr issued a statement saying they discussed the British offer for hosting Darfur peace talks.

The SLM said that the UK special envoy Michael O'Neill emphasized the British role in seeking a peaceful resolution to the Darfur conflict.

The rebel delegation told O'Neill that they "refuse to recognize the Abuja [Darfur Peace Agreement] as a basis for any future negotiations".

The SLM faction also stressed that "all parties to the Darfur conflict should be included in the peace process".

The statement quoted the UK special envoy as condemning Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) claims that they are the only movement in Darfur and that it is an "obstacle to the peace process".

The rebel group also told O'Neill that the international community "needs to pressure the National Congress Party [ruling party in Sudan] to stop its ground and air military

offensive and all acts of aggression against civilians and disarming all militias in Darfur and Sudan generally”.

SLM said in the statement they “expressed concern over reduction of food rations to refugees in Darfur denying that rebel groups have an interest in blocking flow of humanitarian aid”.