

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS**Media Monitoring Report, 30 May 2007

(By Public Information Office)

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Highlights

UN/ Agencies/ Partners

UNMIS celebrates 5th International Day of UN Peacekeepers

(The Citizen) On the occasion of the 5th International Day of UN Peacekeepers celebrated at the UNMIS Headquarters in Khartoum yesterday, Chief of Public Information, George Somerwill, noted in remarks to the press that the United Nations Mission in Sudan is in the country on the request of the Government of Sudan.

He said that the mission is now two-and-a-half years old in the country and its mandate was to support the CPA. He observed that the implementation of the CPA has faced delays and noted that some causes of delays were logistic due to the nature and environment of the Sudan.

“We, as a ‘good offices’ are neutral; however Western Equatoria State have been able to assist on the humanitarian side in cooperation with the Government of Sudan and the GoSS,” Somerwill said. He confirmed that UNMIS was also able to assist returns of refugees and IDPs back to their homes.

On challenges to the implementation of the CPA, Somerwill said that the challenges facing the CPA are not one-sided. “The CPA is made by Sudanese, so Western Equatoria State worked for what the people of Sudan need; Western Equatoria State can not tell them how to implement it,” he notes. “In one family there must be disagreement,” he notes.

UN team travels to Darfur to assess opportunities for peace talks

(AlSahafa) The former EU representative to Sudan leads today a UN team to Darfur and neighbouring areas to assess opportunities for peace talks between the warring sides.

Peka Haavisto told *Reuters* yesterday that he will be assessing the readiness of the parties to the conflict to talks. “The main issue is to convince the government and the non-signatory groups to sit down for talks.”

Haavisto pointed out that talks are the only solution to the problem in Darfur.

UNHCR to hold press conference tomorrow

(*Khartoum Monitor*) The UNHCR will be holding a tripartite press conference hosting representatives of the Government of Sudan, the Government of Kenya and the UNHCR.

The Assistant Public Information Officer at the UNHCR said that the press conference will be conducted at the UNHCR premises tomorrow and will cover voluntary return of Sudanese refugees from Kenya.

African Union aircraft released through UN mediation

(*AlRai AlAam, quoting UNMIS News Bulletin*) An AMIS helicopter seized by members of one of the non-signatory groups north-west of el-Fasher was released following mediation by the UN

The UNMIS News Bulletin reported yesterday that the helicopter was on a mission to verify reports of government aerial bombardment in the region when it was seized in Oum Housh.

The bulletin also reports that government troops managed in Kutum to recover a truck owned by a local NGO but the whereabouts of the driver are not yet known.

The bulletin further reports that the UN and the African Union have lauded the efforts by the Sudanese police towards uncovering the facts on the killing of the Egyptian peacekeeper in el-Fasher.

Sudanese Francis Deng named to UN genocide prevention post

(*SudanTribune.com*) UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has appointed today the former Sudanese diplomat Francis Deng as the new Special Adviser for the Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities, succeeding Juan Mendez.

Deng succeeds Juan Méndez of Argentina, the first Special Adviser on genocide prevention who was appointed in July 2004 with a mandate to collect existing information on serious violations of human rights that could lead to genocide and to bring potential genocidal situations to the attention of the UN Security Council.

Among his activities, Méndez has made repeated visits to Darfur, resulting in varied recommendations to the Secretary-General and to the Security Council about what needs to be done in the strife-torn region of Sudan. [*Follow the link to the full text [Sudanese Francis Deng named to UN genocide prevention post](#)*].

The UN support package to the AMIS

AMIS' Sam Ibok says Khartoum has not opposed the deployment of UN troops to Darfur

(AlSahafa) A high rank official at the AMIS says the Sudan government has indeed accepted the deployment of UN troops in Darfur. Ambassador Sam Ibok expresses hopes that next Friday's meeting in Addis will shade light on the details of the "hybrid operation".

He said that the differences were on the interpretation of the agreement reached in Addis Ababa and this, he added, mainly stems from the fact that such an operation is unprecedented.

He pointed out however that the UN is yet to implement the 2nd support phase despite Khartoum's consent.

Speaking to the newspaper, Mr. Ibok rebuffed allegations of impartiality of the African Union forces in Darfur.

Sudan's interior minister vows to reveal outcome of investigations into the killing of the Egyptian peacekeeper

(AlRai AlAam) Sudan's interior minister has vowed to bring to justice the killers of the Egyptian UN LSP peacekeeper.

The minister said that a CID team is currently on the ground in el-Fasher and has started investigations. He also said that Sudan Police is in constant contact with counterparts in Egypt and constantly updates the Egyptians on progress in the investigations.

CPA

SPLM gives proposals to transcend the differences over the controversial oil concessions of the White Nile company

(AlSudani) The meeting between the National Congress Party and SPLM leadership has been postponed for the third time in a row yesterday.

Sources say oil and Abyei are still unresolved issues but that the parties await the findings of the respective sub-committees. The sources further reveal that the SPLM team has given suggestions currently under study to transcend the issue of the White Nile Company and has proposed that the controversial concession be run by a consortium of oil companies.

White Nile waiting on NCP/SPLM talks to restart drilling

(Gurtong.org – 30 May, Juba) The British-owned White Nile company has ceased operations pending a final resolution from high level representations in the Government of National Unity (GONU) and the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) over exploratory rights said a company official on Wednesday.

Acuil Malith Bangol, White Nile's Social and Political Consultant said that the company received a letter on 19 May from the President of Southern Sudan Salva Kiir requesting they stop operations.

White Nile began work on their first exploratory drilling site in Block Ba in Jonglei State on 19 April. But concession is challenged by French oil giant Total which was given rights to the wider Block B area by the Khartoum government during the years of conflict.

Bangol said no explanation was given for the request to stop drilling in the letter, but White Nile believe the decision was made to allow for discussions between the National Congress Party and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement over the issue of concessions in Sudan.

Another area where Moldavian Ascom has been supported by the GOSS to begin exploratory drilling is being contested by Malaysian Petronas which also signed with Khartoum prior to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

"The two parties were to sit down and discuss the legal status of White Nile and Total," said Bangol who added that they had expected the meeting to end last Sunday but the talks were still continuing on Tuesday evening.

A Technical Committee was formed a month ago headed by the south's Vice President Riek Machar and Government of National Unity Vice President Ali Osman Taha to resolve difficulties in the peace agreement's implementation.

This includes the contested oil concessions and a resolution over the Abyei in the middle of Sudan.

Bangol said that he had heard from a reliable source in the Technical Committee that White Nile will be able to eventually continue its work in Jonglei State.

"In principle the two parties have agreed to accommodate everyone," said Bangol.

But he added that the final decision is yet to be ratified by Kiir and the President of Sudan Omar el Bashir.

IDPs arrive in Bor town with their cattle

(The Citizen) IDPs started arriving yesterday from Central Equatoria State and Western Equatoria State with their cattle after trekking for about a month.

The returnees edged into the nearby suburbs for settlement before assimilating into the local cattle camps.

Other Headlines:

- 200 members of Peace Forces join the SPLA in Burram (*Akhir Lahza*)

GoNU

US blocks assets of 3 Sudanese, 30 companies

(*SudanTribune.com*) The U.S. Administration has blocked the assets of three Sudanese individuals, including two high-ranking government officials and a rebel leader, for their roles in fomenting violence and human rights abuses in Darfur, the Department of the Treasury announced today.

The Treasury also acted today [29 May] to sanction 30 Sudanese companies owned or controlled by the Government of Sudan, and one company that has violated the arms embargo in Darfur.

As a result of Treasury's designations, any assets these individuals and entities may have that are within U.S. jurisdiction must be frozen, and U.S. persons are prohibited from transacting or doing business with them.

AFP meanwhile reports that the United States is consulting with its allies in the Security Council on the content and timing of a resolution broadening economic and military sanctions against Sudan, its ambassador to the United Nations said Tuesday.

Khalilzad said he consulted with UN chief Ban Ki-moon over the planned sanctions.

And he reaffirmed US support for the United Nations' three-legged approach, which is to seek progress on broadening last year's peace deal between Khartoum and Darfur rebels, on deployment of a robust, joint African Union-UN peacekeeping force in Darfur and on improved humanitarian access.

France's UN Ambassador Jean-Marc de La Sabliere said for his part that his government was ready to support new sanctions.

In a separate story, the *AP* [via *SudanTribune.com*] reports that U.S. briefed China Wednesday about the administration's plans to introduce a new U.N. Security Council resolution sanctioning Sudan's government for failing to do enough to halt the bloodshed in Darfur.

The sanctions resolution is expected to face a tough time in the council, in part because of long-standing opposition from China, a veto-wielding council member.

"I wanted to be very clear about what our position is, and the Chinese were equal to the task of explaining how they see the situation," said U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill. "I think we are united by a desire to resolve the matter."

The U.S., which has condemned the crisis in Darfur as genocide, has long pushed for a tougher stance against Sudan's government while China has consistently opposed attempts to pressure Khartoum, saying the issue should be resolved through diplomatic negotiations.

Hill refused to talk about the gap in their positions and gave few additional details about his conversation with Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Wu Dawei. He said he expressed support for

China's decision to send engineers to Darfur to support a small force of U.N. peacekeepers that Sudan has agreed to.

The U.K. "fully supports U.S. efforts to address the desperate situation in Darfur in the Security Council," a spokesman for U.K. Prime Minister Tony Blair said on condition of anonymity in line with U.K. government policy. "We hope that all members of the (Security Council) will work with the U.S. to create a resolution which will effectively address the challenges in Darfur."

The official spoke in Sierra Leone, where Blair was expected later Wednesday on a tour of Africa. Aides had said Blair's agenda on a trip that started Tuesday in Libya and ends later this week in South Africa included trying to build support for action to stop the violence in Darfur.

Closer home, *Xinhua* [via *SudanTribune.com*] reports that Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Abul Gheit on Tuesday said sanctions had never been successful in solving problems and can't solve Sudan's Darfur issue, the official news agency MENA reported.

"Negotiations and building bridges were the best way to solve conflicts," Abul Gheit said in response to a question about U.S. President George W. Bush's announcement to impose new sanctions on Sudan over the Darfur issue.

There must be a political process, Abul Gheit said, citing efforts being exerted by Sudan, the UN and the African Union (AU) over the Darfur issue. [[US briefs China on plans to sanction Sudan over Darfur](#); [UK backs US on Darfur, hopes for UN Security Council resolution](#); [US Sanctions: Too little too late for Darfur](#); [France 'open to discussion' on new Darfur sanctions](#); [Britain hails tougher US sanctions on Sudan](#); [Save Darfur Coalition says Bush's sanctions for Sudan may be too late](#); [US consults on timing of new UN sanctions over Darfur](#); [Egypt says sanctions are not successful in conflict resolution](#); [Sanctions not helpful for resolving Darfur crisis - China](#); [Statement by the US President on Darfur](#)]

Government of Sudan reactions to US unilateral sanctions on Sudan

(*Agencies and the local press*) The Sudanese government said Tuesday that new sanctions imposed by US President George W. Bush over violence in the western Sudanese region of Darfur expose Washington's "hostile" intentions.

"The American decision highlights the hostile intentions and points to the fact that the United States does not want peace in Darfur," presidential adviser Mazjub al-Khalifa told reporters.

"While cooperation between the government of Sudan, the African Union and the United Nations is progressing rapidly, the United States always chooses to go against the current, revealing its bad intentions," he said.

"Just as the situation was improving in Darfur, the American government stuns us with their announcement of new sanctions against Sudan," Khalifa said.

"The United States is isolating itself this way, and depriving its companies (of doing business there) and harming its people," he said.

He argued that the fact that UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon had called for dialogue and negotiation over Darfur, is proof of "US isolation over this matter."

Justice minister al-Mardi on Tuesday accused the U.S. administration of attempting to distract attention by announcing new sanctions against Sudan.

"U.S. President George W. Bush is looking for scapegoat," the Sudanese minister told reporters, noting that the U.S. president was trying to get out of the stalemate in Iraq.

Describing the U.S. decision of expanding sanctions on Sudan as "tyrannical," the Sudanese minister said that this decision was taken because of domestic problems the Bush administration was facing. [*Follow the links to the full texts [Bush is looking for scapegoat: Sudan's justice minister: US sanctions reveal 'hostile intentions' – Sudan](#)].*

Presidential decree issued appointing members of the Eastern Front to GoNU positions

(*AlRai AlAam; AlAyaam*) The President of the Republic has issued a decree appointing Musa Mohamed Ahmed, Amna Dirar and Mabrouk Mubarak to the positions of Presidential Aide, Advisor to the President of the Republic and State Minister for Transport, respectively.

The three are members of the Eastern Front and their appointment comes in implementation of the ESPA.

African Colloquium on Darfur to hold in Tanzania; Speaker of the National Assembly threatens to cut ties with Tanzania and Nigeria

(*The Citizen; Akhir Lahza*) The Speaker of the National Assembly disclosed yesterday that attempts by a "hostile US organisation", in collaboration with the Chairman of the Foreign Relations' Committee of the Nigerian parliament and seven other parliaments, to hold a political colloquium on Darfur in Addis Ababa have been thwarted by Sudan but the organisation managed to have Tanzania as venue for the meet.

Speaker Ahmed Ibrahim el-Tahir said that the head of the Parliamentary Foreign Relations committee at the National Assembly in Sudan had heatedly protested in a letter to the Nigerian Ambassador on Nigeria's participation in the campaign against Sudan.

The Speaker maintains that bilateral relations with Tanzania and Nigeria would be affected should the colloquium be held and should it result into any recommendations against Sudan.

MPs to demand that the justice minister appear before parliament to answer queries

(*Rai AlShaab*) MPs intend to request the Speaker of Parliament to ask the justice minister to appear before parliament to answer some queries.

An MP on the SPLM ticket said that 20 MPs have endorsed the move to request the minister to appear to answer questions on the laws that do not comply to the Interim National Constitution.

Armed group hijacks Bank of Nilein vehicle in Babanousa

(*AllIntibaha*) An unidentified armed group hijacked a vehicle of the Babanousa Branch of the Bank of Nilein travelling from el-Obeid to North Kordofan with a cargo of 2 billion Sudanese pounds.

The head of the local police said that the eight armed hijackers used a vehicle they hijacked earlier during the day for the attack on the bank truck which was travelling under armed escort.

Other Headlines:

- Ministries of defence and interior endorse a strategic plan to battle HIV/AIDS (*AllIntibaha*)

Southern Sudan

SSLA look into 64 deaths in EES

(*Gurtong.org – 29 May, Juba*) The Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly is deciding on how to reduce intra-tribal violence in south Sudan following the deaths of 64 people including 48 women and children earlier in the month in Eastern Equatoria State's Budi County said a member of parliament to Gurtong.

The victims were participating in traditional communal cultivation when they were attacked by a neighboring tribe explained David Mayo, a member of the south's parliament on Tuesday.

“The governor of Eastern Equatoria State has sent troops there to restore law and order and stop any escalations in violence between the two communities,” said Mayo.

He also said that 11 people were wounded and one girl kidnapped during the violence as marauding members of the Toposa cattle keeping tribe attacked the Didinga group.

Mayo said that although cattle raiding and conflict over land access have plagued the two communities for many years, the event of 5 May was the worst intra-tribal violence in semi-independent south Sudan since the peace agreement was signed.

He said that large numbers of guns had been collected by locals during the war years while as the area changed from government of Sudan control to SPLA at least twice.

“This is a land issue, as well as natural resources,” said Mayo who explained that competition over the land was fierce between the cattle-keeping Toposa and the agriculturalist Didinga.

Mayo added that the SSLA is expected to emerge on Tuesday evening with a full set of recommendations and an action plan to restore security to the area, and prevent similar incidents across the south.

Ugandan rebels kill 4, abduct 12 in South Sudan

(*New Vision via SudanTribune.com*) A group of LRA rebels raided two villages in western Equatoria province, including the home of the information minister of South Sudan, killing four people, abducting 12 others and looting livestock.

The group, under the command of Thomas Kwoyello, was heading to Garamba National Park in the Democratic Republic of Congo, said Lt Chris Magezi, a spokesman of the Ugandan army.

"We have received reliable information that a group of LRA rebels led by Kwoyello crossed to Garamba on around 23 May. On their way, they caused extensive damage in Tore, Lairya and Ondruba in Western Equatoria," Magezi told journalists.

"A total of four people were killed, 12 abducted and up to 100 goats and cows were stolen. They also raided the home of the information minister Samson Kwaje and disarmed 13 local militiamen."

The army publicist said the furious militiamen have demanded that the Ugandan army replaces their guns since they were taken by their enemies.

"We told them that the LRA rebels are not our enemies but are enemies of all peace-loving people," Magezi added.

He said they had also received credible information that some pockets of LRA rebels were still roaming in eastern Equatoria under the command of two or three captains, terrorizing the local population.

"All these are serious violations of the cessation of the hostilities agreement and go against the spirit of the Juba peace talks.

Nevertheless, the peace we have attained in the north will never be reversed," the army spokesperson stated. [*Follow the link to the full text [Ugandan rebels kill 4, abduct 12 in South Sudan](#)*].

Darfur

Presidential meeting orders contact with Darfur Peace Agreement non-signatory groups

(*Khartoum Monitor; AlRai AlAam*) A Presidential meeting held yesterday has ordered the competent bodies to intensify efforts and make contact with non-signatory factions in Darfur in a bid to reach a comprehensive political settlement.

The meeting decided to set up a Supreme Committee for Peace to follow up on the peace process.

On the other hand, Presidential Advisor Mustapha Osman is on his way to Tripoli on a 3-day official visit during which he hopes to hold talks with a number of representatives of Darfur Peace Agreement non-signatory groups, reports *AlRai AlAam*.

Informed sources intimate that Osman also carries with him a message from President Basher to his Libyan counterpart on bilateral relations and efforts underway to resolve the issue of Darfur.

Conflict in the SPLM offices in South Darfur

(AlIntibaha) The SPLM admits it is having problems with its offices in South Darfur with a group calling itself the “reform agenda” complaining marginalisation from the SPLM leadership institutions.

The secretary of the South Darfur chapter of the SPLM has warned the situation may run out of hand if not arrested. He called for an end to the conflict so that the SPLM maintains its about 42,000 supporters in the area.

Habbaniya tribesmen in S. Darfur walk out on National Congress Party to join the SPLM

(Rai AlShaab) Leaders of the Habbaniya tribe of South Darfur have declared they are quitting the NCP for the SPLM.

A representative of the tribe told a press conference yesterday that they have chose to join the SPLM because the National Congress Party has ignored the region and internds to marginalisation them and deprive them of development and basic services laving their people suffering in poverty, ignorance and disease that leaving the region prone to armed robbery.