

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN  
UNMIS****UNMIS Media Monitoring Report 21<sup>st</sup> November 2006**  
**(By Public Information Office)**

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## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

### **UN**

#### **Dead, injured and villages scorched in Darfur**

(*AlAyaam*) The UN says in a recent report that banditry, looting and harassment of humanitarian workers continues in Darfur with some reports of attacks on villages west of the Jebel Marra by SAF-backed militia.

UNMIS Spokesperson Radhia Achouri said that the situation in West Darfur State is a source of concern and has called upon the parties to the conflict in Darfur to stop the violence and respect the ceasefire.

A UN report says puts the number of those displaced by the recent attacks on Bier Mizza at 5,000 people who fled to the foothills of the Jebel Marra following clashes. The report says these IDPs are in a bad condition with more cold coming in and lack of food and blankets.

But the Office of the Spokesperson of the SAF says the area has seen incidents of banditry and looting but no clashes.

#### **Police bar UN police from el-Fasher**

(*AlSahafa*) Authorities barred yesterday a UN aircraft with an UN CivPol team on board from entering el-Fasher and ordered the aircraft back to Khartoum after 2 hours.

Reasons for the decision are not clear with informed sources in el-Fasher saying that authorities took the decision to bar UN police from Sudan on the grounds that the UN mandate has no provisions that allow UN police to carry out activities in those areas.

But UNMIS spokesperson Radhia Achouri said that the police team led by the Police Commissioner was on its way to el-Fasher for talks with the African Union over the support package agreed on but had to fly back to Khartoum on the request of PDSRSG Taye Zerihoun to discuss some urgent matter. She pointed out that UNMIS operates in a highly transparent manner and that the government is aware of the nature of the efforts exerted by UNMIS in Sudan.

#### **IOM transport teachers to southern Sudan**

(*Khartoum Monitor*) An official of the IOM said yesterday that the organisation has embarked on a pilot project to transport 39 teachers and 107 member of their families to the two southern states of Central and Eastern Equatoria.

Only 24 people from the first group of 39 teachers will be transported together with their dependents to the capital of their states and will be received by the education authorities of their states, says IOM Project Assistant, Joseph Lobeng.

The first phase of the programme will conclude on December 5<sup>th</sup>.

The WFP would take care of their food requirements for 3 months, the UNICEF has already prepared a school package containing items such as textbooks, copy books and other school material, the FAO will provide agricultural tools and seeds and the GoSS will take care of their

grading, salaries and appointments according to a multilateral agreement been signed to that effect.

### **Director of MSF-Holland to face trial**

(*AlSahafa*) The director of the MSF-Holland office in Nyala has been summoned to the office of the state prosecutor following the uncovering by authorities of a large quantity of expired medicine from the MSF stores in Nyala, Khartoum and Kosti.

Authorities have described the MSF as an organisation with the highest rates of violations of the laws in recent months. Authorities also add that the MSF had destroyed large quantities of expired foodstuff in Nyala in the last few weeks and has been actively disseminating false information about rape in Sudan.

### **UNMIS initiates training in Public Information for voluntary agencies**

(*AlAdhwaa; AlKhartoum*) UNMIS, represented by its Public Information Office, has made major contributions to a workshop organised by War Child – Holland on capacity-building in communication (public information) and dissemination skills targeting representatives of national voluntary agencies.

13 beneficiaries drawn from Asosa Youth Association (Malakal), St. Kizito (Juba), Amal Centre (Haj Yusuf, Khartoum), AlHaboub Organisation (Jebel Aulia, Khartoum), Youth for Children Organisation (Khartoum) and War Child-Holland attended the workshop that took place in Khartoum between 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> November.

UNMIS' public campaigns official, Jordan Dakamseh, gave a number of lectures focusing on capacity-building in public information, communication, and dissemination skills and the use of information to raise awareness of the Sudanese population on the dangers of HIV/AIDS, on mine-awareness, on voluntary returns and on the DDR program.

Participants drew work-plans on HIV/AIDS, voluntary returns, mines and DDR awareness and promised to use the knowledge they gained in the workshop to raise awareness of the local population in many fields.

Participants also commended UNMIS' role in capacity-building of the national voluntary organisations and requested UNMIS support to enable them implement their programs.

## **United Nations and the Transitional Debate**

### **Sudan hails UN deal on Sudan, but differences remain**

(*AP – 20<sup>th</sup> Nov. Khrt.*) Khartoum on Monday hailed a new agreement with the United Nations over peacekeepers in war-torn Sudan as a diplomatic breakthrough for Sudan, but said serious differences remain over the force's make-up and command.

It was the first official word by President Omar al-Bashir's government of its acceptance of the deal, announced Thursday in Addis Ababa. But there were signs Khartoum could still resist the robust U.N. deployment to bring an end to the bloodshed in Sudan.

The Cabinet, which gathered Sunday, “backed the outcome of the (Sudan) government meetings ... concerning the provision of a package of assistance from the U.N. to the African Union,” the official SUNA news agency said.

SUNA said al-Bashir and his government “showed happiness over what it sees as a diplomatic victory over those who have been advocating” for the application of Security Council resolution 1706 but still have “differences of viewpoints” with the U.N. on whether the force commander should be from the African Union, or simply from the African continent. The Cabinet also has objections on the actual size of the force, SUNA said.

But these issues are “a technical matter that could be resolved, and not a political one,” it quoted the Cabinet as concluding.

***Dr. Ghazi Salahuldeen Presidential Advisor, also underlined the need for the Security Council to come up with a resolution to repeal UNSCR 1706.***

He said that this new resolution should acknowledge that the African Union remain in command of troops deployed to the Darfur region.

***The Arab League*** has announced an initiative to unify all initiatives proposed for solutions to the Darfur problem and to unify the non-signatory movements under a single initiative under the auspices of the UN and the African Union.

Following a meeting in Cairo yesterday between SLM-AbdulWahid’s humanitarian affairs’ coordinator and an Arab League official, the SLM official said that the Arab League has informed them of efforts underway for a meeting to discuss the unification of initiatives ahead of talks with the non-signatory groups towards a political settlement.

### **Sudan rejects French proposal for UN force on Sudan, CAR border**

(*SudanTribune.com* – 20<sup>th</sup> Nov. **Khrt.**) Sudan has dismissed a French suggestion regarding the deployment of UN forces along the western borders with Sudan and CAR, considering the fact that the deployment of any force within Chadian territory an internal affair which Khartoum had no connection.

During a press conference Saturday, foreign minister Lam Akol said the internal situation of Sudan makes it launch attacks against Sudan from time to time despite the various agreements signed between the two countries.

This means N’Djamena is unable to make political decisions concerning the deployment of joint forces between the two countries according to the Tripoli agreement.

Lam Akol affirmed that no decision has been reached regarding the deployment of international forces along the borders of the three countries; however, he said “on the basis of principal a country can refuse these forces if it affected its sovereignty”.

### **US threatens “Plan B” if Sudan does not act before Jan 1**

(*Reuters*- 20<sup>th</sup> Nov. **Washington**) US’s special envoy to Sudan, Andrew Natsios, on Monday set a deadline of Jan. 1 for Khartoum to make progress on Sudan or have the United States and others resort to what he called “Plan B.”

Warning that time was running out, Natsios declined to say what Plan B comprised, but he made clear Khartoum must accept a joint U.N./African Union force in Sudan by Jan. 1 or a tougher line would be taken against SudanSudan government.

“On January 1<sup>st</sup>, either we see change or we go to Plan B,” Natsios told reporters at the State Department. When pressed what he meant by this, Natsios replied: “I am not going to get into that ... Plan B is a different approach to this.”

Natsios said there was suspicion and mistrust on all sides over Sudan, where more than 200,000 people have been killed in fighting since 2003 and over 2.5 million people displaced.

Sudan argues that sending an international force to Sudan amounts to colonialism, a charge Natsios called nonsense. “The only agenda the United States has in Sudan is a human rights and humanitarian agenda,” he said.

But an official from SudanSudan Embassy in Washington said his government had every right to be suspicious because of “broken promises” in the past. “I think Sudan will continue to be suspicious,” the official told Natsios.

Natsios countered the United States had its own reasons for mistrust, adding there had been a rise in attacks on civilians in Sudan in recent weeks and there were some in SudanSudan government who believed a military solution was needed.

The U.N.’s head of peacekeeping, Jean-Marie Guehenno, appealed to the government of Sudan to stop military operations and said there had to be a political process in place for any peacekeeping operation to have an impact in Sudan.

“Clearly, a cease-fire is not going to last, it is not going to be sustainable if there is no serious political process,” he told the Brookings Institution.

## **CPA**

### **Registration campaign for voluntary return of IDPs begins**

*(Sudan Tribune)* A registration campaign was launched yesterday in Khartoum State targeting the voluntary repatriation of 150,000 IDPs back home to southern Sudan and South Kordofan.

Sponsored by the GoNU, the GoSS and the UN, 35 fixed and 5 mobile registration centres have been established in various regions of Khartoum State. A number of way-stations have also been established.

The UNICEF handles the information program and expressed its readiness to provide IDPs with the requisite information regarding organised voluntary returns to enable them contribute to the reconstruction of the war affected regions, in addition to such information as related to the health and environmental aspects.

### **PDF here to stay**

*(Allintibaha)* The Coordinator-general of the Popular Defence Forces has criticised those proponents of a “New Sudan” saying that these are mere slogans that they carry.

Kamal-el-Deen Ibrahim who was yesterday flagging off a PDF medical convoy heading to Gedharef also fiercely criticised those who talk of genocide and ethnic cleansing in Darfur.

Of the non-signatory groups, he said that these groups will join the peace process either through negotiations or through battle and further confirmed that the Popular Defence Forces would continue its activities [*probably in answer to calls for its demobilization*].

On the other hand, the Secretary-General of the Sudan Workers' Federation who also addressed the carnival assured that workers in Sudan are ready to participate in activities of the PDF because the PDF remains the 'Safety Valve' for the country.

## **Sudan**

### **Justice minister announces tomorrow the full details of the beheading of the paper editor**

(*AlSudani*) The Minister of Justice unveils at a press conference tomorrow the results of the investigation into the assassination of *AlWifaq* editor Mohamed Taha Mohamed Ahmed.

Approached by the press for details, the minister declined to give out any more information and also declined to comment on the recent killing of 5 policemen in Jebel Auliya and that of a JIU in Erkowit earlier.

### **Police to institute legal measures against *The Citizen***

(*Alwan*) Informed sources say the police has instituted legal measures against *The Citizen* daily following an article produced by the paper clearly inciting the SPLA to avenge the death by police shots of a JIU/SPLA soldier in Erkowit [*The Citizen's editorial article, Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November, also highlighted in the MMR of the same date*].

## **Sudan/Southern Sudan/Sudan**

### **Journalist boycott press conference in protest over the way Yassir Erman treated them**

(*Sudan Tribune*) Journalists covering deliberations of the National Assembly have boycotted a press conference of the SPLM in protest of the manner they were treated by Deputy Secretary-General Yasir Arman of the SPLM.

All the parliamentary reporters left the building of the National Assembly in protest after waiting for a long time with no where to sit in front of Mr. Erman who is also the Chairman of the Media Committee at the National Assembly.

### **Sudan People's Liberation Movement blueprint to wipe Islam out of Southern Sudan**

The Sudan People's Liberation Movement had prepared a plan to wipe Islam outside of the Southern Sudan, totally as the institutions and individuals, which scheduled to end during 6 years in order to pave the way for the separation between the north and the south controlled by the Council of .....

The plan is organized by collaboration with the ħarge of the Ketoor in Juba which led by Locadoo .....

### **Armed group in Falluj, Upper Nile, attack oil workers**

(*Allintibaha*) An armed group attacked oil workers in Falluj, Upper Nile State, recently causing workers to stage a sit-in.

Reports say that the armed group waylaid a convoy of oil workers injuring a number of them. Nine of the injured have been flown to Khartoum for treatment.

### **Ugandan president doubts rebels seriousness for peace**

(*Reuters* - 20<sup>th</sup> Nov. **London**) Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni said on Monday he did not believe the Lord's Resistance Army rebels were serious about reaching a peace deal.

But Museveni said the Ugandan army would guarantee peace, whether or not a deal was struck, and that it would be a mistake to give the LRA leaders an amnesty without an agreement.

"If the talks succeed then it will be a soft landing for the terrorists," he told reporters during a visit to London.

"If (LRA leader Joseph) Kony misses this chance then we already have peace in Uganda and the army is able to guarantee peace in our country — irrespective of what happens with the peace talks," he said.

On Friday Kony was quoted in the state-owned daily, *New Vision*, as saying he was committed to peace and did not have a hidden agenda.

The Ugandan army has said repeatedly it suspects the LRA is using the landmark truce, which was renewed this month, to reorganise itself after coming under pressure.

The LRA has also said it will not sign a final peace deal at talks in the south Sudanese capital, Juba, unless International Criminal Court (ICC) warrants against its commanders are lifted.

Museveni has said an amnesty for the LRA leaders could be possible, if they surrender first. But he reiterated on Monday that dropping the ICC warrants beforehand would be an error.

"That would not be a good signal because that ICC indictment is actually a good pressure on Kony, it's an incentive on him to behave sensibly. Removing it without getting peace in exchange would be a mistake," he said.

### **Sudan moves to contain suspected avian flu in Juba**

(*IRIN* - 20<sup>th</sup> Nov. **Kampala**) Thousands of domestic poultry have been destroyed in and around Juba in an attempt to contain an avian flu threat reported in the region several months ago, officials said.

Samson Kwaje, the southern Sudan information minister, said a team had been visiting homes to check poultry and destroy suspected cases. The team would also determine how the affected farmers should be compensated.

"A surveillance team has been visiting homes where there are reports of strange poultry deaths," Kwaje said on Friday. "When they go there they destroy the birds, then government compensates the affected farmers."

However, he added, southern Sudan did not have big poultry farms. The team, including health officials, was concentrating on small subsistence farmers who own a few dozens of birds.

## **Darfur/Darfur Peace Agreement**

### **Sudan plans to establish 30 villages for W. Darfur displaced**

(*SudanTribune.com* – 20<sup>th</sup> Nov. **El-Geneina**) The State of West Darfur has drawn plans to construct thirty villages, provided with all basic services, to house displaced persons and refugees in the state.

Construction of each village would cost about one billion Sudanese pounds, Finance and Economy Minister in the state Mohamed Hashim said.

He said the villages would be constructed in close consultation and full participation of the beneficiaries themselves, would take into account the new demographic changes that occurred as a result of the unrest in the region and would be linked to the main roads.

The minister said this move would not, in any way, mean villagers could not be able to return back to their original home villages. He said it would be in their full right to return to their home areas or possess new plots of land in the new model villages, the state-run SUNA reported.

### **Key member of SLA-Minnawi sustains injury in battle with SAF**

(*Rai AlShaab*) High ranking sources within the Minnawi faction of the SLM report that “credible sources” have informed them that Eisa Bahar-el-deen, the head of the faction’s Revolutionary Council, has been injured by the SAF in battle in eastern Darfur.

The sources say he sustained injuries while battling government forces that had attacked civilians and has been flown to Khartoum for treatment.

***In another development, the Abu-el-Gassim Imam faction of the SLM has threatened a return to war should government not implement the Tripoli Agreement*** signed with it, reports *AlSudani*.

A spokesperson for the faction also fiercely criticised the AbdulWahid faction of the movement saying it now has no presence on the ground.

## **Editorials/ Commentaries**

### **On the recent incidents of insecurity around Khartoum**

The *AlAyaam* editorial reads: ***Form a commission of enquiry into the recent events in Khartoum.*** It points out that cases of insecurity, once isolated, are rapidly increasing thus threatening the lives of the Sudanese people everyday.

The editorial urges authorities to take a number of precautions including such measures like the disarmament of those in illegal possession of firearms.

It points out that this recent rise in cases of insecurity is very worrying and has to be highlighted in order to be eradicated from its roots.



*Allintibaha* in its editorial titled ***The farce that is the protocol on security arrangements*** describes the Protocol on Security Arrangements cited in the CPA and that ushered in a one-state; two-systems situation in Sudan as the greatest farce ever.

The editorial points out that this situation of one-country; two armies is unprecedented in the history of peace agreements in the world and urges the people of Sudan to unite to determine their fate. It points out that the security arrangements is not scripture as some perceive it.

### **Internally displaced teachers go home at last**

*Khartoum Monitor* in its editorial lauds the news that the International Organization for the Migration has finally decided to transport four hundred internally displaced teachers back to ten states of south Sudan.

The paper commends the GoNU, UN agencies, the IOM and the other actors in this and says indeed the ordinary citizen is beginning to test the dividends of peace.

### **South-South dialogue**

This *Khartoum Monitor* article laments that southerners are not talking to each other as much as would have been wished.

The paper argues that southerners have to do much more talking than they are doing now if the peace that the CPA brought is to survive.

The paper underlines the need for South-South Dialogue to resolve such issues such as the land issue in Juba over which, it says, the GoSS is wrangling with the Government of Central Equatoria State. The paper also discourages the use of force to resolve such issues.