

UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN
UNMIS
UNMIS Media Monitoring Report 7th November 2006
(By Public Information Office)

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HIGHLIGHTS:

United Nations

UN reports new attacks in southern Darfur; 1 dead

(AP – 6th Nov. UN) Arab nomads have launched violent attacks on civilians near a refugee camp in the southern Darfur region of Sudan in recent days, killing one man and injuring several others, the U.N. said Monday.

The attacks came after the U.N. issued a report Friday accusing the government-allied Janjaweed militia of killing more than 50 people in raids on villages and a refugee camp in late October. The Sudanese government has denied involvement in the raids.

In the latest attacks, the U.N. mission in Sudan said several armed Arab nomads in military uniform attacked and killed a farmer on Friday about two miles (three kilometers) south of the Kalma refugee camp, which is home to about 90,000 people.

A day earlier, about 18 armed Arab nomads attacked four farmers several miles (kilometers) south of the camp, the U.N. mission said. On Saturday, Arab nomads attacked a group of refugees who were searching for firewood about four miles (6.5 kilometers) north of the camp, the mission said.

U.N. spokesman Stephanie Dujarric did not offer further details in a news conference at U.N. headquarters in New York, but said "the displaced persons in the camps have requested more patrols by the African Union forces in Darfur."

Sudan's Foreign Ministry has said that neither the Sudanese army nor regular pro-government paramilitary groups were currently fighting rebels in Darfur, contradicting multiple reports by international observers that they were in the region.

UN reports new Cholera outbreak in Sudan's Juba

(*SudanTribune.com* – 6th Nov. **Juba**) A total of 200 cases of acute watery diarrhea, have been admitted Juba hospital since last week, according to an internal UNMIS note warning international staff in the region to take the necessary hygienic measures.

Another Acute Watery Diarrhea Outbreak is believed to be Cholera in the capital of southern Sudan, Juba. It is believed to have started at Munuki but has rapidly spread to almost all corners of Juba, a UN source said.

Cholera outbreak has killed at least 424 people and sickened 14,000 since January in southern Sudan, and officials are concerned the disease could spread to other countries.

United Nations and the Transitional Debate

Saeed Djinnit expected in Khartoum tomorrow

Saeed Djinnit, the AU Commissioner for Peace and Security is expected to arrive Khartoum tomorrow. He is to be accompanied by Mohamed Abdoon, head of the Darfur-Darfur Dialogue and Sam Ibok, head of the DPA implementation team.

Djinnit will meet some of the states prominent officials to discuss Darfur issue. A reliable source said. *Alwan*

Sudan to face isolation, if Darfur crises not swiftly ended – Blair

(AP – 6th Nov. **London**) Prime Minister Tony Blair said Monday that if Sudan's government does not make progress in the next few weeks in stopping violence in Darfur and promoting peace talks, Britain, the European Union and the United States will have to find other ways to end the crisis.

Speaking at his monthly news conference, Blair said this is the message that he gave Salva Kiir Mayardit, Sudan's first vice president, during his visit to London on Oct. 31, and asked him to take it back to Sudan's leader.

Blair told Kiir that Sudan's government has one last chance to move toward ending the conflict, or it will face international isolation. Kiir has publicly disagreed with Sudanese President Omar al Bashir over Bashir's refusal to accept U.N. peacekeepers, one of the conditions the British government has said Sudan must accept.

Blair has urged fellow European leaders to exert "maximum pressure" on Khartoum to ease fighting in Darfur.

Japan urges Sudan to accept UN forces for Darfur

(Kyodo – 6th Nov. **Tokyo**) Japan urged Sudan on Monday to accept the deployment of a U.N. mission to Sudan's strife-torn Darfur region in line with a U.N. Security Council resolution, a Foreign Ministry official said.

Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Aso made his call in a meeting with his Sudanese counterpart Lam Akol Ajawin, who is currently visiting Japan.

Aso was quoted as saying Japan finds it desirable for peacekeeping operations in Darfur to be taken over by the United Nations as the African Union Mission in Sudan, commonly referred to as AMIS, and may not be adequate for the job.

CPA

Governor of S. Kordofan says secession is also an option for the state

The Citizen: South Sudan State Governor Ismail Khamis Jalap said that this government is not able to disarm the militias according to the CPA Security Arrangements, which stipulates that all armed militias must be subject to the Demobilization, Disarmament and Reintegration (DDR) program.

The South Kordofan governor stressed that there is still a dispute between SPLM Movement and the National Congress Party on the issue of the Popular Defence Forces part of Sudan Arm Forces(SAF), arguing that therefore they would not be disarmed, he added.

Governor Khamis accused the NCP of continually postponing formation of the DDR Committee.

GoNU

Parliament ratifies the Eastern Sudan Peace Accord

(AFP- 6th Nov. Asmara) Following last month's signing of an Eritrean-mediated peace between the Sudanese government and eastern rebels, Eritrea said it and Sudan had fully restored cross-border links at a ceremony on Friday.

"The present ceremony is a step taken to further strengthen ties between the two countries," said Abdalla Jabir, a senior official in Eritrea's only political party, the People's Front for Democracy and Justice (PFDJ).

In a statement published on the Eritrean foreign ministry's website, Jabir said the official re-opening of the border between Eritrea and its western neighbor was an "important step" for the two countries and the region.

The ceremony was held after the signing of a peace deal in Asmara in October between Khartoum and the Eastern Front rebels, comprised of groups that had been waging a low-level guerrilla war in eastern Sudan for more than a decade.

In its Sunday statement, Eritrea said it had offered to mediate between Khartoum and Darfur rebel groups that have refused to sign a May African Union-mediated peace deal.

Yemane Gebreab, head of the Eritrean delegation in Sudan for the border ceremony, said Asmara had received a "positive response" to the offer from Khartoum, according to the statement.

All of recognized Darfur rebel groups have offices in Eritrea and three of them the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), a holdout faction of the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) and the Sudan Federal Democratic Alliance (SFDA), in June formed the National Redemption Front (NRF).

Government to soon issue a law on television and radio broadcast

AlAyaam: In a symposium held yesterday in the Council of Ministers over the impact of radio and television on the society, Minister of Information and Communications, El Zahawi Ibrahim Malik, announced issuing a law on television and radio broadcasting.

He added that the Government supports the freedom of the press to enable it to play its full role in the coming stage.

Suwar el-Dahab committee agrees that security is deteriorating daily in Darfur

The Citizen: The committee set up by President Omar Al Bashir, under the chairmanship of former head of state Field Marshal Abdul Rahman Suwar El Dahab held a meeting yesterday with leaders of Sudanese opposition political parties and is expected to soon fly to Asmara to hold talks with Darfur holdout factions, after which a situation report is to be presented to President El Bashir and first Vice President Salva Kiir.

The committee's spokesperson Osman Abdullah acknowledged that the obstacles in Darfur did not offer an easy solution. He added that the further escalation of the crises could lead to civil war. He admitted that the security situations in Darfur is indeed deteriorating everyday, noting that any government official who thinks that Darfur is stable might mean another Darfur " But not the one we have seen".

- The Presidency of the Republic plans to sue some foreign news agencies for misquoting the President of the Republic over the number of the people killed in Darfur in his address before the China-Africa conference in Peking. The Presidency claims that the numbers cited by some news agencies and attributed to the President of the Republic were largely exaggerated. *AlHayat*

Goss /Southern Sudan

Uganda private airline to fly six times a week to Sudan's Juba

(*East African Business Week*) An Ugandan private airline, Dario Air, will increase from this week its flights to Juba from four to six flights.

Starting this Thursday, Royal Daisy Airlines will leave Entebbe for Juba at 08.00hrs and leave Juba at 11.15hrs.

On Fridays, the airline will leave Entebbe at 15.00hrs and leave Juba at 18.15hrs, Sunday at 15.00hrs, Monday at 08.00hrs, Tuesday at 15.00hrs and Wednesday at 10.00hrs.

A one-way ticket to Juba is priced at \$220 (Ush407, 000) and \$440 (Ush814, 000) for a return ticket. Juba, the capital of Southern Sudan, is attracting a lot of business and investments following the signing of a peace agreement that ended a two-decades civil war there early 2005.

SPLM renews suspicions that Garang crash was no accident but rules out CIA involvement

AlRai AlAam: The SPLM renewed suspicions over the cause behind Garang crash.

The SPLM suspects that Garang death was a conspiracy masterminded by an entity which the SPLM didn't named.

The SPLM said that the CIA has nothing to do with Garang assassination as some sources had suspected.

Cabinet Affairs minister Deng Alor said that the government doesn't deal with rumors in such cases and doesn't accuse any entity unless the accusation is supported strong evidences. He went on to say that Garang's death was abnormal and that investigations were not sufficient.

Military experts warn against SPLM use of US companies to train its army

AlRai AlAam: The Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) used a specialized US security company to train its army.

Security expert Brigadier Abdul Rahman Farah considered this step as an action against the CPA and the National sovereignty.

Darfur

Sudan declares public works team missing in Darfur

(AFP – 5th Nov. **Khrt.**) A team of nine people working on a public works project in South Darfur has been missing for a fortnight, a Sudanese official said Sunday, warning that the authorities would suspend such work until the team was freed.

The nine consisted of five water engineers, a health official and three drivers, state development minister Ramadan Salem Abu Kalam was quoted as saying by the official SUNA news agency.

They had been working on drilling wells and installing water pumps at the Silaiah displaced persons camp in Shairiya when they were reported missing on October 23.

The ministry "cannot work in such conditions of insecurity," he said, adding that his ministry would "not send any other team before the fate of the members of the missing team is made known."

Khartoum to sign peace deal with some Darfur local commanders

(*SuadnTribune.com* – 6th Nov. **Khrt.**) Sudanese government reportedly would sign a peace deal with local commanders from Abdul Wahid al-Nour group in the Libyan capital Tripoli during the next week.

According to press reports published in Khartoum, secret talks between the government and unidentified military commanders of a faction from the rebel Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) led by Abdul Wahid Mohamed al-Nour have progressed with the two sides agreeing on the contentious issues.

The peace agreement would be signed in the Libyan capital, Tripoli, on Tuesday 7 November or Wednesday 8 November after African Union rejected the Sudanese government's idea of signing the peace agreement at the AU headquarters in Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia.

Akhbar AlYaum meanwhile reports that AbdulWahid has refuted reports of his having held secret talks and reached a deal with government.

Minnawi cautiously welcomes Eritrea's mediation

(*Xinhua* – 6th Nov. **Khrt.**) Mini Minnawi has cautiously welcomed on Sunday Eritrea's initiative to host negotiations between the Sudanese government and rebel groups which still reject the peace accord.

"We encourage any dialogue which can lead to the end of the bloodshed in Darfur on the condition that the dialogue is held in the framework of the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA)," said Mini Arko Minawi, leader of the main faction of the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM).

Minawi said he could contribute to success of this initiative and would send representatives to take part in the peace talks in Asmara as observers, adding that any dialogue being held outside what had been agreed on in Abuja was unacceptable at all.

He disclosed that contact between him and the armed movements which had not signed the DPA were continuing, adding that positive results had come out of the contacts, including the cease-fire by several movements.

AlAyaam also adds that Mr. Minnawi has called for forgiveness from the people of Darfur and Sudan at large and said that Darfur prisoners will soon be released.

18 displaced injured in clashes over Minnawi visit to Darfur

(*SudanTribune.com* – 6th Nov. **Nyala**) At least 18 people were reported injured during clashes in displaced camps in South Darfur camps between partisans of Minni Minawi and other displaced.

The clashes were started when displaced groups organized demonstrations inside Kalma and Attash camps to welcome the visiting Senior Presidential Assistant Minni Minawi, who visited the region Monday.

Then other displaced thrown stones at the demonstrators who celebrate Minnawi's visit to South Darfur. 15 people were wounded at Kalma camp and 3 at Attash camps, the pro-ruling NCP, SMC, reported Monday.

Other Developments

Rights watchdog decries media harassment in Sudan

(*HRW* – 6th Nov. **New York**) The Sudanese government is engaged in an increasingly blatant effort to muzzle and intimidate Sudan's independent press, Human Rights Watch said today.

“While international media attention has been focused on Darfur, the Sudanese authorities in Khartoum have been stepping up their harassment of Sudanese journalists and newspapers,” said Peter Takirambudde, Africa director at Human Rights Watch. “The harassment is symptomatic of Khartoum's fear of mounting popular dissent and frustration at government policies and actions.”

In recent months government security forces have carried out numerous acts of censorship, arrests of journalists, and arbitrary inspections of newspaper offices and printing presses.

Since the beginning of 2006 at least 15 Sudanese and foreign journalists have been arrested and detained, and since September the security forces have resumed the practice of pre-print inspections of newspapers in an apparent effort to censor sensitive news. In some instances editions of newspapers have been banned altogether.

In September, newspaper editors were warned not to cover the violent police actions against anti-government demonstrations which took place in Khartoum on August 30 and September 6 following the announcement of price increases for fuel, sugar and other basic goods.

The government also imposed a ban on reporting or comments on the case of Mohamed Taha Mohamed Ahmed, the editor of the Islamist al-Wifaq newspaper, whose decapitated body was found on September 6, a day after he was abducted by a group of armed men from his home in Khartoum.

In addition Sudanese security services have routinely restricted the international and Sudanese media's coverage of the conflict and humanitarian crisis in Darfur. Even once they have obtained visas for Sudan, international media face increasing restrictions on their travel to Darfur and their ability to move freely and interview individuals in the region.

“The government’s strategy of intimidating journalists in Khartoum has had some effect,” said Takirambudde. “The Sudanese media, especially Arabic newspapers, toe the government line on key issues such as Darfur. And the human rights violations being carried out by the security forces in the region are not being reported.”

The latest clampdown on free expression in Sudan comes less than two years after the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in January 2005, which put an end to the 21-year civil war in southern Sudan and led to the formation last year of a Government of National Unity. The CPA also led to the lifting of a long-running state of emergency, except in Darfur and until recently, eastern Sudan. The Interim National Constitution established in 2005 provides for freedom of the press and guarantees citizens’ right to freedom of expression under Article 39.

“The CPA is supposed to lead to elections in 2008 throughout Sudan,” said Takirambudde. “The elections are a crucial milestone in putting the whole of Sudan on the path to sustainable peace. But the current limitations on free expression and harassment of journalists show just how far there is to go to create a political environment conducive to free and fair elections.”

Editorial and Commentaries

On SRSG Pronk

In his column on *AlHayat*, Saad Ahmed says the desperation and loss of hope was very much in Mr. Pronk’s face as he stepped out of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs after he was declared unwanted in the country.

He says SRSG Pronk was a man who felt he was a giant in the midst of dwarfs and could thus do anything that he pleased banking on the support he enjoys from the US, the UK, the United Nations and the international community and the decision to expel him therefore came as a surprise to him. The writer goes on to say that Pronk saw himself as the true ruler of the Sudan, stronger than Gordon Pasha of colonial times and than Paul Bremer in Iraq and thus roamed the country at will and held talks with the president, the regional rulers and all sectors of society including “tea sellers” alike and would “poke his nose into every single thing”.

The writer says that SRSG Pronk was cut down to size on the eve of the Eid when he was summoned and declared persona non-grata and gone were the status he enjoyed and with it the UN’s boast.

He goes on to say that SRSG Pronk was seen whispering to Spokesperson Achouri out of the foreign ministry’s premises and pointing at the door through which he had just walked out of probably asking her, “can they extend my stay to a week or at least 96 hours? Do the President and his deputies know of this? Could a broadcast of this be muted or at the least delayed? Can I be allowed to have a last look at Darfur and feel her soil again? Etc”.

He then says that the SRSG then used the Secretary-General to cover for him and indeed Secretary-General Annan issued a statement which the writer describes as “strange” renewing his confidence in SRSG Pronk the writer points out that Secretary-General Annan himself is but a few weeks ago from handing over his position to a new Secretary-General.

The writer concludes with an address to what he described as the “dwarfs” of the world (Africa, Asia, Arab, Muslim, Caribbean, etc.) informing them that the giant has been dwarfed and the UN is no more that strong giant. He asks them to challenge UN resolutions and adds

that the world is surely coming to an end with “the slave (Sudan, etc.) freeing his master (the UN).

Living with HIV/AIDS in Sudan capital

(*IRIN* – 6th Nov. **Khrt.**) Nine years ago, while working in Libya, Sudanese Professor Jalal Mohamed was diagnosed with a severe case of nostalgia. He was listless and had no appetite, but because he had passed all his physicals to work overseas, doctors attributed his malaise to homesickness.

When he returned to his native Sudan, Mohamed was diagnosed with HIV. His wife stood by him after he was able to prove that he was infected during a surgical procedure.

Today, at the age of 69, he is a spry, gaunt fellow who delights in his own erudition on his condition. "I am Mr. HIV," Mohamed told *IRIN/Plus News*. "The infected are professionals [when it comes to] AIDS; you can't tell us what we don't already know."

Like many in Sudan, he has faced overwhelming prejudice due to his HIV positive status, yet he approaches the disease with an almost unsettling fearlessness.

"I carry my death certificate in my pocket," he said amiably, patting his trousers. "I'm not afraid of death; every dog has his day."

Mohamed is a regular visitor to the Association for the Care of Sudanese People Living with HIV/AIDS, housed in a ramshackle building in a dusty ghetto near the capital, Khartoum.

Most of the center's 50 regulars come for what they call "awareness sessions", which generally take the form of conversations over cups of tea in the courtyard.

Debate on a range of topics is plentiful, but when it comes to HIV, those present agree on quite a bit. They insist that much of the stigma surrounding HIV/AIDS is more pervasive in Sudan's Muslim north than in the Christian and animist south.

"Muslims think if you have sex outside of marriage, you are a wrongdoer," said an elderly man who said he had to keep his identity "top secret" because he was afraid of losing his job.

"Muslims claim there is no AIDS in the north, only in the south," said Badr El Din, a middle-aged Muslim man in dark glasses.

The association was formed in 2000, as a growing awareness of AIDS in east Africa forced even Sudan's notoriously tight-lipped government to confront the growing threat of HIV.

According to UNAIDS, the adult HIV prevalence in Sudan as a whole in 2003 was 1.6 percent, while around 320,000 people aged between 15 and 49 were infected and another 34,000 had died from AIDS-related illnesses.

Although information about HIV/AIDS is now available in schools and in the media, those diagnosed with the virus find that personal prejudices still run deep.

"My wife left me," said Faisal Hassan Mohamed, and then for a long time he said nothing else. "She was afraid of me."

He is fairly certain he contracted HIV from an ex-girlfriend in Eritrea, but most at the centre would rather not talk about how they became infected, and very few admit that they got it through sexual contact.

Twenty-eight-year-old Sabir Ibrahim also admits he probably contracted HIV during his time in the Sudanese army, and says he had sex before marriage. His 18-year-old wife is also infected. He says his condition will force him to lie about how he contracted HIV or he fears will never find work again.

Others tell a similar story. Very few visitors to the centre have jobs, though every one of them was working before their diagnosis.

Florence was working at a university when she was diagnosed, and was "terminated" three months later. She knows that she contracted HIV from her husband after he had sex with another woman.

In Khartoum, HIV/AIDS comes with such terrible stigma that those who are infected rarely turn away from others who share their burden, and they all live in fear of the judgment of those who are not infected.

Bikela Khair, an Ethiopian refugee, has lived in Sudan since 1981. He lost his job as a driver after falling ill. Khair told IRIN/Plus News that he was not afraid to die: "Dying will only take one day, whether I have HIV or not."

He has a greater fear than death. "If I tell people I have HIV," Khair said, "tomorrow nobody will greet me."