

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS**Media Monitoring Report, 28 May 2007

(By Public Information Office)

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Highlights

UN/ Agencies/ Partners

Force Commander travels to el-Fasher following death of Egyptian officer

(*AlHayat*) UNMIS Force Commander Jasbir Singh Lidder travelled to el-Fasher yesterday to meet the Governor of North Darfur against the backdrop of the killing of an Egyptian peacekeeper of the UN LSP to the AMIS.

The governor proposed a series of measures to enhance security. These included coordination between the three parties (government, the UN and the African Union) in carrying out joint patrols and manning checkpoints in entrances to AMIS compounds, that vehicles of the two missions undergo inspection at specific checkpoints inside or outside the area ... a measure also aimed at ensuring that the vehicle is not hijacked, more protection for mission vehicles and personnel and to consolidate other measures that will deter outlaw factions and robbers from carrying out such attacks on UN and African Union personnel.

On his part, the UN Force Commander lauded the measures taken by the state government to address the issue. He underlined the need for coordination between the three sides to put an end to such incidents.

Death row Aussie moved to UN hospital in Sudan

(*ABC Online*) An Australian man convicted of murder in Sudan is expected to have his case heard in the country's criminal court of appeal within a week.

George Forbes, 45, was convicted last week of murdering a Ukrainian man in southern Sudan, despite a post-mortem concluding the man had committed suicide.

Forbes could be executed if the appeal case upholds his conviction.

Alternatively, the family of the dead Ukrainian man could ask for compensation to be paid.

The chief justice of southern Sudan has also ordered Forbes be transferred to the United Nations (UN) hospital because of his deteriorating health.

The Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Greg Hunt, says Government officials want to make sure proper processes are followed.

"We will pull out all stops and work as hard as we possibly can to make sure that there is a process which considers all the evidence, runs according to proper legal proceedings and which gives Mr. Forbes full protection of his rights," he said.

"Our immediate priority is to get him out of jail, into hospital and the work that the ambassador did yesterday meant that we should have Mr Forbes into a hospital today."

US\$300,000 from WHO to the Federal Ministry of Health

(*Khartoum Monitor*) The Federal Ministry of Health has concluded bilateral agreements with the health ministers of all states of the country. The agreement provided for training, an independent system of hospital management, herbal treatment, mental health provisions, and epidemic disease control.

The bilateral agreements were sealed after the Federal Minister of Health secured WHO funding to the tune of US\$300,000 for capacity-building at the WHO Plenary Session in Geneva.

Civil Aviation introduces system for tracking lost aircraft

(*Sudan Tribune*) The Civil Aviation Authority, in cooperation with UNMIS, the Air Force and the WFP, made yesterday a trial test for a new electronic system for search and rescue of lost aircraft.

The 2-day trial test for the Emergency Location Transmitter (ELT) was staged by the Search and Rescue Department of the Civil Aviation Authority and simulated the loss of an aircraft between Kosti and Khartoum airport.

The UN support package to the AMIS

AU, UN and Sudan to discuss Darfur hybrid force in June

(*SudanTribune.com*) A tripartite meeting between Sudanese government, UN and the AU will be held in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, in the first week of June.

African Union, United Nations and Sudan will hold meeting during the first week of June to set an agreement on the UN third packages support known as hybrid operation with at least 23,000 troops and police.

Sudan agreed to the first two phases, but refused to sign off on the third and final phase - the hybrid U.N.-A.U. force - saying it would only allow a larger African force with technical and logistical support from the U.N. Also wants to renegotiate the number of the troops saying it is too large.

The head of Sudanese mission at the UN, Ambassador Abdelmahmood Abdelhaleem told reporters he received a copy of the report on the proposal and passed it to Sudan government. Khartoum would study the report and convey remarks on it as soon as possible, he added.

U.N. Security Council endorsed 40 pages of plans on Friday for a Darfur peacekeeping force of more than 23,000 troops and police to protect civilians and use force to deter violence.[*Follow the link to the full text [AU, UN and Sudan to discuss Darfur hybrid force in June](#)*].

AlSahafa daily also reports that the government has formed a committee comprising the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other relevant institutions to study the Security Council proposal for a hybrid force for Darfur.

Ambassador Siraj-el-deen Hamid of the foreign ministry disclosed that the committee will report to the Presidency within 48 hours and the Security Council will receive the official response of the government within the week.

Egypt dispatches 78 more peacekeepers to Darfur

(AP via SudanTribune.com) Egypt on Sunday dispatched 78 troops to join African Union peacekeepers in Darfur, three days after one of its officers was killed in the war-torn Sudanese region, Egyptian officials said.

The group was flown directly to Darfur, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

Earlier this month, Egypt, Sudan's northern Arab neighbor, announced that it was offering a new peace plan in the war-torn African nation.[Follow the link to the full text [Egypt dispatches 78 more peacekeepers to Darfur](#)].

In Cairo, Egypt's foreign ministry had deplored the killing of the Egyptian officer and described it as a "sinful aggression", reports *Sudan Vision* daily.

Foreign minister Abu-el-Gheit told an Egyptian newspaper that investigations are on going into the incident.

An official at Egypt's foreign ministry also says that the killing of the Egyptian officer will not thwart Egypt's role in keeping peace and security in Darfur.

Sudan's foreign ministry has expressed its condolences.

CPA

SAF in Upper Nile prepares redeployment plan for its forces

(AlRai AlAam) A committee of the SAF is preparing a SAF redeployment plan for Upper Nile.

The SAF intends to redeploy its forces north of the 1956 borders as stipulated in the CPA. Sources report that a number of high rank SAF officers arrived Upper Nile State yesterday to follow up on preparations for the redeployment.

Meanwhile, a DDR committee continued its disarmament campaign in Adariel with 35 pieces of guns being handed over to the SAF.

Sudan's main partners delay joint meeting to Monday

[SudanTribune.com] The joint meeting between the two main partners of the national unity government has been delayed in order to settle differences over the remaining issue in the implementation of a peace deal signed on January 9, 2005.

Nafei Ali Nafei, the deputy chairman of the National Congress Party (NCP) announced on Sunday evening the deferral to Monday evening of the second joint meeting between the National Congress Party Leadership Office and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) Political Bureau.

The purpose of the delay is to give more time to the two parties to reach a compromise on the remaining issues which include implementation of Abyei commission report and the oil concession given by SPLM to the British White Nile. [Follow the link to the full text [Sudan's main partners delay joint meeting to Monday](#)].

Sudan's old currency to withdraw from circulation in July

(Xinhua via SudanTribune.com) The Sudanese central bank announced on Sunday that the old Sudanese currency of Dinar will stop in circulation within one month to let the new Sudanese Pounds to take its place.

Deputy Governor of the Bank of Sudan Badr-Eddin Mahmoud said at a press conference that the first stage of the substitution of the Sudanese Pounds (one Sudanese Pound equals half U.S. dollar) had finished.

"Since April, new bank notes and coins of various values have been put into circulation in the market while 70 percent of the old currency had been withdrawn", Mahmoud said.

The second stage will started on June 1 during which the old currency could be changed into the new one in the central bank and its branches as well as commercial banks in Sudan.

From July 1, the old Sudanese Dinar can not be used for transaction but will be accepted for exchange in banks, Mahmoud said, adding that the central bank had prepared enough notes and coins of the new currency for the replacement.

He said that the print of the new currency had cost 156 million U.S. dollars.

According to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed between the Sudanese government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement in 2005 to end the 21-year civil, a new currency must be issued to replace the old Dinar in order to represent the unity of the country.

Speaker says repatriation of Khartoum IDPs to Equatoria in June this year

(Khartoum Monitor) The Speaker of the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly announced that IDPs from the Greater Equatoria region now in Khartoum will start to leave Khartoum from 18 June this year through the voluntary repatriation program jointly being carried out by the Government of National Unity, the GoSS, the IOM and United Nations agencies.

Speaking at a rally in Haj Yousuf yesterday, the Speaker urged those who have not registered for the returns program to do so. He also called upon southerners to forgive each other for deeds carried out during the war days.

Southern Sudan

Legislative Assembly summons Finance ministry to explain 2006 spending

(*Gurtong.org* – Juba, 24 May) The Government of Southern Sudan's acting finance minister is to appear before a parliamentary anti-corruption committee within three days said the head of the assembly on Wednesday.

"We want to establish exactly what has been spent and why," said James Wani Igga, Speaker of the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly (SSLA) about ministerial spending of the 2006 budget.

A Committee for Economy, Finance and Development has asked acting finance minister Gabriel Changson Chang to shed light on monies received by the south last year and how much of the budget's reserves were spent without parliamentary approval.

After replacing Arthur Akuien Chol - whose ministerial immunity was lifted for investigations into a corruption scandal - Chang called in April for new administrative systems for the ministry and for cuts on spending.

Chang also stated that spending outside of the budget included some of the close on half billion US dollars in reserve money.

But it remains unclear how much said Igga.

The south receives funds on a monthly basis but amounts fluctuate with the oil market and production and so may be different than amounts presupposed during budget planning, he explained.

"The argument of the former minister of finance was that actually the reserves are only on paper, that in fact, practically there were no reserves," said Igga who added that the reserves were created as part of a parliamentary process.

Igga also said that the SSLA has still not received four months backlog of funds.

"Our standing committees are not able to function properly," he said but added that this was due to a shortage of funds across government which means it is also having problems meeting some contractual obligations.

The south's army spokesperson said earlier in the month that soldiers were only paid their Jan and Feb salaries during the second week of May.

Government spokesperson Samson Kwaje said on Thursday that new measures have been put in place in order to curb the spending power of ministries, including the centralization of procurement processes to the finance ministry.

Darfur

Kiir sets 1 June as kick off date for meetings with Darfur Peace Agreement non-signatories

(*Sudan Vision*) Vice-President Kiir has slated 1 June as date for meetings of DPA non-signatory groups with the SPLM within the framework of an SPLM initiative aimed at unifying the factions ahead of negotiations with the Khartoum government.

In a related development and following a meeting yesterday with VP Kiir, Presidential Advisor Majzoub el-Khalifa renewed government support to initiatives by the United Nations and the African Union. He added that his meeting with the VP favored harmonizing of the initiatives on Darfur to unify the negotiations track.

President Deby demands Darfur rebels to quit Chad

(*SudanTribune.com*) While preparations are going on to receive president Idriss deby in Khartoum, Chad has demanded that Darfur rebel groups to quit its territory.

In accordance to the dispositions of the Riyadh reconciliation agreement signed between the two countries on May 3, Chadian authorities requested the different Darfur rebel groups based in its territory to leave the country.

Different sources told Sudan Tribune, that leaders of the different factions of the rebel National Redemption Front (NRF) and other Darfur rebels have already left Chad. Some of them are currently in Asmara while others departed to other African and European capitals. [*SuFollow the link to the full text [President Deby demands Darfur rebels to quit Chad](#)*].

Central Africa demands removal of armed Sudanese

(*AFP via SudanTribune.com*) The Central African Republic government on Saturday demanded that neighbouring Sudan remove armed Sudanese men alleged to have entered its territory, national radio reported.

Foreign Minister Come Zoumara met with Sudan's ambassador in Bangui, Ahmed Hassan Said, and "expressed the Central African Republic government's discontentment and strong protest before the presence of armed men from Sudan on its territory who entered on the 24th and 25th of May."

He demanded that the ambassador notify Khartoum "so that these men leave Central African Republic soil immediately," the radio station reported.

A military source in the Central African Republic government told AFP the men arrived in the country after clashes between the Sudanese military and rebels in Darfur.

"We are talking about 1,000 to 2,000 refugees who were, to a certain extent, rebels who hid their weapons to obtain refugee status," the source said.

They are located in Sam Ouandja, about 50 kilometres (30 miles) from the Sudanese border, according to the source. [Follow the link to the full text [Central Africa demands removal of armed Sudanese](#)].

Europe to tackle China on Darfur at Asia-EU meeting

(AFP via SudanTribune.com) Top diplomats from 46 countries in Asia and Europe meet in Germany from Monday for talks ranging from the Darfur conflict and the North Korean and Iranian nuclear crises to global warming.

The eighth Asia-Europe meeting (ASEM) of foreign ministers comes after new French President Nicolas Sarkozy declared that major international issues cannot be resolved without the cooperation of China.

"There will be no solution on the question of Iran, on the question of Darfur, on the question of North Korea, without strong and positive Chinese involvement," Sarkozy said on Wednesday.

French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner has signalled that he plans to use the two-day meeting in the northern German city of Hamburg to hold one-on-one talks with his Chinese counterpart Yang Jiechi on Darfur. [Follow the link to the full text [Europe to tackle China on Darfur at Asia-EU meeting](#)].

Other Developments

ICC prosecutor tells Sudan to hand over Darfur suspects

(SudanTribune.com) The chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), Luis Moreno-Ocampo expressed his confidence that the arrest warrants against the two Darfur war crime suspects will be executed.

Ocampo made these remarks following his unannounced meeting with the Secretary-General of the Arab league Amr Musa in Cairo.

Ocampo briefed Musa on the activities of the ICC in Darfur in an apparent bid to rally Arab support for any looming showdown with Sudan over the handing over of the two suspects. Ocampo told reporters in Cairo that the ICC will "take all necessary measures should Sudan insist on defying the extradition request". However Ocampo declined to elaborate on the kind of measures he will take.

The Sudanese ambassador in Cairo Abdelmoniem Mabrouk dismissed Ocampo's remarks as contradictory to the principle of "complementarity" as defined by the Rome Statue which allows ICC to investigate only in the absence of "genuine national proceedings". Mabrouk stressed that Sudan has already conducted its own judicial proceedings in Darfur war crimes.

Ocampo is expected to bring up the issue of Sudan's non-compliance with the court in his semi annual briefing to the UN Security Council in mid-June. It is not clear if a new UN resolution will be drafted requesting that Sudan hand over the suspects.

Sudan has not ratified the Rome Statute, but the UN Security Council triggered the provisions.