

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS****Media Monitoring Report, 22 November 07**

(By Public Information Office)

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## Highlights

### UN/ Agencies

#### **UN Security Council to discuss Darfur next week**

(ST)- November 21, 2007 (UNITED NATIONS) — The UN Security Council is expected to discuss the progress on the Darfur UN-AU hybrid force as well as the political process next Monday.

The UN Secretary General's envoy for Darfur, Jan Eliasson will brief the council on the latest round of peace talks that were held in Sirte, Libya.

UN Security Council resolution 1769 establishing UN-AU hybrid force provided for a transition from the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS) to the force known as UNAMID by December 31st.

The resolution requires the UN Secretary General to present a report every 90 days on the progress made on the implementation of the light, heavy support and UNAMID. It also requires an update on the implementation of the joint communiqué between Sudan and the UN on facilitation of humanitarian activities in Darfur.

Ban Ki-Moon said in his latest report that several obstacles stand in the way of a speedy deployment including the land needed for the construction of UNAMID headquarters in Darfur. The Sudanese government has yet to assign the land for the hybrid force.

The other issue pending is Sudan's approval on a list of troop donor countries for the Darfur force. At Sudan's request the UN resolution called for a force with a "predominantly African character" but stressed the need for "a force which could effectively implement the mandate set out in resolution 1769".

Last week the Sudanese president Omar Hassan Al-Bashir today reiterated his rejection of Western troops and as well as those from Thailand and Nepal in the Darfur peacekeeping force.

The peace talks which began in Libya last month saw participation by only eight of the smaller rebel groups. It was boycotted by two major rebel leaders from the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM).

International experts estimate 200,000 people have died in the conflict, which Washington calls genocide, a term European governments are reluctant to use. The Sudan government says 9,000 people have been killed.

(ST)

#### **AU, UN work hard to have troops for Darfur force**

(ST)- ADDIS ABABA, Nov 21, 2007 (AFP) - African Union and United Nations officials say they are struggling to get the troops needed for a joint force in Darfur, which is due to replace an ill-equipped AU deployment within weeks.

"We are trying to reassure and convince" AU member countries to contribute to the force in the strife-torn Sudanese region, AU security chief Said Djinnit told AFP from its Addis Ababa headquarters.

They had sent out teams to different countries to try to get them to supply soldiers for the revamped force, he said.

"A special mission is ongoing in Ethiopia and Egypt, countries which, thanks to their geographical proximity, could speed up the deployment of their forces to Darfur," he added.

The UN voted to launch the joint AU-UN force, UNAMID, last July and it is due to deploy in Darfur by December 31 at the latest.

The force of 26,000 mainly African troops was expected to replace the under-funded, ill-equipped and out-manned 7,000 African Union force, which has served in the region since 2004.

But Jean-Marie Guehenno, the UN's Under Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, warned last week that equipment issues risked undermining the credibility of the joint force from the outset.

It lacked crucial elements including a ground transport unit, 18 transport helicopters and six helicopters for light tactical purposes, he said.

"For the early phase of 2008, we need to have a force that is able to meet the test because we believe that that mission will be tested in early 2008," said Guehenno.

If the force "is not able to meet that test in a credible manner, then it will be very bad for our efforts in Darfur," he said, adding: "The clock is ticking."

South Africa's deputy foreign minister Aziz Pahad backed Guehenno on Tuesday, saying: "We agree with him fully when he says it tells a sad story of commitment to Darfur.

"We cannot keep talking of the crisis in Darfur and keep talking of the violence that is increasing without ensuring that those that have the capacity do provide the capacity so the hybrid force can be in place as scheduled."

South Africa was considering a UN request to contribute helicopters and ground transportation, he said, and has already agreed to boost its existing presence in the region from 700 to 800 by December.

But Pahad added: "The key challenge is that developed countries must move decisively to provide the equipment that is needed. That includes Russia, China, the United States and some of the EU countries."

The existing AU force has had to contend with a string of lethal attacks, the worst of which came on September 29 at their camp at Haskanita, southern Darfur, and left 10 peacekeepers dead: seven from Nigeria and one each from Botswana, Mali and Senegal.

"It's true that since the attack at Haskanita, the troop-contributing countries have asked legitimate questions, including China who are deploying engineering units," one AU official conceded.

AU security chief Djinnit however remained confident, noting that Nigeria, despite its losses, was sending a 700-strong battalion. A battalion from Rwanda had also arrived in the region at the end of October.

And on Tuesday, Tanzania announced it was sending 800 soldiers in March.

There was no contingency plan in the event of the UN force deploying late, Djinnit said, adding: "The handover will happen automatically on January 1."

Apart from the existing UN force, only the command structure of the UNAMID force and a small Chinese team of military engineers are on site.

But Sudan, which long resisted the idea of a UN force, still wants it to remain essentially African.

The UN says Khartoum has refused to approve the arrival of a battalion of Thai troops, two reserve companies of Nepalese troops, including one Special Forces unit, and a company of engineers provided by the Nordic countries.

The force is tasked with ending more than four years of bloodshed in which more than 200,000 people have died from the combined effects of war, famine and disease while 2.2 million others have been left homeless, the UN says.

(AFP)

**UN concerned Darfur mission could fall short of expectations**

(ST)- November 21, 2007 (BEIJING) — A joint peacekeeping force planned for Darfur remains threatened by political deadlock and a shortage of equipment, the head of U.N. peacekeeping said Wednesday.

Jean-Marie Guehenno said only a "strong, robust" force stood a chance of making a difference in Darfur, given the Sudanese region's harsh terrain.

"There are enormous expectations for that mission. I am concerned that there could be a gap between the expectations and what the mission can really deliver," Guehenno said at the end of a visit to Beijing.

Following meetings with diplomats and military and police officials, Guehenno praised China's growing participation in U.N. peacekeeping. That includes the deployment starting Friday of a 315-member engineering, well-digging, and medical contingent to Darfur to prepare for the arrival of the proposed 26,000-strong hybrid African Union-U.N. peacekeeping force likely early next year.

Guehenno, the U.N. undersecretary-general for peacekeeping operations, said the Darfur deployment remained "an enormous challenge, obviously."

"As we all know, the political negotiations are still to make decisive progress, the terrain in Darfur is very difficult," Guehenno said.

"The challenge is how much of a stronger mission will (there will be) in early 2008 and that depends on the willingness of member states to provide additional capacities. So there are still questions on whether, in early January, the mission in Darfur will be able to meet the expectations," he said.

The joint force is to take over from a beleaguered 7,000-member African Union mission. But Sudan has yet to approve a list of contributing countries despite concessions to its demands that the force be predominantly African.

The United Nations has been negotiating with Sudan on the joint mission for over a year while the conflict in Darfur rages on. More than 200,000 people have died since fighting broke out in 2003, and the peace process suffered a setback last month when key rebels boycotted talks in Libya.

Sudan has resisted critical contributions from Thailand, Nepal and Nordic countries, while U.N. member countries have failed to offer crucial equipment including 18 transport helicopters and six support light helicopters.

Guehenno has warned the world could face a choice between delaying the takeover or starting the deployment with an ill-equipped force that may not be able to protect its own peacekeepers, let alone civilians.

The outcome, he said, "depends on the commitment of member states."

(AP)

**UN police unit to send to Chad to protect Darfur IDPs in Chad**

(AL-Rai Alam, Reuter)The first officers from the United Nations Standing Police Capacity will depart for Chad today to start training recruits for a specialized Chadian police unit responsible for providing security to the 300,000 internally Sudanese displaced persons and from Darfur.

“This is the first operation for the Standing Police Capacity (SPC) and five officers will leave for Chad today, while the 11 others will join them in December. Initially they will be based in the capital N’Djamena but as soon as the security conditions permit they will set up headquarters in the eastern city of Abeché,” said SPC Chief Walter Wolf.

Wolf said that there were already three UN Police (UNPOL) officers in the N’Djamena and on 30 November another 32 would arrive, and all these together with the SPC will help prepare the way for an eventual deployment of up to 300 UNPOL officers as mandated by the Security Council.”

The main UNPOL objective in Chad will be to enhance the capabilities of the Chadian police and gendarmes to protect the population in the east by helping to recruit and train a force of around 850 national officers responsible for providing security to local civilians, including internally displaced persons (IDPs), Sudanese refugees and humanitarian workers, all affected by the crisis in Darfur.

“This deployment is very significant not only for Chad but for helping to stabilize the whole region. There are more than 230,000 Sudanese refugees in UN-managed camps and more than 170,000 IDPs in the east and south-east of Chad and these poor people continue to be the victims of armed groups, even inside these camps,” said UN Police Adviser Andrew Hughes.

“With proper UN policing and European Union military deployment along with the recruitment and training of the Chadian police service this extremely unstable situation for these poor people can and must be improved.”

The Security Council established a new UN peacekeeping mission to Chad and the Central African Republic (CAR), to be known as MINURCAT, in September with the mission also involving European Union military forces as well as UNPOL and SPC officers. This mission will complement the UN-African Union hybrid force planned for Darfur itself.

The SPC has two main roles: to provide immediate start-up capability on the ground for the police components of new UN peacekeeping operations and to facilitate rapid support and technical assistance on policing issues to existing UN missions as required.

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

### **Sudan’s Bashir urges SPLM to foster political partnership**

(ST)- November 21, 2007 (KHARTOUM) — Sudanese president and Chairman of the ruling party called on his peace partner to foster their political partnership in a manner to strengthen peace implementation. He also repeated that no return to war as long as there were little hope in peace.

Addressing the second session of the ruling National Congress Party (NCP) conference, Al-Bashir said "I again call upon the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) to active political partnership to rule the country so as to foster peace pillars, secure voluntarily unity and give others a chance to participate in order to secure the success of the partnership.

Al-Bashir, gave a measured speech that was in marked contrast to his highly charged address to government-allied militias on Saturday, where he ordered to reopen training camps for the Popular Defence Forces, a paramilitary force created in the nineties to fight the former rebellion in southern Sudan.

The NCP chairman said peace will not be achieved and its pillars established except by creating awareness over this conditions and unity will not come voluntarily except through joint perception.

He also called on the NCP to work "for an effective partnership with the SPLM and all those who are part of the Government of National Unity and every body who will cooperate in the framework of peace agreements which the NCP is proud of being its founder."

The Sudanese president also called on his political opponents to play a positive role by assuming constructive opposition and to rise above the old differences for the sake of the interests of the homeland and its development.

He said: "I call all the political parties to forget their own interests for the sake of the homeland. I call them to leave behind conflicts between party leaders and amongst themselves and choose dialogue and consultations for the sake of the Sudanese people and homeland."

### **Dr Mustafa Osman Ismael insists on rejecting ABC report**

(AlSahafa)\_ President Advisor Dr. Mustafa Osman has threatened to use the majority in the parliament to ratify laws reiterating the NCP's rejection to the report on Abyie.

He noted that his party would not accept the report of the foreign experts on Abyie though the SPLM continues withdrawing its ministers from the federal government until the expiry of the interim period in 2011 calling on the SPLM to look for another political solution to Abyie crisis.

Ismael, who was speaking to journalists following the closing session of the NCP's General Congress, categorically rejected the deadline given by the SPLM to the NCP to respond to its demands until 9Jan. 2008.

He dismissed the absence of the SPLM's ministers as bringing constitutional vacuum, underlining that performance of the executive body was smoothly running without affecting the government legitimacy

### **SPLM HAILS BASHIR INITIATIVE**

(ST)- The deputy chairman of the SPLM, Malik Agar, has welcomed President Al-Bashir call for fostering responsible political partnership with the SPLM.

In a press statement, Agar said "We welcome any call for responsible partnership with ruling National Congress Party," saying that the SPLM was committed to peace and implementation of the peace agreement.

Agar hailed Al-Bashir's initiative of unifying ranks and securing national unity, saying that realization of national unity itself needs mechanism and it was wise to achieve unity in Sudan.

A growing confrontation between Khartoum and south Sudan's main party, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), has already torn apart the country's coalition government and threatened a north-south peace deal.

SPLM ministers walked out of Sudan's Government of National Unity on 11 October, claiming that Khartoum was stalling on the 2005 peace agreement that ended two decades of civil war.

(ST)

### **Britain intensifies contacts with government to overcome crisis between NCO-SPLM**

(AlSudani)- The British authorities have intensified their contacts with government officials with a view to overcoming the escalating crisis between the NCP and the SPLM.

The British Embassy's Spokesperson in Khartoum told (AlSudani daily) that the sole solution to solve the crisis between the two partners was dialogue maintaining that in case of negotiations failure, Britain supports convening a meeting for IGAD member states to this effect.

He urged the two sides to respect the provisions of the CPA ruling out dispatching at the moment of a senior British official to Sudan.

The diplomat disclosed that the British Foreign Ministry conducted contacts with First Vice-President Salva Kiir and a number of NCP's senior officials.

On his part, Sudanese Foreign Ministry's Spokesperson Ali Alsadik said that the government agreed with Britain on the necessity of internally solving the crisis without any foreign interference.



He pointed out that the CPA's mechanisms were capable to overcome any obstacle confronting the implementation of the agreement stressing that the two sides were determined to realize sustainable peace.

## **GoSS**

### **Kiir urges Darfur rebels to join Serte talks**

(Al-Rai Alam)- First Vice-President of GoNU and President of GoSS Salva Kiir has called on Darfur rebel factions, currently in Juba, to join Serte talks and present their demands to the negotiating table.

Spokesperson of SLM' (Resistance Faction) Hassan Khamis told (Al-Rai Alam daily) that Kiir expressed his satisfaction over the unity of the rebel factions, adding that Kiir was following steps of the factions unification.

In the meantime, Khamis noted that the factions were contemplating to form grand unity grouping the 11 factions recently declared unity in Juba along with the six factions which took part in Serte talks.

In a related move, Sudan's Chief Delegate to UN Abdulmahmoud Abdulhalim said that UN SG Envoy Eliasson would brief the UN Security Council on the peace progress in light of Serte talks, Eliasson's tour to a number of neighboring countries, meetings conducted with rebel movements in Darfur and the current exerted efforts to find out lasting solution to Darfur problem.

## **Darfur**

### **Darfur mission may need China to avert "humiliation"**

(ST)- By Karl Maier and Bill Varner, November 21, 2007 (ELFASHER/UNITED NATIONS) — Ian Divers shook his head in frustration as an aide told the United Nations official that Sudanese security officers had just seized two satellite dishes vital to communications for the peacekeeping mission in Darfur.

It was another setback for the plans of President George W. Bush and European leaders such as British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, who have vowed to end the suffering of millions in western Sudan. Those leaders may now have to push China to use its influence as Sudan's major trading partner to get the needed 26,000 soldiers and police into Darfur by mid-2008.

The head of UN peacekeeping operations, Jean-Marie Guehenno, told the Security Council on Nov. 14 that he's concerned the peacekeepers may come under attack

from Darfur rebel groups or government-backed militias early next year, before the force reaches full strength. They would find it "very hard" to recover from "humiliation" at that stage, he said.

One of the largest and most dangerous peacekeeping missions in UN history is in danger of falling apart because of Sudan's resistance to some troop units, such as Scandinavian engineers; a boycott of peace talks by rebel groups and a lack of critical Western air support. Bureaucracy abounds: Divers said that while Sudan's foreign ministry cleared the satellite dishes for release to the UN, no one told the security officers.

### 'RIDICULOUS' PROBLEMS

"It goes from the sublime to the ridiculous, from the important to the trivial each day," Divers said late last month as he walked among buildings being assembled behind an earth wall in El Fasher, the mission's headquarters. The New Zealander is also supervising the building of 60 UN base camps and supply lines stretching across hundreds of miles of desert.

Among the few options to get the mission on track is to persuade China, a permanent Security Council member, to step up pressure on the government in Khartoum, South African Ambassador Dumisani Kumalo said. China is a major buyer of Sudanese oil and invests in expanding Sudan's production of crude. Envoys said imposing more sanctions on Sudan or delaying the troop deployment have been ruled out.

China, which resisted the Darfur mission and sanctions on Sudanese government leaders, is sending engineers into Darfur and is willing to press President Umar al-Bashir to cooperate with the UN, Deputy Ambassador Liu Zhenmin said in New York.

"We don't say we have economic influence, but we have talked with the Sudanese and tried to persuade them to accept the arrangement," Liu said. "We use diplomacy, and they say they are going to be cooperative."

### JAN. 1 TARGET

The immediate target for the UN and African Union is to assume command on Jan. 1 from the 7,000 AU troops that have been in Darfur since 2004. The under-manned, under-equipped Africans haven't been able to stop a conflict that has killed at least 200,000 people and turned 2.5 million into refugees. Bush calls it genocide.

Sudan has rejected any involvement by U.S. troops, and Bush hasn't offered any. Major European powers are either wary of the mission's unprecedented UN and AU joint leadership or say they don't have soldiers to spare.

"A number of countries, and the United Kingdom is one of them, are engaged in very serious peacekeeping missions around the world," said Britain's deputy ambassador at the UN, Karen Pierce, referring to U.K. forces in Afghanistan and Iraq. "There is no way we are going to pull out of those."

## EGYPT'S DIFFICULTIES

Even countries willing to send troops are finding obstacles. Egypt's ambassador to the UN, Maged Abdelaziz, said the UN refused his government's offer of 3,000 troops, agreeing to only 1,000 out of concern that a balance of northern, central and southern Africans also needs to be established.

The UN waited almost two months for Sudan to accept a list of 18 potential troop-contributing nations, only to hear this week that engineers from Norway, Sweden and Denmark were rejected. Their work on airstrips and digging water wells would have been essential to moving soldiers in by early 2008.

At the current pace, half of the force may be on the ground by the middle of next year, "if we are lucky," Divers said.

Logistical hurdles are substantial. The \$2 billion-a-year Darfur plan calls for construction of air terminals and aprons for the force's aircraft, along with 68 police stations and 60 water wells.

Getting needed equipment is vital to securing an area the size of France, in which roads become impassable during the rainy season. Helicopters offered by Jordan had to be turned down because they can't fly at night.

Political imperatives also are unresolved. Peace talks in Libya last month produced no progress, because at least six rebel factions didn't attend. Diplomats are trying to end a conflict that began in February 2003 when rebels demanding a larger share of political power and oil wealth began attacking government forces.

"I am worried," Abdelaziz said in an interview. "This was supposed to have been finished by the end of the year, and you need a peace to keep."

(Bloomberg)

### **Arms seizure threat sparks panic in Darfur Kalma camp**

(ST)- November 21, 2007 (KHARTOUM) — Police in Sudan have threatened to use force to seize arms from displaced Darfuris in one of the region's most volatile camps, according to a police notice seen by Reuters on Wednesday.

The threat has already started to spread panic among residents of south Darfur's Kalma camp, said aid groups who added they were worried the seizures might provoke violent clashes or a mass exodus from the settlement.

Some of the camp's 90,000 residents have already started to build road blocks to obstruct searches of the huge camp outside south Darfur's capital Nyala, said humanitarian workers, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Sources in the United Nations in Sudan said they were aware of the notice and had been holding meetings to discuss it with the African Union peacekeeping mission in the area.

The notice, which takes the form of a letter from South Darfur's police headquarters to the African Union south Darfur sector commander, has been widely distributed in the camp.

The document gave Kalma residents three days from Wednesday to hand in weapons kept inside the camp.

It added army personnel would remove the weapons from Nov. 24 to Nov. 30, without going into details about how the removals would take place.

The notice said police would "seize all unsubmitted weapons by force after the expiration of the date given", leaving the exact deadline ambiguous.

The notice, signed by Nyala's "manager of police" Colonel Omer Mohamed Ali Mohamed, said officers were taking the action to ensure the security of displaced people in the camp.

It added: "The information from AMIS (The African Union Mission in Sudan) and other security agencies indicate that there are weapons among Kalma IDPs (internally displaced people), thus increasing criminal activities and general insecurity."

No one from AMIS or South Sudan's police was immediately available for comment.

Aid workers said they had had significant difficulties in getting onto Kalma over the past two weeks. On several days recently, their vehicles were turned away at government check points.

"People are very worried about what is going to happen in a few days time," said a humanitarian worker. "It is quite tense."

The worker said other people working in the camps had seen road blocks erected near entrances and exists. "They are trying to stop the soldiers coming in."

Aid workers said they were also worried the clampdown was part of a wider plan to close down Kalma and split up its population. Kalma is one of the largest and most volatile camps in the region.

More than 2.5 million Darfuris have been driven from their homes to take shelter in camps like Kalma by more than four years of violence, say international experts. Sudan blames the western media for exaggerating the conflict.

(Reuters)

### **Arab parliament demands international investigation on Darfur children abduction attempt**

(Alkhabar)- The Arab Transitional Parliament (ATP) has strongly denounced the attempted abduction of 103 of Darfuri children from Chad by a humanitarian international organization.

ATP President Mohamed Jasim Alsagar described the abduction attempt as “horrible crime” calling for conducting international judicial investigation and trying the criminals.

He said that the behavior of the organization was an insult to the work carried out by governmental and non-governmental organizations performing their duties in accordance with local laws and international criteria.

### **Armed bandits continue to hijack cars in Darfur**

(ST)- November 21, 2007 (KHARTOUM) — Armed bandits continue to wage attacks on private and UN vehicles across Darfur, especially in the south of the war-torn Sudanese region, the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) reported yesterday.

An estimated 30 bandits stopped commercial trucks on the weekend on a South Darfur road about 70 kilometres southeast of Nyala, the provincial capital, and exchanged fire with five soldiers from the Popular Defence Forces (PDF) who were escorting the convoy.

UNMIS News bulletin said two people were killed and two others injured during the exchange, although the identity of the dead remain unknown. The PDF soldiers are reported to have gone missing after the incident, while the attackers stole two of the trucks.

A second convoy on its way to Nyala was later stopped at the same location, but the convoy was allowed to proceed after an hour without being looted.

In a separate incident last Thursday, UNMIS reported that three armed men stopped a UN vehicle with two UN staff members aboard near the UN Office in Nyala. The staff suffered slight injuries after they were assaulted by the attackers and had their personal belongings looted.

After a drive of about 10 minutes, the attackers let the staff members out and took off with the vehicle, which remains missing.

Informed sources told Sudan Tribune that stolen vehicles are sold in Chad where a flourishing business for cars and satellite telephones is taking place there. Even there is no need for forged papers or any papers the source said.

The planned deployment of European and international troops in the Chadian border and in Darfur is expected to diminish this kind of banditry.

The attacks by armed bandits are taking place amid concerted international efforts, led by the UN and the African Union, to bring peace to Darfur, where rebels have been fighting Government forces and allied militias since 2003.

In the past four years more than 200,000 people have been killed and at least 2.2 million others displaced from their homes because of the violence, while an estimated 4 million now depend on humanitarian aid for survival.

### **SLM's Minawi arrests three of its leaderships**

(AlSahafa)- Reliable sources told (AlSahafa daily) that SLM's Senior Assistant to the President Mini Minawi arrested Wednesday three of its leaderships without elaborating on the incident implications.

According to the sources, SLM soldiers detained and kidnapped to unknown place SLM's Political Secretary Alfadil Altigani Bashir, Director of Operations Alsadik Yousif and Deputy Director of the Security Organ Abbas Ibrahim in front of Minawi's home in Baladia Street, Central Khartoum.

Another group failed to raid the house of the Rapporteur of SLM's Revolutionary Council Idris Atem.

However, reports attributed the reasons of the detention to either collaboration with the NCP or to conflict within the SLM.

(ST)