

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS**Media Monitoring Report, 29 May 2007

(By Public Information Office)

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Highlights

UN/ Agencies/ Partners

UN-AU, Sudan discuss additional security measures in Darfur

(Xinhua via SudanTribune.com) A joint police team of the United Nations (UN) and the African Union (AU) has discussed with the Sudanese police additional security measures in the western Sudanese region of Darfur, the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) said on Monday.

The discussion was held Sunday in Fashir, capital of North Darfur State, where an UNMIS military officer was killed on Friday, the UNMIS said in a statement.

The local police chief for Darfur North expressed willingness to cooperate with the UN and the AU, according to the statement.

It added that a UNMIS force commander visited el-Fasher Sunday to express support to UNMIS military colleagues serving there under the Light Support Package from the UN for the AU peacekeeping force in Darfur.

Lieutenant Colonel Ihab Ahmad, an Egyptian officer serving in Darfur under the Light Support Package, died early Saturday of wounds sustained during an armed robbery late Friday.

About 11:30 p.m. local time (2030 GMT) on Friday, three armed men wearing civilian clothes broke into the private house shared by Ahmad and seven other UNMIS staff.

After taking money and valuables from the other occupants of the house, the armed men moved to the victim's room and demanded money from him. Ahmad gave them all the money he had, but the attackers then shot him.

He was rushed to the Level II Hospital of the AU peacekeeping force in el-Fasher, where he was pronounced dead at about 01:00 a.m. (2200 GMT on Friday) on Saturday.

The UNMIS unequivocally condemned the killing, saying that it will cooperate with the Sudanese authorities to apprehend the killers of Ahmad and hold them accountable.

It added that urgent measures were being taken in coordination with the Sudanese authorities to prevent further attacks of this nature from taking place.

The UN support package to the AMIS

Sudan says compromise possible over Darfur hybrid force

(Reuters via SudanTribune.com) Sudan hopes to reach a compromise with the United Nations over a proposed "hybrid" peacekeeping force to bring stability to its war-ravaged Darfur region, a senior Foreign Ministry official said on Tuesday.

"We are cooperating well," Mutrif Siddig, Sudanese undersecretary for foreign affairs, told Reuters. "It is quite possible we are going to reach a compromise."

Sudan has said it was studying the proposals, which were handed by U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to Sudan's U.N. ambassador for approval.

U.S. President George W. Bush was expected to announce tough new sanctions against Sudan including punitive action against 31 companies and four individuals, according to a draft of his speech.

Siddig said expanded U.S. sanctions would be neither timely nor justified but also would not "at all" affect Sudan's response to the U.N. hybrid force proposal.

"It seems this is related to domestic politics. ... We isolate the U.S. position from the U.N. position," he said, but added that he feared the move would send a "confusing signal". [*Follow the link to the full text [Sudan says compromise possible over Darfur hybrid force](#)*].

In an earlier report from *SudanTribune.com*, Spokesperson Ali Al-Sadek has suggested that some of the proposals set forth in the UN-AU report on Darfur hybrid force violate the terms of the Abuja peace accord. He called the joint report "illogical" since Sudan did not take part in preparing it.

Al-Sadek stressed that the number of troops deployed to Darfur was to be determined by the tripartite commission consisting of UN, AU and Khartoum in accordance with the Abuja peace agreement. He accused some parties of blocking the implementation of the first and second phase of UN-AU hybrid force as outlined by the Addis Ababa communiqué signed last November. [*Follow the link to the full text [Sudan hints its rejection of UN-AU report on Darfur hybrid force](#)*].

In a separate development, foreign minister Lam Akol in an interview to *AlSudani* daily has rebuffed reports of differences within the government over the issue of deployment of a hybrid force to Darfur.

He said that the composition of this hybrid force comes on the basis of the decision at the African Union Peace & Security Council meeting in Addis that "boots n the ground" would be African and would be supported by the United Nations. He explained that the African Union Mission in Sudan currently has a strength of 7,000 while the United Nations has a military component of 3,000. The remaining about 10,000 soldiers (*of the proposed total of 23,000*) would therefore fully be from Africa.

The Minister assured that all statements coming from him reflect the position of the Government of National Unity and not his personal views or those of the political group he belongs to.

Meanwhile Presidential Advisor Majzoub el-Khalifa told *Sudan Vision* daily that next month's meeting of the tripartite mechanism should come up with a unified vision as to the deployment of a hybrid force.

He said that the meeting would also discuss the fulfillment of the United Nations commitments regarding the first and second support packages to the African Union Mission in Sudan as well as deliberations on the third phase of the package.

The Presidential Advisor added that the Government of Sudan will have no objection if the size of the African Union forces in Darfur would be increased to more than 20,000 to be gradually deployed as dictated by the needs on the ground. He said however that the Sudan is concerned about the issue of the command and mandate of these hybrid forces but insists command must be assigned to the African Union.

AU envoy urges deployment of Darfur forces

(SudanTribune.com) The African Union envoy for Darfur has called for a swift deployment of the AU-UN hybrid force in the western Sudan, saying peace on the ground is crucial for a negotiated political solution for the crisis.

Speaking at the consultative meeting of African Parliamentarians on Darfur at the Sea Cliff Dar Es Salaam in Tanzania on Saturday May 26, the AU envoy for Darfur said that UN-AU joint efforts for peacekeeping in Darfur go hand in hand with the with the political process to end the four year conflict.

Salim who is often described as the ally of the Sudanese government told the meeting that the ill-equipped African force in Darfur “needs to be reinforced and be given the necessary means to effectively and efficiently execute their responsibilities.”

He further, underscored the urgency to implement the AU-UN and Sudan understanding of November 16, 2006 related to the three support packages by the United Nations to the African forces in Darfur.

Salim also, hailed the initiative of Salva Kiir, First vice President, to hold a finding common ground meeting in Juba between the different Darfur rebel groups. He reaffirmed the AU-UN support of this initiative.

Chad says UN force could upset neighbors

(Reuters via SudanTribune.com) Chad’s government does not want a United Nations military peacekeeping force deployed in its violent east because it fears its neighbors may see these foreign troops as a threat, the prime minister said on Monday.

Speaking on French radio, Prime Minister Nouradine Delwa Kassire Coumakoye also ruled out opening peace talks with eastern Chadian rebels unless they first accepted the authority of President Idriss Deby’s government.

A U.N. mission is in Chad to try to persuade Deby to accept U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon’s recommendation for a robust U.N. military force to be sent to the eastern border to halt violence spilling over from Sudan’s conflict-torn Darfur region.

Humanitarian groups say such a force is essential to protect around 234,000 Sudanese refugees and 120,000 Chadian civilians who have fled successive attacks by armed groups on both sides of the long, desolate and porous frontier.

But Chad's government, which is battling an eastern rebellion by insurgents it says are supported by Sudan, has said it will only accept a U.N. police force, not a fully fledged military force of "blue helmet" peacekeepers.

"We don't want green helmets or blue helmets. We don't want war," Coumakoye told Radio France Internationale (RFI).

"We don't want to create an opportunity for our neighbours to think that we've brought in the forces of the international community to fight our adversaries," he added.

Coumakoye, whom RFI said spoke while visiting Paris, did not mention which of Chad's neighbors he was referring to. [*Follow the link to the full text [Chad says UN force could upset neighbours](#)*].

US sanctions spark new Darfur controversy

(*AFP via SuddanTribune.com*) The United States plans to slap fresh sanctions on Sudan over the Darfur conflict on Tuesday and seek a tough new UN Security Council resolution punishing Khartoum, top US officials said.

But China, one of Sudan's main allies, rejected the US move even before it had been officially announced by President George W. Bush.

Bush was to single out Sudanese President Omar al-Beshir when he outlines the sanctions at 1200 GMT, the officials said in a briefing arranged by the White House on condition they not be named.

The toughened sanctions will bar another 31 companies, including oil exporters, from US trade and financial dealings, and take aim at two top Sudan government officials, they said.

However, China shot back at the plan, saying that new sanctions will only complicate the crisis in Darfur, where more than 200,000 people have died and more than two million have fled their homes in the past four years, according to UN figures.

"These wilful sanctions and simply applying pressure is not conducive to solving the problem," said Liu Guijin, China's special representative on Darfur. "It will only make achieving a solution more complicated." [*Follow the link to the full text of this and related stories [US sanctions spark new Darfur controversy](#); [US to impose new sanctions on Sudan](#); [US to proceed with unilateral sanctions against Sudan: envoy](#); [China opposes expanded sanctions against Sudan](#)*].

CPA

Meeting of the partners to the CPA indefinitely suspend meeting

(*AlRai AlAam; AlSahafa*) The parties to the CPA have indefinitely suspended meetings between the NCP Leadership Office and the SPLM Political Bureau as the two sides failed yesterday to reach agreement on the two remaining suspended issues of Abyei and the issue of White Nile petroleum company.

Members of the joint executive committee of the parties tasked with ironing out the differences had lengthy talks yesterday in a bid to find a compromise.

El-Dirdeiri Mohamed, the head of the NCP side in the committee on Abyei assured the press that consultations were ongoing between the two sides to find solutions to the outstanding issues. He refused to brand their efforts to resolve Abyei and the oil issue as a failure and was optimistic that the committee would soon find a way out.

Ahead of yesterday's meeting of the top offices of the parties to the CPA, Misseiriya representatives came up with what they dubbed the "Final Position" on the Abyei issue to be tabled before the meeting of the parties.

AlIntibaha notes that the Misseiriya representatives expressed in their document a total rejection to the demarcation of any border apart from the 1956 borders and called upon the Presidency of the Republic to form an authority in Abyei jointly administered by representatives of the Misseiriya and the Dinka Ngok with due regard to the local demographic balance in its composition. They also called upon the Presidency to resolve that the two tribes live side by side in a geographic area known as Abyei and as per the 1956 boundaries.

In a separate development, Vice-President Salva Kiir has ordered a suspension of operations of the White Nile Petroleum and Escom oil companies in Jonglei and a probe into details of their contracts, reports *AlSahafa* daily.

No date has been set for a resumption of operations.

A representative of the Scholars of Central Bor County residing in London said that the VP's decision came about following a request by the committee that rejects the operations of these companies on their land.

DDR: Disarmament continues in Upper Nile

(*Khartoum Monitor*) Armed factions in Mellut and Maban counties of Uper Nile handed their guns over to authorities yesterday.

The factions expressed intentions to achieve stability in order to rebuild the region.

The Malakal region continues to witness disarmaments.

Southern Sudan

GoSS legislative body underlines need to appoint SPLA Affairs' minister

(*Allintibaha*) The Legislative Assembly of the GoSS, in its session yesterday, called on the GoSS to appoint a Minister for SPLA affairs and to monitor the resettlement of returnees ahead of the forthcoming census.

The legislative body also called upon the executive to intensify efforts to provide the necessary services to the citizens and to work with commitment towards disarmament.

Governor of Central Equatoria State orders job cut for civil servants

(*Allintibaha*) The Governor of Central Equatoria State has ordered the state's labor minister to cut down the number of civil servants to 10,000 from the current total of 19,114 in the regions payroll.

At a meeting with the head of the regional legislature, the governor also called for the adoption of a suitable mechanism for such action. He pointed out that his government receives a budget that would cover for only 5,000 employees from the GoSS and may retrench those who have reached retirement age.

NCP in Bahr-el-Ghazal protest to the central leadership over void created by resignation of Diu Mathok from party membership

(*Allintibaha*) Leaders of the NCP Greater Bahr-el-Ghazal Chapter are to present a memorandum to the party's central leadership requesting the party to review the way its regional offices are run.

Sources say party members complain that the central leadership is neglecting them and would be calling upon the party leadership to exert more effort to preserve its membership especially against the backdrop of intensive SPLM efforts to win NCP members from these regions to their ranks.

Party members point out that the resignation recently of Diu Mathok from his position as the chapter's secretary has not been given the attention it deserves from the party's leadership and no one has been appointed to replace him.

Women's conference for Central Equatoria plan for cabinet

(*Gurtong.org* – 28 May, Juba) Women from across the bomas of all six counties of Central Equatoria State began a two-day conference – the first of its kind since the signing of peace in 2005 – to discuss how to better the lives of women in the area.

“We're going to discuss how development can take place, how to empower women,” said Maka Mustapha, one of the women members of the state assembly and on the organizing team for the conference, “we are going to form a cabinet to help run programs across Central Equatoria”.

The 120 women cabinet will lobby for funding in order to find ways forward for impoverished women, especially those in rural areas who are especially short on access to services and opportunities for change, added Mustapha.

“During the war, the women had no freedom, but we can now talk and move freely,” explained Madelina Getara from Morobo. But Getara said that many women are still suffering from a lack of basic services and have no more access to water for example than from before.

Attitudes are also slow to change, although the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and the South’s interim constitution give equal rights to women said Getara.

“Men are still with the old situation, they are still following the traditional way of life,” she explained, “we are not happy that women are still being beaten but we have no power ... these new laws need to be put in practice”.

Girls still lack opportunities to go to school and early marriage is still a problem.

Lydia Gordon, also in attendance at the opening ceremony this morning admitted that there is still a big difference between women in power with influence and other women in the South.

But the conference organizers – who went down to the bomas to find village level representation – believe a strong women’s network is a realistic way to enhance as yet unseen decentralization.

“Now is the time to solicit funds to the boma level, its not yet begun, but we are organizing ourselves,” said Gordon.

Army testing for HIV continues to expand

(*Gurtong.org* – 28 May, Juba) Members of the Sudan People’s Liberation Army (SPLA) who want to check on their HIV/AIDS status can now do so in five places in the South specially assigned for military, said a representative from an NGO working with the army on Monday.

“There’s a VCT (voluntary counseling and testing) centre in Juba, one in Owinkibul, Rumbek, Yei and Lainya,” said Caroline Karatu a program manager for Intra Health which is working with the HIV/AIDS Secretariat of the SPLA to improve access to condoms, information and testing.

The initiative has put the Ministry for SPLA Affairs ahead of any other government institution in terms of voluntary counseling and testing for HIV/AIDS although Karatu says she has heard some other ministries may try to establish a similar body.

“One could term it ‘the second front’ because of the magnitude of the risk,” said Kuol Diem Kuol, SPLA spokesperson who added one of the goals of the political and moral orientation office together with the army’s HIV/AIDS secretariat is to get every soldier to go for voluntary testing.

‘Mess 40’, the first of five army VCT centres was built in the capital Juba in Feb. Some 60 soldiers have chosen to get tested so far.

First Egyptian power station in South Sudan

(*SudanTribune.com*) "Egyptian experts have already started carrying out a project on electrification of Sudan's southwestern city of Wau," said Minister of Electricity and Energy Hassan Younis on Saturday 26/5/2007.

The project comes as part of Egypt's support to southern Sudan, he pointed out in press statements. He added that the project will serve around 15,000 families along with 80 schools and eight hospitals in the city.

The project is also part of others to be carried out by Egypt in southern Sudan within the framework of an Egyptian grant to the Sudanese side to the value of L.E. 154 million, he added.

Minister of Electricity Hassan Yunis said that the station will cost 37 million Egyptian pounds given as a part of a 154-million Egyptian pound grant from Egypt.

Egypt will construct two power stations in southern Sudan, in Juba and Wau, to boost development efforts in the region.

Australian convicted of murder in Sudan freed on bail

(*Reuters via SudanTribune.com*) An Australian man convicted of murder in south Sudan has been released on bail pending sentencing after his health was reported to deteriorate in prison, a British diplomat said on Tuesday.

The diplomat said he had been informed of the release by a lawyer familiar with the case. The Australian, George Forbes, could face execution over the death of a Ukrainian man who was found hanged from a towel rack in the southern town of Rumbek. [*Follow the link to the full text [Australian convicted of murder in Sudan freed on bail](#)*]

Darfur

Salva Kiir to visit Darfur in mid-June

(*AlAyaam*) Vice-President Salva Kiir is scheduled to visit Darfur mid next month, the SPLM secretary for the northern sector reports.

The SPLM official said that the SPLM is currently on a campaign to build its structures in Greater Darfur and that this process will continue until mid-June when preparations for VP Kiir's visit to the region will be finalized.

Darfur politicians call on government to hand the Darfur dossier to government officials hailing from the region

(*Rai AlShaab*) Key political figures from Darfur have called on the government to hand over the issue of Darfur to state officials hailing from the Darfur region.

Industry minister AbdelHameed Musa Kasha who also doubles up as the head of the Parliamentary Committee on Industry describes the DPA as step forward but says the agreement did not solve the problems in Darfur. "As solutions to the Darfur crisis are sought, are we people of Darfur in agreement over the solution, embrace each other with open hearts and work away from the influence of the political parties that do not share our poverty, thirst, illiteracy and displacement?" he asked.

The minister, himself from the Darfur region, was speaking at a symposium organized by the Darfur Development Committee.

France mulling aid corridor through Chad for Darfur

(Reuters via SudanTribune.com) French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner wants to establish a corridor through Chad for humanitarian aid to help victims of violence in the Sudanese region of Darfur, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said on Tuesday.

If President Nicolas Sarkozy gave the go-ahead, French troops in Chad could help set up the corridor, though they would need international assistance, said the spokesman, who was speaking on condition of anonymity.

"Obviously we are very concerned about the humanitarian situation and we want to work on that with our partners in the G8 and the EU," he said on the sidelines of a meeting of European Union and Asian foreign ministers in Hamburg.

The initiative from Kouchner, co-founder of a Nobel prize winning aid agency, comes as the United States signaled on Tuesday it plans to announce new sanctions against Sudan before working out a resolution in the United Nations in an intensified effort to end the bloodshed in Darfur.

Other Stories:

- [Radio offers new voice on Darfur border](#)