

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS****Media Monitoring Report, 20 November 07**

(By Public Information Office)

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IN THE NEWS TODAY:**➤ UN/ Agencies**

- UN chief urges implementation of south Sudan peace (ST)
- Darfur rebel markings used in AU attack - UN (ST), Ki-moon: Attack on AU troops in Haskanita launched by rebels (AlSahafa)
- International mediators meet Khalil Ibrahim in Darfur (AlSudani)

➤ GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

- IGAD to hold meeting on Sudan peace implementation (ST)
- Political parties support to SPLM mere intrigues, Nafie (Sudan Vision)
- No return to war: Kiir (Khartoum Monitor), SPLM committed to peace but no one has monopoly of war in Sudan - Kiir, South Sudan Salva Kiir urges CPA implementation from Juba (ST), Kiir appeals to NCP to implement eight demands (Akhbar AlYom), Kiir: I am afraid al Bashir's visits Arab countries in preparation for war (Rai AlShaab)
- Nafie: Political parties support to SPLM mere intrigues, the PDF are not militia (Sudan Vision, Khartoum Monitor)
- Bashir assistant stands by south Sudan partnership (ST)
- Dr. Nafie: Elections main point in agenda of NCP general conference (AlRai AlAam)
- Youth of Western area in South Kordofan warns of security deterioration of demands on developments projects not realized (AlAyam)
- Major amendments in Army draft bill (AlAyam)
- Five abducted oil workers freed in Sudan (ST)
- South Sudan army in state of mobilisation: SPLM SG (ST)
- Sudan "going through difficulties" caused by US sanctions - Bank manager

➤ **GoSS**

- Tilar, Alio accuse some SPLM elements of plots to overthrow Kiir (AlSudani)
- Sudan President's Speech Spark Concern, Anger in South (VoA)

➤ **Darfur**

- Darfur talks spread from Sirte to Juba, says mediation team (The Citizen)
- Sudan fears organ trafficking in French 'abduction' (ST)

Highlights

UN/ Agencies

UN chief urges implementation of south Sudan peace

(ST), November 19, 2007 (UNITED NATIONS) — U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon urged the Sudanese government and former southern rebels on Monday to stand by a peace agreement that ended two decades of war and warned against talk of rearming.

Asked about Bashir's comments on rearming, Ban urged all parties to implement the peace agreement faithfully.

"It is not desirable for the parties concerned in (the) Darfur situation, particularly parties to the CPA, to make such kind of unilateral statement," Ban told reporters.

"I hope again that the parties concerned should make a faithful implementation (of the peace agreement)," he said.

Ban said he was in talks with industrialized countries in a bid to secure critical helicopters and trucks needed for a 26,000-strong U.N./African Union peacekeeping force due to start operating in Darfur at the start of next year.

Ban said he hoped to resolve the issues of the composition of the force so it could deploy as planned.

(Reuters)

Darfur rebel markings used in AU attack - UN, Ki-moon: Attack on AU troops in Haskanita launched by rebels

(ST, AlSahafa), November 19, 2007 (KHARTOUM) — Armed raiders who killed 10 African Union soldiers in an attack on their base used vehicles marked with the letters JEM - the name of a powerful Darfur rebel group, the UN reported on Monday.

JEM, or the Justice and Equality Movement, denied any involvement in the attack on the AU base in the eastern Darfur town of Haskanita when it happened in late September.

JEM leader Khalil Ibrahim repeated the denial on Monday, saying: "It was not JEM who attacked the base and we can prove it."

He blamed commanders behind a breakaway faction from his group. "They still call themselves JEM and used vehicles marked with JEM. They carried out the attack to make a name for themselves."

The new details came in a monthly report on Darfur by U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon that was distributed to journalists in Khartoum on Monday.

The report stated: "Preliminary results of an investigation initiated by the AMIS (African Union Mission in Sudan) Force ... suggest that the attack was conducted by rebels entering the camp in vehicles bearing the inscription "JEM".

"The motive of the attack appears to have been looting of AMIS logistical equipment."

The report said the roll-out of the new hybrid force was now well under way. But it repeated concerns expressed by U.N. peacekeeping chief Jean-Marie Guehenno last week that the peacekeeping force was "at risk" unless disputes with Sudan over its make-up are resolved and key specialized units found.

(Reuters)

International mediators meet Khalil Ibrahim in Darfur

(AlSudani), A JEM official said the UN-AU Mediation Team will meet with the JEM Chairman Khalil Ibrahim in JEM-controlled areas in Darfur in order to make consultations for resuming the negotiation process on Darfur. He ruled out possibility of resuming talks during the 1st week of December. JEM Spokesperson Ahmed Hussein said the meeting will be held at the end of this week.

GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

IGAD to hold meeting on Sudan peace implementation

(ST), November 19, 2007 (NAIROBI) — Regional leaders plan to hold a summit to resolve the crisis in Sudan spurred by the withdrawal of former southern rebels from a unity government, a Kenyan official said Monday.

The position was reached after a diplomatic push by presidents Mwai Kibaki of Kenya, Yoweri Museveni of Uganda, Salva Kiir of the semi-autonomous region of south Sudan and retired Kenyan president Daniel arap Moi.

Moi, Kenya's special peace envoy to Sudan, met Museveni on Monday regarding the weekend initiative in Kenya, which chairs the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

"They agreed that IGAD countries should join hands and resolve the problems facing the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA)," Moi's spokesman Lee Njiru told AFP after the Kampala meeting.

"They agreed to plan an urgent summit to resolve the Sudanese crisis," he said, adding that a date would be announced later.

The planned IGAD summit comes two days after President Omer al-Bashir ordered the reopening of auxiliary training camps in Sudan to prepare for war, a call that drew warnings from diplomats.

"It is a very dangerous call," said a Kenyan official, adding that IGAD states had mounted a diplomatic push to avoid fresh unrest in Africa's largest nation.

In addition, Kibaki has been in contact with Beshir, his office announced.

Kiir's talks with Kibaki and Moi on Saturday were held on his way home from the United States where he met President George W. Bush — a visit criticised by Khartoum.

(AFP)

Nafie: Political parties support to SPLM mere intrigues, the PDF are not militia

(Sudan Vision, Khartoum Monitor), By: Mona Al Bashir / Al Sammani Awadallah, NCP Deputy Chairman, Dr. Nafie Ali Nafie, has affirmed that the NCP General Conference will be held at its normal scheduled date and not in response to an emergency. "The General Conference has to discuss the important developments now taking place in the arena," said Dr. Nafie, disclosing that the Conference will be held from Wednesday to Friday to discuss the largest number of the basic issues.

He said at the press conference he held yesterday that the President's speech is a major paper that addressed the overall general policies of the State from the NCP perspective, explaining that the Conference will discuss papers on the NCP program, the coming elections, peace and national unity in addition to the formation of a special committee to tackle intellectual and cultural issues.

"I hope the Conference will be an opportunity for exhaustive and deep dialogue to stimulate the other political parties to propose themselves to the people by addressing issues that concern them at their general and state conferences," Dr. Nafie said. He criticized the parties for forming bodies that overtop the Central Government. They were prompted, he said, by the present crisis between the two partners. He advised the

political parties to present their programs instead of harboring dreams of aborting the elections, which, he added, reflects their lack of weight with the public and their lack of conviction in popular address.

Dr. Nafie underscored that the political parties support for the SPLM does not spring from belief in the soundness of its stance but comes within the context of political intriguing by advocating a stance that is not soundly based. "This is regrettable," he said.

He reiterated that the SPLM builds its alliances on the basis of its own calculations and not in accordance with the wishes of others, indicating that many SPLA commanders and bases are fully aware that their interest lies in continuation of the partnership to be evolved into an elections program.

After renewing the NCP conviction of the feasibility of partnership with the SPLM, Dr. Nafie noted that the NCP represents the minimum limit of the partnership, attributing obstacles that face implementation of the agreement to differences in political motives and objectives.

"We, in the NCP, are happy with partnership and moreover believe that cooperation with the SPLM within the framework of political understanding and unification of vision is the easiest and handiest way for implementing the peace agreement. The SPLM will ultimately come round to the fact that the NCP is the true ally and partner," Dr. Nafie affirmed.

He renewed the NCP wish to sit with the SPLM to muse and share ideas on the peace agreement, though he warned that this wish should not be misinterpreted because the NCP cannot be made to accept "the unacceptable". He denied that the agreement is faltering, citing the report of the Assessment and Evaluation Commission, though he admitted that the Abyei issue has remained unresolved, holding the SPLM responsible for the standoff on Abyei. He stressed that solution of Abyei dispute cannot be through the experts' report which he described as spreading sedition. He invited the SPLM to propose a substantive solution because the NCP totally rejects the Peterson report.

He refuted the contention that the Popular Defence Forces are militias because, he remarked, they are affiliated to Sudan Armed Forces which is a legal military establishment.

"Peace does not mean weakness of the armed and popular defence forces," Dr. Nafie stressed.

On the other hand, Dr. Nafie reaffirmed the government's keenness on making a success of Sirte talks, expressing his hope that the rebel factions come to the talks under a unified umbrella for the negotiations, calling on SLM not to emulate the SPLM.

No return to war: Kiir (Khartoum Monitor), SPLM committed to peace but no one has monopoly of war in Sudan - Kiir, South Sudan Salva Kiir urges CPA implementation from Juba (ST), Kiir appeals to NCP to implement eight

demands (Akhbar AlYom), Kiir: I am afraid al Bashir's visits Arab countries in preparation for war (Rai AlShaab)

(ST), November 19, 2007 (JUBA) — The Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) leader renewed the commitment of his party to peace reassuring that he will continue to honor the CPA and other agreements that have been signed with Khartoum government, however he added that no one has monopoly of war in Sudan.

“I would like to assure all of you that the SPLA under my leadership will not and shall not take the people back to war again; trust me and we will not let you down”, President Salva Kiir has pledged.

Addressing huge crowds of Southern Sudanese who rallied to receive him in heroic welcome home from Juba Airport to John Garang Mausoleum, today afternoon in Juba, after ten days visit to the United States of America, President Kiir said since the signing of the CPA on January 9, 2005 Sudan has been and it is at its rising time for prosperity in the region and the world at large with its booming economy derived from oil wealth. There is now peace all over Sudan except Darfur.

President Kiir stated that their visit to USA have succeeded in rallying support of the international communities towards full implementation of the CPA especially those who were signatories' witnesses to the CPA signing on January 9th 2005.

President Kiir reiterated that the decision of SPLM political Bureau to withdraw its participation in the government of national unity was based on analysis that National Congress Party (NCP) has no political will to implement the CPA to the letter and spirit. Otherwise, dishonoring CPA amounts to killing the innocent and suffering people of the Sudan.

MONOPOLY OF WAR

However Salva Kiir told the important crowds rallied in Juba today that the SPLM reserves the right of self-defense and warned supporters to guard against Khartoum “war-mongering.”

The NCP had wanted to kill the CPA by deliberately refusing to implement crucial provisions of the peace accords but that SPLM will not allow that to happen besides, nobody has the monopoly of war in Sudan, Kiir said.

Nevertheless, Kiir said that Sudan Armed Forces, Sudan People's Liberation Army and their Joint Integrated Units have to remain calm and focused on their national duty of protecting Sudan sovereignty, adding they have no role to play in the current political crisis.

Kiir wondered why his visit to USA should be regarded as a conspiracy against the Sudan in which he is the First Vice President of the country.

He reminded with concern that when some of the NCP officials in the government visited Islamic countries and were negotiating for building up of their military capability, no one raises concern on their mission.

Salva Kiir also said that the joint six-members committee which is charged to workout details for implementation of Abyei report and other pending issues should continue and pledged to meet Bashir to finalized issues that were not settled before his travel.

He urged all Sudanese to join him in singing for peace and to denounce all forms of injustices that will take all Sudanese back to war.

Kiir said GoSS has succeeded in establishing new institutions of governance at all levels of government in southern Sudan based on provisions of the CPA. He further said "With the CPA Sudan have changed and its changing everyday for better."

"We have now initiated the process of unification of Darfurian movements with the aim of achieving comprehensive peace in Darfur so as to bring an end to one of the Sudan greatest catastrophic war."

"We are about to strike peace deal between the government of Uganda and the rebel LRA as part of our effort to contribute towards realization of peace in the region and we will also continue with harmonization of peace with all our neighbours," assured Kiir.

Earlier, Kiir requested the huge crowds to stand and observe a minute silence in memory of all heroes/herons who pour their blood for southern Sudan including the three police officers who were short in Yambio incident of November 4th 2007.

The southern Sudan government president apologized to the huge congregation, that had been waiting from 9.am, for late arrival due to plane delay from Khartoum to pick them from Nairobi to Juba as scheduled. With a pleasant tone, Kiir told the crowds that it could be a deliberate act of Khartoum to frustrate the congregation for his home reception so that they dispatch but Kiir sincerely thank the congregation for their perseverance under the hot sun in Juba.

Kiir also said that, Southerners must remain with good characters and respect of the foreigners and northerners who are living in southern towns and specially in Juba. "All the northerners must remain and given the respect they deserve as citizens of this country and foreigners as supporters of peace and stability in Sudan and promoting businesses as well. Southern Sudan needs to be an economic unit for its development and regional hub of the economic given its vast resources."

Kiir is expected to hold a close door meeting with his top aides in the SPLM to set the response of the party to statements by Sudanese president Omer al-Bashir who rejected implementation of Abyei protocol and ordered the mobilization of paramilitary forces.

Bashir assistant stands by south Sudan partnership

(ST), November 19, 2007 (KHARTOUM, Sudan) — The second in command of Sudan's main ruling party Monday defended Khartoum's partnership with the south of the country and said their peace agreement could move forward despite a recent crisis.

"Our party is totally convinced of the need for this partnership," Nafi Ali Nafi told a National Congress Party NCP news conference.

"We are satisfied with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and we think the only way to implement it is to work with the SPLM," he added, referring to the Sudan People's Liberation Movement that battled northern Sudan for 21 years.

Nafi seemed to downplay a tough stance adopted by President Omar al-Bashir Saturday when he ordered training camps of an NCP auxiliary - which fought the south during the conflict - to re-open in order to prepare for war.

"We hope we can sit down (with the SPLM) and talk free from outside pressure," Nafie told the news conference, convened to discuss preparations for a national NCP congress, held every four years. "I am sure a lot of officials in the SPLM believe it is in Sudan's interest to continue our partnership."

Nafi said SPLM demands could be accommodated but emphasized the north wouldn't give ground on Abiye, the oil-rich region vitally important for Sudan's economy and claimed by both sides.

"I don't know if the differences are unsolvable, with the exception of Abiye," he said, explaining that the border could not be drawn up overnight, nor a census organized or democratic reform implemented instantly.

(AFP)

Dr. Nafie: Elections main point in agenda of NCP general conference

(AIRai AlAam), Preparations for convening the general conference of the NCP have been completed. Presidential Assistant and NCP Deputy President Nafie Ali Nafie said the NCP general conference will discuss elections and other political issues.

Youth of Western area in South Kordofan warns of security deterioration of demands on developments projects not realized

(AlAyam), The Youth Committee of the Western Area of South Kordofan State warns of deteriorations in the security situation in case the government does not implement the development projects it had promised earlier. The committee says it will hold a decisive meeting with president al Bashir next week. The Committee Spokesperson al Sadiq Adam al Mamoun said the area is witnessing security risks in al Dibab and al Mujlad towns due to lack of basic services and development projects.

Major amendments in Army draft bill

(AlAyam), The joint committee representing Parliamentary groups has passed the SAF bill after introducing 45 amendments. One of the major amendment is to separate between the powers of the Minister of Defence as a political appointee and the Commander-in-Chief of SAF as a military power.

Five abducted oil workers freed in Sudan

(ST), November 19, 2007 (KHARTOUM) — Five oil workers, two of them foreigners, arrived in the Sudanese capital on Monday after a hostage ordeal of nearly a month, an industry official said.

"They are safe and sound. Some have already been reunited with their families. The Egyptian and Iraqi engineers will leave the country on Tuesday," the unnamed official said.

Darfur rebels abducted Joseph William Samuel from Egypt, Ahmed Heyman Mohammed from Iraq and three Sudanese technicians in an attack on an oil field in the adjacent Kordofan region on Oct. 23.

The industry official gave no details of the circumstances of the hostages' release, saying only that they were able to return to the capital with the help of their employer, oil firm Schlumberger.

The five were seized from a facility at Defra, run by the Greater Nile Petroleum Operating Company, a consortium involving China's CNPC (0135.HK), India's ONGC (500312.BY), Malaysia's Petronas and state-owned Sudapet.

The oilfield produces more than half of Sudan's output of some 500,000 barrels of oil a day, most of which is exported to China.

(AFP)

Sudan "going through difficulties" caused by US sanctions - Bank manager

Excerpt from report in English by Paris-based Sudanese newspaper Sudan Tribune website on 19 November

BBC Monitoring Service, Banks in Sudan are experiencing hardships as a result of US sanctions, according to a senior bank official.

Abd al-Mun'im Hasan Sayyid, president of Al-Shamal Islamic bank in Sudan, speaking Al-Qabas daily from Kuwait, lashed out at Arab banks for complying with US sanctions.

Last May the US president George Bush ordered stiffened sanctions on Sudan that will bar 31 companies controlled by the government from doing business in the U.S. financial system as well as sanctions on four Sudanese individuals, including two senior Sudanese officials and a rebel leader suspected of involvement in the Darfur violence.

The Sudanese government decided in late September to convert all dollar reserves into Euro and other currencies by year end. Several reports have indicated that the Sudanese economy is beginning to feel the effects of the US financial sanctions.

"Sudanese banks are suffering from endless US regulations on dollar transactions. We are going through extreme difficulties. Every day the umbrella of US sanctions and pertaining regulations keeps expanding" Sayyid said.

The bank top official revealed that some Arab banks have been refusing to conduct any dollar transactions with Sudan.

"Instead of these Arab banks helping their brothers in Sudan, they are helping the US by implementing the sanctions by the book" he added.

Sayyid said that they have contacted Central banks in these countries as well as officials in these countries with no success.

He further said that the decision by Sudan to convert [dollars] to the Euro should help neutralize the effect of sanctions. [Passage omitted]

GoSS

Tilar, Alio accuse some SPLM elements of plots to overthrow Kiir

(AlSudani), SPLM leaders Tilar Reng Deng and Alio Ayang Alio accused some elements within the SPLM of plotting to overthrow Kiir from the leadership of SPLM. Tilar criticized the recent statements by the SPLM Secretary General Pagan Amum on NCP-SPLM partnership saying that al Bashir's statements that followed were the result of Pagan's.

Sudan President's Speech Spark Concern, Anger in South

(VoA), By Alisha Ryu, Nairobi, *19 November 2007*, Senior members of Sudan People's Liberation Movement are said to be holding emergency consultations in the southern city of Juba in response to a fiery speech by Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir, who called on paramilitary forces created to fight the former southern rebels to prepare for war. VOA Correspondent Alisha Ryu has details from our East Africa Bureau in Nairobi.

Sudan's Deputy Minister of Justice and a member of the Sudan People Liberation Movement, William Ajal Deng, tells VOA the SPLM meeting in Juba is aimed at calming tempers and formulating the former rebels' final position on various issues pertaining to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, signed in 2005.

Deng says President Bashir's words were inflammatory, but the SPLM is not ready to abandon the peace accord, which effectively ended a 22-year civil war between the Arab-dominated government in Khartoum and the mainly Christian, black rebels in the south.

"I hope it was a slip of the tongue," he said. "The country is not prepared for war right now. We have been asking for the implementation of the agreement, nothing else."

The SPLM accuses Khartoum of undermining or ignoring key elements of the deal, including failing to withdraw troops from southern Sudan, and rejecting a boundary commission's binding report on the oil-rich Abyei region in the south that requires President Bashir's government to share the region's vast oil wealth with the people of Southern Sudan.

Last month, the SPLM suspended its participation in the government of national unity to protest the delay in the implementation of the peace agreement.

Speaking on Saturday at an event marking the anniversary of the founding of a government-allied militia called the Popular Defense Force, President Bashir again rejected the Abyei boundary commission report, declaring that the oil region would never be part of the south.

He also warned that the government in Khartoum is ready to go back to war with the south, if necessary. The Sudanese leader says the Popular Defense Force should open their training camps and gather Muslim fighters, not to start a war but to prepare for one.

The Popular Defense Force was established by the Sudanese government in 1990 to fight the southern rebels. The group is also accused of committing atrocities against civilians in the western Darfur region of Sudan, where local rebels have been fighting for more political and economic rights from Khartoum for more than four years.

The Darfur rebel faction Sudan Liberation Movement-Unity has called President Bashir's order to re-open Popular Defense Force camps as a declaration of war. The rebel group's spokesman, Suleiman Jamous, tells VOA that his fighters are on high alert.

"Mr. al-Bashir, if he said this, that means they are also coming here and we are ready to defend ourselves, to defend our areas when he starts," he said.

Western diplomats and observers say they fear hostilities between the north and south could fuel the rebellion in Darfur, plunging Africa's largest country deeper into political, economic, and humanitarian crisis.

Darfur

Darfur talks spread from Sirte to Juba, says mediation team, SUDAN: Darfur peace talks now extend to four locations

(The Citizen, IRIN), IRIN - NAIROBI, 19 November 2007- The UN and African Union (AU) mediated Darfur peace talks have spread beyond the Libyan town of Sirte in efforts to get all key groups on board, according to a UN official.

"Although we cannot as yet set the exact time for full-blown negotiations, meetings are now ongoing in Sirte [the original venue of the talks] as well as in Darfur, Khartoum and Juba," George Ola Davies, spokesman of the UN-AU Joint Mediation Support Team, told IRIN.

The peace talks opened on 27 October in Libya with only eight of the Darfur rebel groups taking part. The meetings in Juba and Darfur aimed to bring the factions boycotting Sirte into the process.

News reports on 18 November quoted Salim Ahmed Salim, the AU envoy for Darfur, as saying that the Sirte talks may not restart in December without the involvement of the key rebel factions.

Davies said the chief negotiators - Sam Ibok of the AU and Taye-Brook Zerihoun of the UN - would be in Juba on 19 November for talks with representatives of Darfur rebel groups that have been holding their own meetings in the capital of Southern Sudan.

"The chief negotiators will be in Darfur on Wednesday and Thursday [21-22 November] for similar meetings," Davies said. "I can say the talks are progressing at a pace of continuity."

The UN envoy for Darfur, Jan Eliasson, would brief the UN Security Council on the talks the following week, he added.

Armed resistance in Darfur has claimed at least 200,000 lives since 2003 and displaced more than two million civilians, who are now living as refugees in neighbouring countries or in camps in the region.

The rebel factions boycotting the talks include the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), led by Khalil Ibrahim, and the Sudan Liberation Army/Movement (SLA/M), led by Abdul Wahid, who political observers say is popular with many Darfuris on the ground.

Wahid has said he would only consider joining the talks after the planned deployment of a 26,000-strong AU-UN peacekeeping force (known as UNAMID) in Darfur in January 2008.

Analysts have raised concerns that UNAMID faces a number of obstacles, including a lack of support from the Sudanese government and key donors.

In an October report titled How to get the UN/AU Hybrid Force Deployed to Darfur, John Prendergast, Colin Thomas-Jensen, and Julia Spiegel of the Enough Project (a joint initiative of the International Crisis Group and the Center for American Progress), said: "The difficulties that are compromising UNAMID's prospects remind us that progress on peacekeeping and on the political process for a durable settlement must occur in parallel, and must both receive continuous international attention."

They added: "A swift and fully supported deployment is critical to providing protection for vulnerable civilians, bolstering the peace process and showing Khartoum that it cannot give the international community the run around."

Sudan fears organ trafficking in French 'abduction'

(ST), November 19, 2007 (KHARTOUM) — A top official in Sudan's main ruling National Congress Party said Monday that a French charity's attempt to fly out more than 100 African children was perhaps a cover for organ trafficking.

"The question is why these children were being taken to the West? Perhaps to provide organs such as hearts and kidneys to elderly patients," Nafi Ali Nafi, number two of the NCP, told a party news conference.

"Other than that, the affair underscores a decline in moral values of those who falsely pretend to defend human rights," added the vice president of the NCP, which is led by Sudan's President Omar al-Beshir.

"I cannot believe France did not know," said Nafi, despite denials from the French authorities.

(AFP)

Lack of helicopters still holds up deployment Darfur force in Chad

(ST), November 19, 2007 (BRUSSELS, Belgium) — European Union defense ministers reiterated their commitment Monday to sending troops to help Darfur refugees, but a lack of helicopters was holding up deployment of a force that should have been on the ground by now.

"There were no indications or any offers" of the helicopters military commanders say are essential for the planned EU military mission, Portuguese Defense Minister Nuno Severiano Teixeira said after chairing a meeting on the subject.

However, he said ministers expressed hope a meeting of military planners scheduled for Wednesday would fill the shortfalls in the EU plan to send almost 4,000 troops to the borders of Chad and the Central African Republic, neighbors to Sudan's Darfur.

"The council was unanimous on the need to launch this mission," Severiano Teixeira told a news conference.

"There is still very much a question mark over the deployment," he said in a telephone interview from Washington.

The EU had initially hoped to start deploying troops by mid-November, but now aims to send the first units in December. Gen. Henri Bentegeat, the EU's top soldier, last week warned of further delays if it does not get the helicopters.

Bentegeat's concerns were taken up by Irish Defense Minister Willie O'Dea who said it would be impossible for his country to deploy and supply the 400 troops it has offered for the mission unless other nations come through with transport aircraft.

"We don't have nearly enough air transport as yet," O'Dea said adding that the force still needed commitments for fixed-wing airplanes and a field hospital as well as the helicopters.

The EU's foreign policy chief Javier Solana appealed for nations to come forward to prevent further delays.

"We have to use all our efforts to launch this operation according to the timetable and finalize the generation of forces," he told the meeting. "I'm appealing for contributions and for solidarity."

The EU mission aims to deploy 3,700 soldiers to the border regions of Chad and the Central African Republic, with a 600-strong reserve based in Europe. About half of the troops would come from France.

(AP)