

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS****Media Monitoring Report, 01 November 07**

(By Public Information Office)

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Highlights

UN/ Agencies

Extending Sudan mission, Security Council urges consolidation of North-South peace

(*UN News* – 31 Oct.) The Security Council today voted to extend the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Sudan ([UNMIS](#)) by six months, urging all parties to fully put into the practice the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) ending a 21-year civil war between north and south Sudan.

In a resolution passed unanimously, *the 15-member body underscored the “importance of full and expeditious implementation of all elements of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.”*

UNMIS was established by the Council in 2005 to support the accord between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A).

Successfully implementing the CPA is a key to resolving the crisis in Darfur and to consolidating sustainable peace and stability in the region, the Council noted.

To this end, it urged the full deployment in Darfur of the hybrid UN-African Union (AU) peacekeeping force, set to become the world’s largest, as well as the protection of aid workers.

Today’s resolution also lauded the work of UNMIS, and voiced concern over restrictions and impediments placed on the movements of its personnel and material.

Such obstacles have an “adverse impact” on UNMIS’ activities and on the “ability of the humanitarian community to reach affected persons,” according to the resolution.

The Council also called for the sides to take measures to defuse tensions in the disputed Abyei region and to allow UNMIS unrestricted access to conduct monitoring and verification exercises in the region.

U.N. opens headquarters in Darfur for joint U.N.-AU mission

(*The Associated Press* – 31Oct. KHARTOUM) A U.N. official inaugurated Wednesday headquarters in Darfur for the joint U.N.-AU mission with a satellite phone call to the United Nations in New York and the African Union seat in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The move reflected a key administrative step toward merging U.N.'s peacekeeping efforts in the war-torn western Sudanese region with those of the overmatched African Union. A formal takeover by the joint U.N.-AU force is due Jan. 1.

"It is a great day for the United Nations and the African Union, the day of UNAMID's launch, which was only an idea three months ago but now it is a profound reality," said Rodolphe Adada, chief of the United Nations and African Union joint mission to Darfur, or UNAMID.

U.N. spokesman Ali Hamati told *The Associated Press* on the phone from Darfur that "this may look as a little step but its implication is wide, it's a huge move toward the final assumption of full control in Darfur." Hamati said Adada made the first phone calls from the headquarters in El Fasher, North Darfur, and inspected its electronic and satellite equipment as some 150 people, including peacekeepers, local and Khartoum officials attended.

In a press statement, Adada said he has "all the confidence that the remaining steps toward the final assumption of authority by UNAMID will be concluded before the end of this year so that we can start implementing our mandate in 2008 in full gear."

The joint U.N.-AU force in Darfur will comprise more than 19,000 military personnel, 6,000 police officers and 5,500 civil personnel.

Special representative of UN Secretary General affirms commitment of international community to partnership with government

(*SUNA* – 31Oct. KHARTOUM) Special representative of the UN Secretary General in Sudan, Ashraf Qazi, has reiterated the international community's commitment to the existing partnership with the government of Sudan to deliver humanitarian assistance in Darfur. Addressing the Arab Conference for Supporting the Humanitarian Situation in Darfur in Khartoum on Tuesday, Mr. Qazi said the partnership with the government of Sudan has been affirmed during the recent visit by the UN Secretary-General to Sudan. The international community will go ahead to address the humanitarian situations, he said. Mr. Qazi has welcomed the ongoing peace talks in Serti, Libya, saying the talks will facilitate the humanitarian aid. He has also expressed support to the Arab League's endeavors.

GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

Sudan's oil GNPOC struggles to maintain 250,000 bpd output

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 31 Oct. CAPE TOWN) Sudan's Greater Nile Petroleum Operating Company (GNPOC) is struggling to maintain its current production of 250,000 barrels per day, an official with the international joint venture said on Wednesday. "We are struggling to maintain the 250,000 barrel per day (production rate)," Yousif Ahmed, GNPOC vice president, told the Africa Upstream 2007 oil conference in Cape Town. "It is a challenge for us." GNPOC, which is owned by a consortium of Chinese, Indian, Malaysian and Sudanese firms, operates a number of oil fields in the

impoverished African nation, which has emerged as a key supplier for Asia's emerging economic giants.

Luks Biong denies SPLM backing on suspension decision

(Sudan Vision) GoSS Minister for Presidential Affairs, Dr. Luka Biong denied any SPLM tendency to back on its decision to freeze the participation of its ministers in the Government of National Unity. Biong told Sudan Vision that the return of SPLM ministers is tied to response to SPLM demands submitted to the Presidency of the Republic, adding that the standoff between the two partners can be resolved by a decision from the President and Vice President of the Republic. "I expect the presidential meeting to come out with results that can solve the present crisis between the two partners," Biong said. He revealed that some initiatives at the SPLM's unofficial level will be submitted to the Presidency of the Republic to contribute to resolving the impasse, affirming that pending issues between the two partners can be resolved within hours provided that the existing mechanisms are activated.

Political parties tell south to ignore NCP committee

(The Citizen) the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) and the SPLM lawmakers in the National Parliament have asked the south to ignore a committee formed by the National Congress Party to resolve the current national crisis. The SPLM walked out of the GoNU, citing failure by the National Congress Party to implement key aspects of the CPA. The NCP committee, headed by Mustafa Osman Ismael, is meant to resolve the impasse, but some lawmakers said that the NCP formed the committee to waste time. In an exclusive release to The Citizen, Mr. Atem Garang said that the committee had failed in reaching any reasonable results.

Delegations leave Sirte, mediation needs two representatives for each for consultations

(AlRai AlAam) Delegations participating in Sirte peace talks started leaving Libya as each delegation was asked by the mediation team to leave only two representatives in Sirte for further consultations. The Spokesperson of the GoS delegation informed that Presidential Adviser Nafie Ali Nafie will arrive in Khartoum on Sunday next week. Nafie told the media yesterday that would return to Sirte after 30 days.

Eliasson begins European tour to seek support for Sirte

(AlRai AlAam) The UN Special Envoy for Darfur Jan Eliasson will begin tomorrow (Friday) a European tour to lobby support for the Sirte talks on Darfur. Eliasson is scheduled to meet the British Foreign Minister on Sunday.

Wali of White Nile State warns SPLA of military escalation

(AlRai AlAam) The SPLA is moving troops from South Sudan towards the north, a development which is considered as a measure for escalating the military situation in the White Nile State. The Wali of the White Nile State Dr. Mohamed Nourallah al Tijani warned of penetration of SPLA troops at the borders of his State. According to the Sudan Media Centre (SMC), SPLA has mobilized a number of battalions in Juba

pending further instructions. Two SPLA battalions have already arrived in Malakal and Renk. Some troops have been instructed to move north of 1956 borders at Jarbanah area in the White Nile State (30 kms north of the 1956 border).

Government rejects exempting US consignment from custom duties

(*AlSudani*) Minister of Finance al Zubeir Ahmed al Hassan said the Government has refused granting exemption from customs duties for a consignment of the American Embassy. According to the Minister the GoS decision is based on the principle of reciprocal treatment.

Presidential decree reappointing Arman in Parliament

(*AlSudani*) President of the Republic Omer al Bashir has issued on 28 October a presidential; decree reappointing the SPLM Yasir Arman a member in the National Assembly, SPLM parliamentary group. The decree was issued on basis of recommendation from SPLM Chairman, Salva Kiir.

Minister of Social Affairs to Chad to follow up issue of abducted children

(*AlSahafa*) Minister of Social Affairs Samia Ahmed Mohamed accompanied by the head of Criminal Intelligence Department will leave tomorrow (Friday) for Chad to follow up the issue of Darfur abducted children.

US officials try to delay Sudan divestment bill

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 31 Oct. WASHINGTON) The Bush administration is seeking to delay Senate action on a bill authorizing states to divest assets in companies doing business with Sudan, a letter made public on Wednesday said.

Sudan has been a focus of grass-roots divestment activism for some time because of the conflict in its Darfur region. Twenty states have initiated some form of divestment from companies that do business with, or in Sudan, congressional aides said.

But the letter from the State Department to Senate leaders argues that the legislation, which attempted to provide a legal framework for such divestment, interferes with presidential foreign policy. Some state divestment laws have been challenged in the courts. The State Department said the legislation could set a "dangerous precedent" and make it "easier to pass similar legislation in other cases."

EU urges Sudan's peace partners to solve crisis

(*BBC Mon.* – 31 Oct. KHARTOUM) - *Sudan Radio* Withdrawal of the SPLM ministers and presidential advisors from the Government of National Unity does not mean that the SPLM is not committed to implementation of the CPA or seeks a return to war. That is what southern Sudan's new Minister of Presidential Affairs, Dr. Luka Biong, told a visiting EU delegation visiting Khartoum. Dr Biong also said that GONU First Vice President and GOSS President Salva Kiir hopes to resolve the SPLM's with the NCP soon.

[Biong] The First Vice President stressed that he and President [Omar Hassan Al] Bashir are in negotiation in order to resolve the current crisis. No doubt the international community will have a role to play after a national solution is reached. Of course [the EU delegates] asked so many questions regarding tension along the borders, issues related to the implementation of the CPA, and issues that the SPLM blames on the NCP, and he assured them that there is no return to war and that the national will oblige that there must be peace in Sudan."

The EU delegation reportedly promised to help the two parties in the implementation of the CPA, but asked them to settle their differences first. For its part, the EU says the CPA is in danger of collapsing if the NCP and the SPLM do not soon end their current row.

Addressing journalists in Khartoum on Monday [29 October], Greece's ambassador to Sudan, Georgios Vie, said that the 12-member EU delegation in Sudan sought assurances that the current tensions between the NCP and the SPLM would not escalate out of control.

GoSS

United Democratic Front disputes heighten

(Khartoum Monitor) Disputes among members of the United Democratic Front (UDF) heightened this week in Western Bahr Al Ghazal state following the dismissal of seven leaders by the chairman of the party Corneleo Kon who held a meeting of the party's executive office. The party had earlier dismissed its chairman who said that his dismissal was made in a meeting held while he was in Juba. The seven members of the executive office decried their dismissal describing the chairman as a corrupt person during his tenure as a Minister of Agriculture in western Bahr Al Ghazal state. The sources the disputes among members of the party in western Bahr al Ghazal state may lead to division of the party unless leaders of the party at the centre intervene.

South may recall MPs from Khartoum, says Kiir

(The Citizen) The President of Southern Sudan said Tuesday that the region may recall lawmakers from the National Parliament after sensing little movement from Sudanese President Omer Al Bashir's government to implement key demands concerning the peace agreement. Addressing Southern Sudan Parliament for the first time since south recalled ministers from Khartoum, Kiir said if the north does not implement the demands by the SPLM, the south would be forced to take "another drastic" action, and recall the members of Parliament, too.

Sudan wants public apology from Britain over sanctions threat

(Sudan Tribune.com – 31 Oct. KHARTOUM) The Sudanese president, Omer Hassan al-Bashir, has accused British Prime Minister Gordon Brown of deliberately undermining the Darfur peace talks and demanded a public apology, after the prime minister threatened new sanctions against Sudan if the talks failed. "Brown's remarks amounted to direct

encouragement for Darfur's rebels to continue fighting and to boycott the negotiations that started in Libya at the weekend." Al-Bashir told London based the Guardian in an exclusive interview in the presidential residence. "We read it as encouraging these people, the movements, 'Make these talks fail so that we will be able to punish the government of Sudan'," he said.

Breaking news: US excludes Southern Sudan from sanctions

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 31 Oct. WASHINGTON) The US department of Treasury issued a new rule revising the areas of Sudan covered by sanctions and recognizing the government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) as an entity separate from the Government of Sudan. The Office of Foreign Assets Control of the U.S. Department of the Treasury which issued the rule late Wednesday justified its decision by saying that presidential executive order imposing sanctions had to be reconciled with the Darfur Peace and Accountability of 2006 that called for "support of the regional government of Southern Sudan". However the new rule upheld sanctions imposed on all transactions relating to Sudan's petroleum or petrochemical industries even in Southern Sudan.
Read more: [BREAKING NEWS: US excludes Southern Sudan from sanctions](#)

South Sudan places high importance on energy

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 31 Oct. JUBA) The Government of Southern Sudan's Council of Ministers has passed a resolution changing the name of the Ministry of Industry and Mining, to 'Energy, Mining and Industry'. This was resolved in a regular meeting of the Council on Wednesday, chaired by the First Vice President of the Republic and President of the Government of Southern Sudan, Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit. The memo requesting the name change of the Ministry was presented to the Council by the newly appointed Minister of the Ministry, John Luk Jok. In a press statement, the official spokesman of the government and Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Gabriel Changson Chang, said the Council has placed a high importance on the energy sector in Southern Sudan, qualifying it to be considered the first in the Ministry.

Juba Primate calls upon Christians to join Church's body for justice and peace

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 31 Oct. JUBA) The Catholic Archbishop of Juba, His Grace Paulino Lokudu Loro has today appeal to professionals and committed lay Christians within the Archdiocese of Juba to join Justice and Peace Commission for promoting none violence, reconstruction and development of 21 years war torn Southern Sudan.

His Grace Lokudu also appealed to all catholic faithful to foster unity at all time in their day to day operations through implementation of justice and peace famous motor of see, judge and act; adding that reconciliation is a big issue that need also to be seriously address during the time of reconstruction and development of 21 years war torn Southern Sudan by excising healing of healer's programmes through the justice and peace commission of the archdiocese of Juba.

The primate made the appeal when launching the first and a unique one day workshop organized for Catholic Diocesan and Religious priests including lay members of Justice and Peace Commission of the Archdiocese of Juba that was established in

1986 without any guidance due to then demanding and appealing situation particularly in Juba.

Darfur

20 commanders defect from Darfur peace partner - rebels

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 31 Oct. ELFASHER) A total of twenty rebel commanders from a former rebel movement, which signed a peace deal with Khartoum, joined the rebel Sudan Liberation Movement Unity Command (SLM-Unity), a Darfur veteran rebel said today.

Suleiman Jamous, who was freed from a UN hospital in South Kordofan, last September told Sudan Tribune said that 20 commanders from the SLM faction led by Minni Minawi joined the SLM- Unity.

The defectors blamed Minawi, who is also the Senior Presidential Assistant, for human rights violations and negligence of the implementation of the peace agreement, The defectors are said to be outraged by what they feel as Minnawi`s tendency to follow the ruling National Congress Party (NCP) and its policy in Darfur.

Jamous said the dissident commanders are upset by Minnawi`s decision to disband his army despite Khartoum continuous recruitment of militias. He said that they were also unhappy by Minnawi`s negligence of the handicapped and injured soldiers in the army.

Adada announces start of hybrid operation implementation

(*Sudan Vision*) The practical steps for the implementation of the hybrid operation in Darfur as provided for in UNSC resolution (1769) have been begun as of yesterday. The UN/AU Joint Special Representative (JSR) Rodolphe Adada said at a press conference in Al-Fashir yesterday that “today marks the first day of the Joint Mission (UNAMID) presence at its headquarters in El-Fashir after all preparations have been in place for the assumption of the executive leadership”.

The JSR added that UNAMID has taken all needed preparations to transfer its senior staff to Darfur to be stationed in its various parts. Communication systems have been provided to enable UNAMID staff to discharge their responsibilities, he affirmed. Adada further stated that UN and the African Union will make coordination visits to a number of troops-contributing countries to inspect the troops to be deployed and their equipment.

UN, EU envoys to arrive in Juba tomorrow

(*AlSudani*) The UN Special Envoy for Darfur Jan Eliasson and the AU Chief Mediator Salim Ahmed Salim will arrive tomorrow in Juba to meet the leaders of the DPA non-signatory rebel factions.

Forced relocations of Darfur IDPs violate international law - HRW

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 31 Oct. NEW YORK) The government of Sudan's recent forced relocation of civilians in South Darfur is a serious violation of international law and could be the prelude to new attempts to dismantle certain civilian camps, Human Rights Watch warned today. Sudan's government should cease the relocation operation, immediately confirm the whereabouts and well-being of those who have been moved, and allow the African Union Mission in Sudan, the United Nations Mission in Sudan and humanitarian agencies access to all displaced persons, whether they reside in camps or other locations in Darfur.

Read more: [Forced relocations of Darfur IDPs violate international law - HRW](#)

Sudan tries to clear out Darfur refugees

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 31 Oct. OTASH CAMP, Sudan) Sudanese officials have been pressuring people to leave refugee camps in its war torn Darfur province in recent weeks, and United Nations officials say the regime has even forcibly loaded some civilians onto trucks to clear them out. Rights activists say Sudan hopes to empty the camps before January, when a U.N.-African Union force of 26,000 peacekeepers is to deploy in Darfur. Some refugee leaders think the Arab-dominated regime wants to scatter the ethnic African refugees before a national census.

Sudanese officials agree they want the camps to close, saying the camps have become too big, squalid and dangerous and have made refugees too dependent on humanitarian aid. They insist, however, that no one is being forced to leave. But this week, U.N. officials said they had evidence Sudanese government forces were chasing refugees out of at least one camp - Otash, which houses 60,000 people on the outskirts of south Darfur's capital, Nyala.

2nd LD: next round of Darfur peace talks to be in December

Source: Xinhua Date: November 01, 2007

KHARTOUM, Nov 1, 2007 (Xinhua via COMTEX) --

Spokesman of the **Sudanese** government delegation for **Darfur** peace negotiations Abuzaid Hassan announced on Thursday that the next round of direct negotiation between the government and **Darfur** rebels would be held in December.

"The direct negotiations between the **Sudanese** government and the (rebel) movements opposing the Abuja agreement will start in December," the spokesman said as quoted by the official SUNA news agency.

The Abuja agreement, which is officially called the **Darfur** Peace Agreement (DPA), was signed by the **Sudanese** government and a main rebel faction in the Nigerian capital on May 5, 2006, with other rebel groups refusing to sign it.

He said that the first stage of the peace talks, which have been held in Libya's coastal city of Sirte since last Saturday, was aimed at making assessment.

He added that the parties taking part in the Sirte peace talks reached a consensus that the negotiations should continue and the dialogue should not stop.

Hassan noted that **Darfur** rebel groups had been given an adjournment of three to four weeks in order to make a united platform on the negotiations before the direct talks could be held in the next stage.

"The government delegation considers the first stage as a progress in view of the participation of a number of armed movements in it," the spokesman said, adding that the absence of some other rebel movements had prevented the continuity of the negotiations.

However, the spokesman did not say where the next round of negotiations would be held.

Mediators of the United Nations and the African Union (AU) have suggested that the future peace talks would be carried out in Sirte or another city inside or outside Libya.

Sudan's Rayaam daily reported on Thursday that the UN-AU mediation team had finished the first stage of negotiations in Sirte and that most of the delegations taking part in the negotiations were leaving the Libyan city since Wednesday.

Only representatives of the negotiating parties will stay in Sirte in order to conduct consultations with each other as well as with other different parties according to what had been agreed, the most popular newspaper in **Sudan** said.

The **Sudanese** government started the peace negotiation in Sirte on Saturday with only seven rebel groups, which are termed by local media as "internet movements" because they enjoy little influence among the **Darfur** people and can only be found through internet.

Eight rebel factions, including the most important ones, are staying away from the Sire talks, casting a pall over the bid to end the four-year conflict in the western **Sudanese** region.

Aid groups: many `Darfur orphans' targeted by French charity to go overseas had parents

TOM MALITI

Associated Press Writer

Source: AP Alert - Crime

Date: November 01, 2007

N'DJAMENA, Chad, Most of the 103 African children a French charity attempted to fly from Chad to Europe appear to have at least one living parent, U.N. agencies said Thursday.

A French group calling itself Zoe's Ark was stopped last week from flying the children it described as orphans from **Sudan's Darfur** to Europe, where the group said it intended to place them with host families. Seventeen Europeans have been detained by Chadian authorities, including six French citizens who were charged with kidnapping. The group says its intentions were purely humanitarian.

The **Sudanese** government, meanwhile, has summoned the French ambassador to voice objections over the matter, and asked Interpol to help apprehend the head of Zoe's Ark.

Aid workers who interviewed the children at an orphanage in eastern Chad where the children are being cared for said most of the children come from villages on the Chadian-**Sudanese** border region.

"Ninety-one of the children referred to a family environment made up of at least one adult person whom they consider as a parent," the U.N.'s Children Fund, the U.N. refugee agency and the Red Cross said in a joint statement.

The French Foreign Ministry and others have cast doubt on the claims by the little-known group that the children were orphans from **Darfur** – the western **Sudanese** region that has for the last four years been a battleground for rebels, government troops and government-allied militiamen.

The International Committee of the Red Cross and the two U.N. aid agencies said several days of talks with 21 girls and 81 boys aged between one and 10 "suggest that 85 of them come from villages in the border region between Chad and **Sudan**, in the area of Adre and Tine." Adre and Tine are both in Chad.

Interviews continue, the agencies said, to track their families or close relatives.

ICRC, UNICEF and UNHCR also brought food, clothes and other goods to the children, and said they were working closely with the Chadian authorities.

The agencies said some of the children had been treated for small injuries, but that none appeared to be suffering from serious health conditions.

The **Sudanese** government summoned the French ambassador on Tuesday, the same day several hundred **Sudanese** students held a protest sit-in in front of French embassy.

The Khartoum government has demanded the alleged kidnappers and those who helped them be handed over to **Sudan** for trial. The **Sudanese** Interior Ministry asked Interpol on Wednesday to help apprehend the head of the aid organization.

On Thursday, a delegation of senior **Sudanese** officials led by the Minister of Social Affairs Samia Ahmed Mohammed was to travel to Chad to monitor the interrogations there and steps that will be taken protect children from future abductions.

According to its Web site, Zoe's Ark, founded in 2005 by volunteer firefighter Eric Breteau, announced in April it planned on "evacuating orphans from **Darfur**." The group launched an appeal for host families and funding.

Established French aid and adoption agencies had raised questions about Zoe's Ark could legally organize adoption of children from **Darfur**, and alerted French judicial authorities, according to French newspaper reports.

The French Foreign Ministry in August warned families to be careful. Still, some 300 families reportedly signed up to adopt or foster children, and many were waiting at a French airport last week for the children when they heard members of the group had been arrested.

Of the 17 people detained in Abeche since last week, six were French citizens charged with kidnapping. If convicted, they face up to 20 years in Chadian prison with hard labor.

Three French journalists traveling with the Zoe's Ark members and an eight-member flight crew including a Belgian pilot were under detention as prosecutors tried to determine whether they should be charged.

In a phone conversation, French President Nicolas Sarkozy asked Chadian President Idriss Deby to free the journalists "as soon as possible, with respect to Chadian legislation," Sarkozy spokesman David Martinon said Wednesday. Sarkozy, who has condemned the group's actions, took a softer tone Wednesday and appealed to Deby to respect the presumption of innocence in the case.

Deby promised Sarkozy he would do "everything in his power" to liberate the French journalists being held, the office of the French president said.