

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS**Media Monitoring Report, 04 November 07

(By Public Information Office)

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## **Highlights**

### **UN/ Agencies**

#### **Ashraf Qazi adopts low profile diplomacy as a means for solving CPA partners' crisis**

AlSudani-- In a report highlighting public reactions against the NCP in Juba, AlSudani reporter wrote the following on SRSG Ashraf Qazi.

The Pakistani, who is described as to be working patiently, with determination and in low profile, who knows no despair, has held intensive meetings which continued for long hours with Salva Kiir and his Deputy Riak Machar. Following the meeting he made statements that could be considered as low profile diplomacy as he said that he will be doing his best efforts to solve the pending issues between the CPA partners and that he is optimistic that a solution for the present crisis will be reached. "I am optimistic that the two leaders, al Bashir and Salva Kiir will meet to discuss the CPA

sooner or later but I hope that this happens very soon as there are many obstacles on the road and the CPA itself is linked to a specific time”, SRSQ Qazi said.

### **Samar report contains exaggerations and inaccuracies: Almardi**

*(Khartoum Monitor)* Minister of justice, Mohammed Ali Almardi said the reports raised by Sima Samar to international organizations are replete with exaggerations, generalizations and inaccuracies. These reports erode Samar credibility and impair the activities of the human rights council. Almardi told SUNA that Samar’s style causes damage to human rights because it sends erroneous signals to the international community whose member state base their opinions on these reports and hereby take positions which are not consistent with the drive to achieve stability and development in Darfur. Samar is inconsistent as she says something in the meeting and says something totally different in her reports, he added.

### **UN envoy stresses need to implement Sudan peace deal**

*(UN News – 3 Nov. UNITED NATIONS)* The Secretary-General’s Special Representative for Sudan has stressed the vital need to successfully implement the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) ending a 21-year civil war between the country’s north and south.

During a two-day visit to Southern Sudan on 31 October and 1 November, Ashraf Jahangir Qazi, who also heads the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS), underscored the critical importance of adhering to the historic accord for sustainable peace, stability, and development throughout the whole of the country.

He also stressed the readiness of UNMIS to assist the two parties in achieving the objectives of the Agreement and in bringing its implementation process back on track, following a recent decision by the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement to suspend its participation in the Government of National Unity.

While in Juba, Mr. Qazi met First Vice-President of the Sudan and President of Southern Sudan (GoSS) Salva Kiir Mayardit, Vice-President of the GoSS Riek Machar, and Speaker of the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly James Wani Igga.

“I am grateful to His Excellency Mr. Salva Kiir for the thorough, frank, and clear views and ideas he shared with me on all issues discussed, in particular the implementation of the CPA, as well as on the role UNMIS could play to assist in expediting implementation of pending issues,” Mr. Qazi said.

“I am looking forward to working closely with His Excellency Mr. Salva Kiir and with the leadership of the Government of National Unity and the GoSS to assist in ensuring that the objectives of the CPA are met.”

Qazi also visited Bor, Jonglei State, and met with the Governor and senior officials of the State Government. He was briefed by Governor Philip Thon Leek on the situation in the State, including existing challenges in the areas of development and security, and on ways the UN could assist.

While in Juba and Bor, the Special Representative met with UN staff and was briefed on the world body's activities in Southern Sudan, including on achievements made and gaps to be met in support of the implementation of the CPA.

Qazi emphasized the key role played by UN field staff, particularly the national staff, in carrying out diverse and complex tasks in support of the Agreement. "The CPA is the backbone of durable peace and development in Sudan and our top priority is to do our best, in close cooperation with the parties, to ensure its successful implementation."

Diplomatic activity on Sudan has intensified in recent weeks with the convening of talks in Libya on ending the Darfur conflict, spearheaded by the UN Special Envoy for Darfur, Jan Eliasson, and his African Union counterpart, Salim A. Salim.

### **UN Security Council rejects draft US proposal on CPA**

AlSahafa-- Sudan Ambassador to the UN Abdelmahmoud Abdelhalim said the UN Security Council has rejected on Thursday a draft US resolution while it was debating the extension of UNMIS mandate. He said the draft US resolution includes many points that are not related to the CPA. The Ambassador told SUNA that the US resolution calls for reviewing UNMIS mandate and holding an international conference to discuss the implementation of the CPA. The Council extended UNMIS mandate for another period of six months.

### **UN Envoy to Sudan submits report to Security Council on Sirte talks**

AlRai AlAam-- UN Special Envoy to Sudan Ian Eliasson will submit during the current month a report to the Security Council on the progress of Sirte talks the efforts being exerted so far.

Spokesperson of the Joint Mediation Support Team (JMST) Ahmed Fawzi told (Al Rai AL-Am daily) that Eliasson would leave for within the current month for Europe and US to present a report on negotiations and consultations conducted during the first phase of Sirte talks.

He pointed out that JMST delegation would leave tomorrow for Juba and ElFashir in the framework of the efforts aim at bring together more movements to the third round of Sirte talks.

## **GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)**

### **US envoy discusses CPA implementation with Sudanese officials**

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 1 Nov. KHARTOUM) US President Special Envoy to Sudan, Andrew Natsios, started Wednesday evening a four days visit to discuss row between federal government partners on the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. Natsios met today the second presidential deputy, Ali Osman Taha, to discuss the implementation a peace agreement signed by the Sudanese government and the former rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement in January 2005. The US envoy arrived Thursday evening to Juba where he is expected to hold talks with the first

vice-president and president of southern Sudan government, Salva Kiir Mayadrit. Natsios arrived to Khartoum from Sirte where he attended the opening of Darfur peace talks.

### **SAF imposes sanctions on North Upper Nile State**

*(Sudan Tribune)* The White Nile District Military command imposed economic sanctions on Upper Nile districts last Thursday where all trucks carrying supplies and materials were prevented to pass through Sidi Mahid Check point. The number of vehicles prevented amounted to 16 Lorries (Bedford) and some trucks.

In a statement by telephone to Sudan Tribune the Commissioner of Al Rank District, Deng Akoi Kak asserted that he went to the commissioner of Al Jabalain Ustaz Sidig Yousif who clarified to him that this decision was taken by the White Nile District Command. Commissioner Deng Akoi Kak attributed this economic sanction to the White Nile Governor's statement expressing what he described as the SPLM's military command practicing at Jarbana, adding that the White Nile governor will impose pressure on Al Rank district.

### **CPA partners' crisis resolved, al Bashir and Kiir to announce resolutions in few days, technical committee to decide on differences over CPA by end of December**

*(AlRai AlAam)* In a statement to SUNA, President al Bashir has yesterday renewed his government commitment to implement all provisions of the CPA. He said the CPA partners have overcome in the Presidency meeting on Saturday the crisis by discussing and agreeing on all pending issues except Abyei.

On his part, FVP and President of GoSS Salva Kiir affirmed to SUNA that the two parties are in full agreement on all issues. He said the issue of Abyei will be discussed in the next presidency meetings. Kiir informed that they agreed on specific time table for implementing all issues.

The US envoy for Sudan Andrew Natsios said following meetings with VP Taha and the GoSS Minister for Presidential Affairs Luka Biong that the two parties have affirmed to him that they agreed on pending issues except the borders of Abyei.

Meanwhile, the Presidency has received on Saturday the report of the CPA Assessment and Evaluation Commission for the last six month. The Commission issued a statement in which it said it has agreed unanimously on the report.

### **Kiir due in US today**

*(Khartoum Monitor)* Sudanese First Vice-President and President of the Government of South Sudan, Salva Kiir Mayadrit, will today heads for the US. The visit comes at an invitation by the US Administration to discuss the peace process in the country and particularly in Darfur, said Luka Biong, Cabinet Ministers from The Government of South Sudan and ministers from The Government of national Unity will accompany Kiir in his seven day visit.

### **Al-Bashir and Salva Kiir to issue decisions to reactivate partnership**

(SUNA – 1 Nov. KHARTOUM) President of the Republic Field Marshal Omer Al-Bashir and First Vice President of the Republic and President of the Government of Southern Sudan Salva Kiir Mayardit are to issue in the coming days decisions to reactivate the spirit of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), as the Presidency meeting Friday evening at the Guest House reached formation of a joint technical committee to implement all decisions concerning the issues of the population census, borders and national reconciliation in a period not exceeding December 31. Minister of the Presidency of the Government of Southern Sudan Dr. Luka Biong said in a statement to SUNA following the meeting that agreement was reached on all issues except Abyei. Concerning the return of the ministers of the SPLM to the government, he pointed out that it would take place after issuance of some basic decisions that activate these decisions, adding that they wanted this to take place in an official celebration to boost the spirit of the agreement. He added that the Presidency meeting discussed all issues in the arena, especially the issues raised by the SPLM as well as the issues of the National Congress. He affirmed that the meeting adopted all the recommendations submitted by the joint subcommittee, adding the Presidency meeting underscored the issue of the deployment of troops and the decisions reached by the Political Cease-fire Commission in this regard.

### **North Sudan army to quit south before 15 December**

(Reuters/AFP – 2 Nov. CAIRO) Sudan's northern army now has until Dec. 15 to leave the country's semi-autonomous and oil-rich south after missing an earlier redeployment deadline in July, a southern military official said on Friday. The announcement that a new deadline had been agreed by a joint north-south military committee came during the worst crisis since a 2005 peace agreement ended Africa's longest civil war.

Sudan's Ceasefire Political Committee (CPC) charged with overseeing the pull out of troops under the 2005 agreement, on Thursday gave the Sudanese army up to mid-December to withdraw from the southern region. A Sudanese army spokesman said he had no knowledge of a new deadline, and was checking the report. Officials from the former southern rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement were not immediately available for comment.

### **Security Council rejects US draft resolution on the CPA**

(SUNA – 2 Nov. Khartoum) Sudan's permanent Envoy to the UN, Ambassador Abdul Mahmoud Abdul Halima, revealed that the recent meeting of the Security Council has rejected a Draft Resolution presented by the American delegation while discussing extension of the mandate of the UN mission in Southern Sudan. In this regard, Ambassador Abdul Halim explained that the American resolution included number of negative aspects that disregard the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). He added that the American draft resolution called for revising the mandate of the UN mission in Sudan as well as holding an international conference to implement the CPA, explaining that it was rejected in a view that it contradicts the CPA and its mechanisms for solving any problem. Ambassador Abdul Halim said the Security Council extended the mandate of the UN Mission in Southern Sudan for 6 months till April 2008 and affirmed the necessity of pressing ahead in the implementation of the CPA.

### **Authorities say 13 children abducted and taken to France**

(*AlSahafa*) The Ministry of Social Welfare accused the French authorities of being implicated in the attempt of abducting children from Darfur and Chad. Najat al Asad of the Child Welfare Council said in a statement to AlSahafa that 13 children from Darfur have been abducted and taken by air to France. She said the investigations with the captain of the plane revealed that he had taken, before the last attempt, children to France.

### **Message from Sudan to Ki-moon criticizing INGOs**

(*AlSahafa*) Sudan Ambassador to the UN has delivered a written message from the GoS to the UN Secretary General. The message highlights the stance of the GoS on the recent attempt of abducting Darfur children from IDP camps in Chad. The message criticizes violations committed by some INGOs under the cover of humanitarian work.

### **East Front MPs sworn in Gadarif State**

(*SMC*) - *SUNA*, East Front MPs on Saturday were sworn in before the Assistant of the President of the Republic, Musa Mohamed Ahmed, Speaker of Gadarif State's Legislative Council Karemallah Abbass Al Sheikh, Governor of the State, Dr Abdel-Rahman Ahmed Al Khidir and the chairman of the judicial organ in the state amid official celebrations. The oath-taking means eastern states have entered a new era of peace and peaceful exchange of power, said Al Sheikh.

### **Taha affirms that coming days would witness issuance of a number of decisions that end crisis between the two partners**

(*SMC*) - *SUNA*, Vice President Ali Osman Mohamed Taha has affirmed that the coming days would witness issuance of a number of decisions that end the crisis between the two partners, the National Congress and the SPLM. This came when Taha received at his office Saturday the Ambassador of Norway to Sudan. The ambassador pointed out in a press statement following the meeting that he discussed with the Vice President the pioneering role that can be assumed by Norway in its capacity as chairman of the Evaluation and Assessment Commission for the Comprehensive Peace Agreement to bring closer the viewpoints of the two sides, indicating that the meeting tackled the importance of boosting the relations of cooperation between Sudan and Norway for the interest of the two peoples, specially

### **Seminars on Sharing of Power and Wealth and Security Arrangements to begin Sunday in Sirte, Libya**

(*SMC*) - *SUNA*, Seminars on the sharing of power and wealth, and security arrangements and the methods of negotiations are due to begin Sunday in Serti, Libya, with participation of the government and the armed movement's delegations, and would last till November 12. The spokesman of the government delegation, Ambassador Abu-Zaid Al-Hassan, said in a statement to SUNA that the seminars aim to make the delegations informed about the negotiations and the most modern means of interaction with each other prior to the coming direct negotiations. He said that a conference of

Sudan neighboring countries will be held in Serti during November 13 - 14 with the aim to push ahead the negotiation and consultation process. He said that the delegations that left for Darfur and Juba for getting information and facilitation of the negotiation process will arrive in Serti on November 8 and 9. Ambassador Al-Hassan said that the mediators are due to meet on November 14th to work out a new timetable before commencement of the direct negotiations in early next December. Meanwhile, the Assistant of the President of the Republic and head of the government delegation for the negotiations with the armed movements in Darfur, Dr. Nafie Ali Nafie, arrived in Serti on Sunday from Tunis before his departure to Khartoum.

### **Sudan Asks Voluntary Organizations to Adopt Good Behavior**

(SMC) – *Sudan Vision daily*, the fourth committee of the UN General Assembly presided over by Sudan permanent envoy, Ambassador Abdel Mahmoud Abdel Halim has discussed the article related to peace keeping operation in the world among which non-aligned countries participate.

During the session, the non-aligned countries were represented by Morocco envoy that referred to the hybrid operation in Darfur and stated that the UN should stick to its terms of reference especially the African nature of the operation. Sudan presentation pointed out that the government is committed to achieve peace in Darfur and through the declaration it also requested the international community to honor its pledges. It also demanded the international organizations to stay away from interfering in Sudan's internal affairs. The presentation also called for incriminating the French organization that involved in the case of smuggling children.

### **SPLA-SAF agrees of redeployment of troops by Jan.**

AlSudani-- The Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the SPLA have agreed on the redeployment of their troops North and South of 1956 borders in 9 Jan 2008 in coincidence with the 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of signing the CPA.

Member of the Cease Fire Political Commission Aldirdiri Mohamed Ahmed told (SUNA) that the commission issued a resolution stipulating the disarmament in the oil fields areas by the ninth of Jan.

He added that the meeting discussed the various pending issues on the Joint Military Committee level whereas decisions were reached committing SAF and SPLA to abide by cease fire arrangements.

He noted that the two sides decided to complete the Joint Integrated Units by the 9<sup>th</sup> of Jan. 2008 prior to their training according to the military creed agreed upon by the two sides.

He stressed that an agreement was concluded to evacuate the towns from any military presence and retain protective forces to guard VIPs.

### **Sudan former foes agree on timetable for peace**

November 04, 2007, 11:30

Reuters

Sudan's former foes have agreed on steps to implement a 2005 peace deal, First Vice President Salva Kiir said today, indicating the country's worst political crisis in years may be resolved soon.

The announcement raised hopes that ministers from the former southern rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement's (SPLM) will soon return to the national coalition government, ending the political paralysis that set in after they froze the partnership in protest last month.

"The Presidency ... approved a number of principles on which basis presidential decrees will be issued to authorize a timetable and mechanisms of implementation which will resolve all the issues," Kiir's statement, read by his press attaché, said.

He added work was under way to resolve the issue of the disputed oil-rich region of Abyei, but he did not say if or when the SPLM ministers, about a quarter of the cabinet, would return to their posts.

Sudan's north-south deal ended Africa's longest civil war which claimed 2 million lives and drove 4 million from their homes. But the SPLM said they were frustrated at the lack of progress to implement key parts of the peace deal, including withdrawing northern forces from southern oil fields and demarcating the north-south border.

Kiir said the SPLM was not building up its troops along the north-south border as reported by Khartoum's press, but said the northern army was ready for battle. "Since July they (the northern army) have been in a state of readiness ... probably because they expected the SPLM to attack them," said Kiir. The northern troops were supposed to withdraw by July 9 this year according to the deal. Kiir said southern soldiers remained in their camps.

Kiir said a joint six-member committee would be formed to resolve outstanding issues. Kiir visits the United States this week to brief the UN Security Council and travel to Washington.

The dominant northern National Congress Party has blamed the SPLM for derailing peace talks in Sudan's remote western Darfur region which formally opened on October 27 in Libya with none of the main rebel factions in attendance. - Reuters

## GoSS

### **Jonglei Governor accuses bodies of destabilizing area**

(*Khartoum Monitor*) Governor of Jonglei State brigadier Philip Thon Leek has accused certain bodies of destabilizing the area through arming the citizens and supporting them logistically. He described them as enemies of peace at a meeting held on 1st November 2007 with the United Nations Secretary General Special Envoy Qazi, Leek

said that security is the first priority in his state and that out of the 11 counties 8 are having some conflicts between groups of residents.

The governor affirmed his state's keenness on providing security to expedite the development which is to encourage stability and the displaced people to return their villages. He called on the UN to play a role in development and support Dr. John Garang academy for science and technology which is almost complete and will be opened in January next year. He also demanded the UN contribute in tools for facilitating the media in the area in order to present the peace culture and peaceful coexistence between the states citizens Ashraf Qazi has pledge to exert more effort in order to contribute in development process and affirmed that in a period of six months UN will open its radio station for development.

### **South Sudan says progress achieved to end peace crisis**

(*Xinhua* – 2 Nov. Khartoum) Southern Sudan announced Friday evening that a tangible progress had been achieved in its meeting with Khartoum late in the day to remove the current political crisis between the two main partners in the central government. Luka Biong, minister of presidency in the southern Sudan government, made the announcement following a meeting between Sudanese President Omer al-Bashir and First Vice President and Chairman of the former rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) Salva Kiir Mayardit who represents the south.

### **LRA thanks South Sudan for bringing peace to Uganda**

(*The Citizen*) Uganda's rebel leaders heading for Uganda yesterday said they were grateful to the people of South Sudan for giving them the opportunity to arrive at peace in Uganda after a 21-year conflict. "We can not find enough words to thank the people and Government of Southern Sudan for having hosted these talks at great forbearance at a time when they themselves have their own burdens too heavy to bear" said Martin Ojulu, the head of the LRA delegation in Juba, moments before he set off with three others on a flight for Uganda.

## **Darfur**

### **Darfur talks may be moved to South Africa**

(*AlSahafa*) The Joint Mediation Support Team is considering moving Darfur peace talks from Libya to South Africa. In a meeting with the US envoy for Sudan Andrew Natsios in Juba, the leaders of the rebel movements expressed their reservations on holding the talks in Sirte and suggested instead moving it to a democratic African country.

### **US calls for technical cadres for the hybrid from outside Africa**

(*AlAyam*) The US envoy for Sudan Andrew Natsios has called on the GoS to accept non-African technical cadres for the hybrid operation so that they can be deployed in Darfur at the beginning of 2008. Natsios discussed with the Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mutrif Sidiq Sirte talks, need for involving all DPA non-signatories and preparations for the hybrid operation.

## **Sudanese delegation refuses SPLM role in Darfur peace talks**

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 3 Nov. KHARTOUM) The Sudanese delegation for Darfur peace talks refused the participation of a delegation from the Sudan People's Liberation Movement in the peace talks as facilitator. Nafi Ali Nafi, Sudanese government chief negotiator to the AU-UN brokered peace talks in Sirte threatened to not attend the opening session of the peace talks on Saturday 27 October if the mediation allows a SPLM delegation to attend as facilitator.

The daily Akhbar Alyaum said the mediators were very embarrassed by the violent reaction of the Sudanese official. They convinced the SPLM delegation to leave the meeting room.

The SPLM was represented by Chairperson of the Task Force and SPLM Special Envoy on Darfur, Reverend Clement Janda, and Edward Lino, a prominent figure in the SPLM and member of the task force. Nafi told the mediation he rejects the SPLM efforts in Darfur crisis, the daily said.

## **Sudan says important rebel group to join Darfur peace talks**

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 2 Nov. SERTE, Libya) Sudanese top negotiator for Darfur peace talks showed optimism over the future of the AU-UN brokered peace talks saying that one of the main rebel groups in the war-torn region is willing to join the peace talks. Sudanese Presidential Assistant, Nafi Ali Nafi, said that an important rebel group in Darfur is in contact with the mediators and wants to meet government delegation for the peace talks.

Nafi said that there are signs that this "influential movement" wants to joint the peace process.

Three main groups boycott the peace talks in Sirte, the Sudan Liberation Movement led by Abdel Wahid al-Nur who rejects the current process demanding security for Darfur civilians before any talks. Justice and Equality Movement of Khalil Ibrahim who demands to be associated in the preparations of the talks and the choice of the rebels that attending the talks. SLM-Unity led by Abdalla Yahya who demands more time to realize rebels' unity.

## **AU says hybrid force significant for peace in Darfur**

(*VoA* – 3 Nov. WASHINGTON) The Africa Union (AU)/UN hybrid mission in Darfur (UNAMID), set up to replace the AU's African Mission in Sudan (AMIS), on Wednesday inaugurated it's operational base in the town of El Fasher. When fully in place, the force, which was established by the Security Council in July 2007, will comprise more than 19,000 military and close to 6500 police personnel.

It is widely hoped that the hybrid force will be more effective in protecting civilians in Darfur than AMIS, which was only 7000 strong. The troops will be made up of personnel from several countries, including Burkina Faso, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi and Senegal.

Sam Ibok is Ambassador and Advisor to AU Special Envoy Salim Ahmed Salim. From Sirte, Libya, where he is attending the Darfur peace talks, he explained to Akwei Thompson of Nightline Africa the significance of the hybrid force in the larger context of bringing peace to the region.

### **Darfur rebels will release five oil hostages**

(*Reuters* – 3 Nov. KHARTOUM) Darfur rebels said on Saturday they would release five hostages they kidnapped after attacking an oil installation in Sudan's most lucrative area.

The Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) attacked the Defra oil field last month and took an Egyptian, an Iraqi and three Sudanese oil workers hostage. It ordered all other oil companies working in the Kordofan region bordering Darfur to leave or become military targets.

"JEM is releasing all the captives from the oil field ... principally for humanitarian reasons and on the call of the Egyptian authorities, our friends," JEM head Khalil Ibrahim told Reuters from Darfur. He said the threat against oil companies working in the Kordofan region still stood. Ibrahim said JEM would release the hostages to the United Nations as soon as the world body was ready to receive them.

### **Rebel group says to be ready for Darfur peace talks in December**

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 2 Nov. PARIS) Sudan Liberation Movement Unity Command (SLM-Unity) said today it will participate in the peace talks; however the group said needing one month to achieve reunification process.

SLM-Unity prominent figure, Suleiman Jamous, told Radio France International (RFI) Friday that his group is engaged in a process to reunite rebel movements. He added that they hope to achieve this process during this month of November and they will be ready to join the peace negotiations in December.

"We hope to finish this [reunification process] within this month and then we will attend the peace talks in anywhere, and if the international community wants to proceed in Libya we do not care." Jamous said.

### **ICRC Distributes Emergency Aid For Victims Fleeing Clashes in Northern Darfur**

The International Committee of the Red Cross says it has delivered the first emergency aid to thousands of people who fled clashes in Haskanita, North Darfur in late September. An armed opposition group attacked African Union peacekeepers in the Sudanese town on September 29 and 30, provoking the exodus. Lisa Schlein reports from ICRC headquarters in Geneva.

More than 5,000 people fled their homes following the attack. Spokeswoman for the International Committee of the Red Cross, Anna Schaaf, says they have been living under very difficult conditions in the countryside and villages around Haskanita.

"They had to give up their homes and all of their belongings and they have been basically living without shelter, living under trees for some of them. Some of them were luckier and were able to be sheltered by residents locally. And, of course, they would like to go home as soon as possible. That is what they told us. But, they have to be sure that security is O.K. before they go home and they have to make sure that they have access to the basic services like health care and food. So, it is going to be difficult," she said.

No one has claimed responsibility for the attack on the African Union peacekeepers in Haskanita. But, it is widely believed the assault, which killed 10 soldiers and wounded eight, was carried out by an armed opposition group.

Haskanita was re-taken quickly by the government forces. But about one week later, the town was completely burnt down.

Schaaf tells VOA an ICRC team of 37 staff with 13 trucks has just returned from the area. She says they spent 10 days assessing the situation on the ground.

"This is the first distribution we have been able to do. The ICRC is the first humanitarian organization being able to distribute relief supplies on the spot. Basically, they have given them food like lentils, sorghum, oil and sugar and they have also provided the displaced people with emergency household items, such as sleeping mats, blankets, jerry cans, kitchen sets and tarpaulins for their shelter. Some also needed clothing and we have also had a doctor on the spot to provide emergency medical supplies."

Schaaf says the Red Cross also distributed relief items to the local residents, who despite their poverty generously helped the displaced. She says the area has had a bad harvest this year and the people are in need of assistance.

She says the Red Cross was able to carry out this mission because it has good relations with all parties in Darfur. Schaaf says the opposition groups guaranteed the ICRC safe access so the operation could proceed smoothly.

### **SLM's Unity rejects NCP accusations of hindering Sirte talks**

The SLM's Unity faction has categorically dismissed the NCP accusations of hampering Sirte talks by employing armed movements meeting in Juba as pressuring card.

Meanwhile, SLM's field Commander Abubakr Kadu said that the movement handed over the Red Cross a number of captives detained at Bir Mazza area, but he decline to mention the exact number

He disclosed that the captives represent the 3<sup>rd</sup> batch handed to the Red Cross, adding that the move was an indication of good will and the movement's commitment to the international law.