



Media Monitoring Report

25 May 2008

By Public Information Office

Main News

- **Fighting in Sudan Abyei to be investigated (ST)**
- **Abyei is part of north Sudan says Arab tribal leader (ST)**

UN/Agencies

- **SRSG demands implementation of Abyie protocol (Alwahda)**

GoNU

- **Sudanese president visits South Korea to enhance bilateral ties (ST)**
- **France expresses surprise at Sudan accusations over rebel assault (ST)**
- **Sudan denies accepting Thai and Nepalese troops in Darfur force (ST)**
- **US Congressmen ask to end normalization talks with Sudan (ST)**
- **President Assistant Dr. Nafie Ali Nafie lashes out at some of Darfur armed movements (Alshafa)**
- **Government holds UN responsible of obstacles facing hybrid forces (Alsudani)**
- **Vice President Ali Osman Taha discusses with Machar situation in Abyie (Al Ray Alaam)**

GoSS

- **Salva Kiir praises UAE Humanitarian efforts in South Sudan (ST)**
- **Rumbek gunman fatally shoots his two brothers in-law (ST)**
- **Hundredth of persons flee Warab State due to tribal conflicts (Al Ray Alaam)**

Darfur

- **Military Council of SLA' Main stream relieves West Darfur State governor from the movement (Alsudani)**

*NOTE: Reproduction here does not mean that the UNMIS PIO can vouch for the accuracy or veracity of the contents, nor does this report reflect the views of the United Nations Mission in Sudan. Furthermore, international copyright exists on some materials and this summary should not be disseminated beyond the intended list of recipients.*

## **Highlights**

### [Main News](#)

#### **Abyei is part of north Sudan, says Arab tribal leader**

**(ST)**The oil rich region of Abyei is “clearly” part of North Sudan, an Arab tribal leader said today.

Mohamed Omar Al-Ansari head of the newly formed ‘Abyei Liberation Front’ told the daily Al-Sharq Al-Awsat published in London that the movement was formed “in response to forces belonging to Sudan People Liberation Army (SPLA)”.

“Abyei is a region of co-existence between the Arab Misseriya tribe and the African Dinka Ngok but it is part of Northern Sudan according to the 1956 borders. We view Abyei as nothing but a Northern area and part of Southern Kordofan” he said.

The border area between North and South Sudan witnessed the most violent clashes last week between Sudanese army and SPLA that left at least 22 people killed and scores injured.

Al-Ansari also said the Misseriya tribe “does not recognize the ABC report as it is not worth the ink it was written in. They can soak it in water and drink it”.

“They [ABC] failed to find documents they can use to draw the borders and so they came up with their own proposals that summarized the foreign interests in Abyei” he added.

However the Misseriya leader left the door open for a compromise, saying that the issue can be solved “through local civil bodies with Dinka Ngok”.

“We and Dinka Ngok are one body. My grandmother is from Dinka Ngok...We integrated and coexisted that it is very hard to tell what tribe a person belongs to so solving our problems in Abyei is not an impossible task”.

Al-Ansari further said that Abyei should be administered jointly with Dinka Ngok “but remains part of South”.

“In the event of secession of the South we have no objection to Abyei inhabitants holding dual citizenship. In any case we think Abyei is one ship in a sea and any attempt to divide it will break it and drown it. Its alright if the Swiss political system can be implemented in Abyei” he said.

## [UN/Agencies](#)

### **SRSG demands implementation of Abyie protocol**

**((ST,Alwahda,Ray Alshaab,))** Both sides involved in the bloody fighting in Sudan's oil-rich flashpoint region of Abyei have agreed to an investigation into the incident, the U.N. representative to Sudan said Sunday.

Special Representative of the Secretary General in Sudan Ashraf Qazi told reporters that the head of U.N. forces in Sudan will investigate the fierce fighting in the border region between the north and south and prepare a report at the next meeting of the two sides.

"Both sides have agreed to an investigation into what caused the incident and to take action any individual held accountable or held responsible for that," he said.

Qazi journeyed to the devastated town of Abyei Friday where a week of clashes between northern government soldiers and former southern rebels resulted in almost 90,000 people in the area fleeing their homes, and at least 22 dead soldiers..

"It is important to investigate how this happened, why it happened, why the command and control chain failed," he said. "All this needs to be taken into account, not with the idea of holding one party or the other responsible."

Qazi also reaffirmed his belief that both the north and south were committed to the peace agreement.

Ray Alshaab said the SRSG stressed that the rapid incidents the could not allow the Zambian contingent station in the area to protect the civilians in Abyei, though, he added, it was mandated to provide protection for the civilians under Chapter six of the UN Charter

He however stressed that the protection of civilians is the government's responsibility in the first place.

He described the security situation in Abyie as "fragile", saying that the ceasefire between SAF and SPLA was in place since its declaration four days ago.

He indicated that there were unconfirmed reports about movement of forces from both SAF and SPLA, calling on the political leaders of both sides to commit themselves to the ceasefire.

Meanwhile, Alwahda reported that Qazi demanded the formation of Abyie Transitional Administration, deployment of the Joint Integrated Units (JIUs) and the implementation of Abyie protocol.

He said that he called on the Ceasefire Political Commission (CPC) to look into the agreements signed by the Joint Military Commission (JMC), asserting the necessity of releasing the detainees.

## [GoNU](#)

### **Sudanese president visits South Korea to enhance bilateral ties**

**(ST)** Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir arrived to the Korean capital, Seoul, on Sunday in a two day visit where he will hold talks with Korean President Lee Myung-bak on enhancing bilateral ties.

The Lee-al-Bashir meeting will take place Monday afternoon at the presidential office Cheong Wa Dae, followed by a dinner meeting in the evening.

The two presidents are expected to hold a press conference to speak to the media about the out come of the bilateral summit, on Tuesday.

The press conference will likely focus both on ways to promote bilateral ties between the sides and security and humanitarian concerns in Sudan.

In a meeting with the Sudanese community in South Korea, President al-Bashir affirmed the determination of his government in implementing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and pointed out that the government has made great strides in the application adding that it has left little obstacles can be resolved and will never allow the collapse of the agreement.

He also briefed the community about the ongoing efforts to resolve Darfur crisis

South Korea is considering sending troops to Sudan under the umbrella of United Nations peacekeeping forces to bring calm to the western region of Darfur, which has been suffering from a civil war that has caused more than 200,000 deaths since 2003. Al-Bashir will leave for Tokyo later Tuesday.

### **France expresses surprise at Sudan accusations over rebel assault**

**(ST)**The French government expressed surprise at accusations by the Khartoum of supporting the rebel assault on the Sudanese capital to overthrow the government.

A French official speaking to Sudan Tribune on condition of anonymity said that his government “is diligently working to defuse the tensions in its relation with Khartoum”.

The Darfur Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) fighters mounted an assault on the Sudanese capital that took the government and international community by surprise. However the Sudanese government repulsed the attack and accused Chad of backing JEM in its attempt.

Sudanese officials also implicitly pointed fingers at France saying the latter provided satellite information to JEM rebels on the best route towards Khartoum.

The Sudanese president Omar Hassan Al-Bashir told a group of Sudanese expatriates today in South Korea that a “European country” gave satellite intelligence to the rebels.

But the French official scathingly dismissed the allegations saying that “the Sudanese need to review the performance of their intelligence agencies rather than try to throw the blame on other parties”.

The official also disclosed that Paris is awaiting a response from Khartoum on an invitation extended to the Sudanese foreign minister Deng Alor and the presidential adviser Mustafa Ismail to discuss the strain in relations.

Last week the Sudanese government has refused to receive the French presidential adviser for African Affairs Bruno Joubert. The latter frequently travelled to Khartoum particularly since the Chadian rebels attack on Ndjamena last February.

But today the French foreign minister Bernard Kouchner met Ismail in Beirut, Lebanon on the sidelines of a ceremony inaugurating a new president. Sudan’s official news agency (SUNA) quoted Kouchner as condemning the JEM attack on the capital and reiterating the French efforts to bring peace to Darfur.

Sudan’s hinting at France’s involvement marks further deterioration in relations between the two countries.

Khartoum has been furious at France for hosting leader of Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) Abdel-Wahid Al-Nur and has persistently demanded that he be expelled.

Last March French President Nicolas Sarkozy condemned what he called the "deliberate and disproportionate" use of force by Sudan in the killing of a French soldier serving with European Union forces in Chad (EUFOR).

## **Sudan denies accepting Thai and Nepalese troops in Darfur force**

**(ST)** The Sudanese government denied press reports that it has given the green light to non-African units as part of the United Nations-African Union hybrid force (UNAMID) in Darfur.

The daily Al-Ahdath has quoted unidentified government officials as saying that Khartoum may take a decision to approve Thai and Nepalese forces in Darfur by year end.

The officials said that the issue was discussed as part of the negotiations on normalizing ties with the US.

The US special envoy to Sudan Richard Williamson met with a Sudanese delegation headed by Sudan Nafi and included Sudan's spy chief Salah Gosh as well as foreign minister Deng Alor.

The New York Times (NYT) obtained a series of documents exchanged between Washington and Khartoum on a series of steps to normalize relations between the two countries. The documents were leaked by an unidentified US official described as being "critical of the administration's position".

The report said that the Bush administration could remove Sudan from an American list of state supporters of terrorism and normalize relations if the Sudanese government agreed, among other steps, to allow Thai and Nepalese peacekeepers as part of the peacekeeping force.

But the spokesman of the Sudanese foreign ministry Ali Al-Sadek denied any acceptance of non-African forces and said that the discussions with the US was in regards to technical units.

Al-Sadek also said that Sudan has facilitated the deployment of UNAMID and refused any allegations of obstructing the process.

The Sudanese diplomat also slammed the international community "slowness in pushing for political solution in Darfur which forms the root of the problem".

## **US Congressmen ask to end normalization talks with Sudan**

**(ST)** The US Congressmen urged Bush Administration to end normalization talks with the Khartoum government as result of Abyei fighting between the northern and southern Sudanese armies and the displacement of the local population.

Two Congressmen, Michael Capuano, and Donald Payne, both from the Democratic Party, condemned in a statement issued on Saturday the "deliberate, brutal, and systematic attacks against innocent civilians in Abyei and the surrounding communities."

They also said that the objective of this violence is to "permanently displace the civilian population."

The lawmakers said the US had warned Sudan, in a position paper, that it would end negotiations to improve bilateral ties "if new violence is initiated in or by Sudan". Based on this position, Payne and Capuano stated that "The Bush Administration must end normalization talks with the Bashir regime in light of what has taken place in Abyei."

They further asked to force al-Bashir government to implement Abyei Protocol and all provisions of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement sponsored by Bush Administration.

"We strongly condemn any move toward normalization of relations until the provisions of the CPA are implemented, peace is restored in Abyei and Darfur, and the outcome of the Southern and Abyei referendums are respected;" said the two Congressmen.

A delegation led by the US special envoy to Sudan Richard Williamson will travel to Khartoum next Friday for the second round of negotiations on normalizing ties. Both sides will discuss the situation in Darfur, Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and the bilateral relations.

Williamson met with in Rome last April with a Sudanese delegation headed by Sudan Nafi and included Sudan's spy chief Salah Gosh as well as foreign minister Deng Alor.

News of the meeting drew widespread in the US from lawmakers and Darfur advocates who think that the Sudanese government has not lived up to its previous commitments with regards to Darfur and partially to the North-South agreement.

Democratic White House contender Barack Obama issued a statement saying he was "deeply concerned" over reports that the Bush administration is negotiating with Sudan over normalizing ties.

### **President Assistant Dr. Nafie Ali Nafie lashes out at some of Darfur armed movements**

**(Alsahafa)** President Assistant Dr. Nafie Ali Nafie has strongly lashed out at some of Darfuri armed movements and their supporters for capitalizing on Darfur issue for personal gains.

Nafie described these movements as "embassies slaves", saying that the free person did not become an outlaw or traitor, in reference to foreign involvement in the recent attack on Omdurman by Justice and Equality Movement.

He added that Sudan would not be governed by an outlaw or an agent, indicating that the National Compromise Agreement recently signed between the NCP and the Umma Party was the start towards a comprehensive national reconciliation.

## **Vice President Ali Osman Taha discusses with Machar situation in Abyie**

(**Al Ray Alaam ,Alsaafa,**) The Vice President Ali Osman Taha held on Sunday an in-camera meeting with GoSS Vice President Dr. Riak Machar to find out a formula in a bid to calm down the security situation in Abyie.

A source told (Al Ray Alaam) that the meeting reviewed Abyie crisis and the possibility of bringing about a settlement, indicating that the two sides assured their keenness to find out a solution to the problem.

In the meantime, (Alsaafa) reported that Machar was optimistic over the meeting with Taha, announcing that the joint committees between the SPLM and NCP on Abyie would meet soon to reach lasting and durable solution to the problem.

Machar said that he presented new proposals to President Albashir and Taha to solve the problem, but he declined to give details.

## **Government holds UN responsible of obstacles facing hybrid forces**

(**Alsudani**) The government has said that UNSG Ban Ki Moon is responsible of the provision of the Hybrid forces' needs, admitting the existence of logistic and financial obstacles impeding the deployment of the troops, foreign ministry's Spokesperson Ali Alsadek said

He added that the UN and the donor countries' mandate were to make available the urgent needs for the forces, including the helicopters.

He disclosed that the government repeatedly appealed to the UN,AU as well as officials visiting Sudan to meet the needs of the hybrid operation.

## **[GoSS](#)**

## **Salva Kiir praises UAE Humanitarian efforts in South Sudan**

(**ST**) Sudanese First Vice-President and Southern Sudan government president Salva Kiir Mayardit, praised United Arab Emirates (UAE) for the humanitarian and medical assistances it has given to southern Sudanese.

During a meeting today at his office in Juba with a delegation of the Emirati Red Crescent, Salva Kiir expressed his appreciation of the many initiatives put forward by the UAE towards the Sudanese people in general and southern Sudan in particular.

Salva Kiir said that the UAE concern about the humanitarian situation in the south back for several decades ago. He pointing in this regard to the historical visit paid by the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan to Southern Sudan in the 1970s.



The First Vice-President underlined that during his recent visit during last March to Abu Dhabi he felt the determination of UAE leadership to step up efforts to improve the humanitarian conditions in South Sudan through provision of basic needs and building of infrastructure.

The delegation, which is currently in southern Sudan to implement a number of humanitarian tasks, informed Salva Kiir about the details of their mission in the state of Bahr al-Jabal. Also the head of the delegation explained the programme of relief and medical campaign being carried out now in southern Sudan.

The Red Crescent activities in the south include a humanitarian aspect including basic needs of food, shelter materials and childhood supplies in addition to medical activity, which includes a campaign to combat blindness and eye diseases as well as a team specialized in bone surgery for the landmine victims. The medical team operates in Juba Hospital.

In a related development, Luca Biong, the Southern Sudan Presidential affairs minister received today the second Emirati relief plane carrying foodstuffs, medicines and miscellaneous medical supplies.

The UAE President Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan pledged during a meeting with the Southern Sudan president on March 22, 2008 to provide humanitarian aide, to contribute to build the economic infrastructures as well as to invest in southern Sudan.

### **Rumbek gunman fatally shoots his two brothers in-law**

(ST) A ring leader by the name of Marial Kachol Nguet, 45 year old, has shot dead his two brothers in-law Thursday evening in Rumbek East County at a village called Malual which is about 20 miles from Rumbek Central County.

Also this morning, the same Panyar and Aliap clans' caused heavy fighting that had resulted in five people killed at cattle camp called Alau as respond of revenge from Aliap clan.

All five killed are from the same area of Rumbek East County. The total number of deaths is seven while the number of injury is still unknown from both-side.

The situation was growing worse in Rumbek East and there is heavy intervention from local government of Lakes state as well troop from the various police units and military which were sent to stop the clashes over two clans of Panyar and Aliap.

The Rumbek East county commissioner Cirilo Majok Mading said that the situation is soon going to be under control within few hours.

### **Hundredth of persons flee Warab State due to tribal conflicts**

**(Al Ray Alaam)** An estimated 2,000 persons were reported to have fled from Warab State to Western Bahr el-Ghazal State due to tribal conflicts between Aguok and Apuk tribes in eastern and western Gorgial area in Warrap State, reported Alsudani.

Two weeks ago tribal conflicts erupted between the two tribes resulting in lives and property losses as well as the displacement of the citizens to Achong Chong locality in the neighboring West Bahr el Ghazal State.

Quoting Miraya FM, the paper said that the majority of the displaced persons, who were women and children, were facing shortage of food supplies, tents and clothes.

## [Darfur](#)

### **Military Council of SLM's Main stream relieves West Darfur State governor from the movement presidency**

**(Alsudani)** The Military Council of SLM's Main stream has relieved the Governor of West Darfur Abu gasim Imam from his post as the movement's Chairperson.

The Council, in a press statement it issued on Sunday, accused Imam of non-respect to his military institution, negligence of the movement's army, rejection to implement the security arrangements and conspiring to liquidate the movement's leaderships at Morni camp.

The statement said that Imam strayed from the movement's manifesto, adding that he did not call for any meeting of the movement since he assumed the movement's chairmanship in September 2006.

The Council accused Imam of exploiting his post as Governor of West Darfur in sowing sedition and conspiracy among the movement's military commanders.