

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN
UNMIS****UNMIS Media Monitoring Report 22nd November 2006**
(By Public Information Office)

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UN/ Agencies

Warning from the US Embassy to UNMIS

(*AlHayat*) The US Embassy has cabled United Nations Mission in Sudan warning that unidentified groups will be targeting one of United Nations Mission in Sudan' bases between 20-30th November 2006.

The aim of these plans to bomb UNMIS is to prove that security in Khartoum is not stable.

The cable says that the SLM is behind these plans while other reports say extreme fundamentalists are behind the plan.

Meningitis epidemic confirmed in southern Sudan

(*Reuters* – 22nd Nov. **Geneva**) A meningitis epidemic has broken out in southern Sudan, with 16 deaths among 231 suspected cases since September, the World Health Organisation said on Tuesday.

The outbreak is in Greater Yei County, in the Central Equatorial State, where an investigation is under way and a vaccination programme targeting 300,000 people is planned, the United Nations agency said.

"The epidemic threshold was crossed in this county during the last week of October," the WHO said in a statement.

The infection of the thin lining that surrounds the brain and the spinal cord kills up to 10 percent of those affected, typically within 24-48 hours, even when it is diagnosed early and treated, according to the WHO.

Symptoms are a stiff neck, high fever, headaches and vomiting.

Sudan is in Africa's meningitis belt, which stretches from Senegal to Ethiopia. Southern Sudan is emerging from more than two decades of civil war which weakened healthcare systems and disrupted immunisation programmes.

** The local press such as AlSahafa has reproduced this Reuters report.*

MSF says it abides by Sudanese laws governing import of medicine

(*AlHayat*) The Country Director for MSF-Holland says his agency fully abides by all local laws regulating the importation of drugs, medical equipment and foodstuff as set out by the Ministry of Health in Sudan, the Humanitarian Aid Commission and the Directorate-general of Customs.

In a statement issued yesterday, the director pointed out that these items imported by the MSF pass through international and national quality checks. He goes on to say that the organisation has operated in the Sudan for more than 20 years during which it has provided humanitarian assistance to more than 1,5 million needy people in Darfur and to other needy communities.

United Nations and the Transitional Debate

VP Taha says no grey areas on issue of international forces for Darfur

(*AlRai AlAam*) Vice-President Taha says there are no grey areas on the issue of international forces for Darfur and on imposing a trusteeship or foreign intervention in the country.

Taha, also Vice-President of the National Congress Party, told a meeting of the National *Shoura* [*consultative*] Council of the National Congress Party yesterday that Sudan has won the first round but the battle is not yet over and vigilance is called for.

The Vice-President also pointed out that the expulsion of SRSJ Jan Pronk was a re-assertion of state sovereignty.

Annan expects Sudan response soon on peacekeepers

(*UN* – 21st Nov. **Geneva**) U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said Tuesday he expected Sudan's government to respond within two days on outstanding issues of an agreement signed last week that would allow U.N. peacekeepers into Darfur.

The U.N. peacekeepers — which Sudan long opposed allowing into Darfur, saying that would violate its sovereignty — would form a mixed force with the African Union, which now has 7,000 peacekeeping troops in the region but loses its mandate at the end of the year.

Annan said the new force should include 17,000 soldiers and 3,000 police officers. He said Sudan has accepted the agreement but still wanted to consult on the size of the force and how its commander would be appointed.

Sudan also wanted to discuss the role of a new special representative to act for both the United Nations and African Union.

"Those were the only outstanding issues they were to consult on and come back as quickly as possible," Annan told reporters at the U.N.'s European headquarters in Geneva. "We do expect them to come with an answer by today, or, latest, tomorrow."

In the meantime, Annan said the global body would press ahead with implementation of the deal so that that a peacekeeping vacuum at the end of the year is avoided.

On Monday, President Omar al-Bashir's government hailed the agreement but said serious differences remained over these questions.

US, UN urge prompt action in Darfur

(*AFP* – 20th Nov. **Washington**) The United States and United Nations urged prompt action in Darfur now that Khartoum has agreed in principle to deploy an African Union-UN peacekeeping force, senior US and UN officials said.

"The situation on the ground has, in recent weeks and months, deteriorated rather than improved," AU-UN force chief Jean-Marie Guehenno told a conference of the Brookings Institution, a Washington-based independent research and policy institute.

He said the situation in Darfur was "unacceptable (and) ... cannot be allowed to continue as it is."

"No time can be lost," he stressed, adding that the "intensification of the political process needs to happen quickly."

"We need to understand we are on a very tight timeline. Decisions have to be made," Andrew Natsios, special US envoy for Darfur told the conference.

Natsios noted that in January there would be a new UN secretary general and a new US Congress, while the mandate of the African Union mission (AMIS) in Darfur would come to a close.

Guehenno called on Khartoum and all other parties involved in Darfur to accept the fact that an effective force was needed for the region.

"There will be a need for some non-African troops from traditional peacekeeping countries like the countries of South Asia, which have always made a great contribution to peacekeeping," Guehenno added.

Natsios said the United States supported Annan's efforts and had "no hidden agenda" in Darfur.

U.S. Sets Jan. 1 Deadline for Sudan to Act on Darfur

(*The Washington Post* – 21st Nov. US) Andrew Natsios, the U.S. special envoy to Sudan, said yesterday that the Bush administration will resort to an unspecified "Plan B" if the Sudanese government does not agree by Jan. 1 to complete negotiations on an expanded international peacekeeping force for its troubled Darfur region.

The Sudanese government claimed yesterday that the tentative agreement was a "diplomatic victory," but the official news agency, SUNA, minimized the role of the United Nations, saying only that the world body would provide "assistance." The agency said the government objects to the overall size of the force and has questions about the appointment of the force commander.

Natsios, speaking to reporters, declined several times to explain what he meant by "Plan B," saying he was not trying to make a threat. "On January 1st, either we see a change or we go to Plan B," Natsios said, explaining that on that day the AU's mandate will expire and Annan will step down as secretary general. He also noted that Congress will shift from Republican to Democratic control in January.

The United States has repeatedly dangled incentives to Sudan if it helps end the violence in Darfur. "Plan B is a different approach to this," Natsios said, adding that it is "open-ended."

Natsios rejected Khartoum's claims that a U.N.-led international force would mean a return to colonialism. "We have a humanitarian and human rights agenda in Darfur, and that's it," he said. "We want this resolved because the human cost of this has been so horrific."

Earlier, at a meeting at the Brookings Institution, Natsios was confronted by an official from the Sudanese Embassy who said that Sudan has "every single right to be suspicious about these

things because of broken promises of the U.S. government and the international community over there."

Natsios responded: "We have suspicions, too. We suspect there are people in the regime who believe a military solution is necessary." He noted that three times in the past three weeks, unarmed civilians have been brutally attacked, and he cited one incident that left 200 dead, mostly women and children.

"If a pattern develops, then a more confrontational approach will take place," Natsios said. "The United States will not accept any of this other process if it is simply a disguised attempt to avoid dealing with the reality of what is happening to people on the ground."

Many analysts believe that Khartoum has become emboldened to resist international pressure because of its increasing oil wealth. China, which holds veto power on the U.N. Security Council, is a major investor in Sudan's petroleum industry.

But during the Brookings meeting, both Natsios and Jean-Marie Guéhenno, U.N. undersecretary general for peacekeeping, said the Chinese representatives at the talks last week, held in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, had signaled that their country was taking a more constructive approach.

Guéhenno cautioned that the stability from the Horn of Africa to the Sahel band to the west to Niger is at risk if the Darfur crisis begins to spill across borders.

"There is a lot at stake," he said. "There is the local-national dimension of nomads versus agriculturalists, of Arabs versus Africans. When all these tensions become part of the narrative, it will be very dangerous."

Sudan downplays US envoy deadline on Darfur

(*SudanTribune.com* – 21st Nov. **Khrt.** Sudanese government has downplayed the warning by the US envoy to Sudan who set a deadline of Jan. 1 for Khartoum to make progress on Darfur or else face a "Plan B" he declined to specify.

Spokesperson Ali Al Sadiq of the Sudan's foreign ministry has described the 20th November statement made by US president's Special Envoy to Sudan, Andrew Natsios, on Darfur as inappropriate and would not serve resolve the problem in Darfur.

The spokesperson added that Natsios has to specify the plan to which he was referring to.

The Sudanese official added that If the envoy was referring to the Addis Ababa meeting and the outcome of that meeting then this matter was being followed up and is being reviewed by the Sudan and the concerned parties and that the only differences remaining are on the two points of the number and command of the forces to be deployed.

Al Sadiq said Natsios has also ignored in his statements the announcement made by the Sudan about accepting a UN presence within the African Union Mission in the form of experts and technicians as well as the technical assistance that the African Union needs.

"The challenge that faces Bush administration if it were genuinely serious about finding a solution to the problem of Darfur would be the provision of financial resource to the African Union", Al Sadiq said.

He said it was regrettable that the US Administration would confine the problem of Darfur in its various dimensions to the question of mixed forces only and that this was a misinterpretation that would not help find the desired solution to the problem.

CPA

DDR Commission calls for end to insecurity in the capital

(*AlIntibaha*) The head of the DDR Commission for Northern Sudan says he has received note from the Ministry of Defense requesting the commission to increase the number of SAF combatants earmarked for the DDR process to 30,000 by the end of this year.

Salaf-el-deen Saleh said that the DDR process is going on very slowly in Khartoum State but said he expects it to accelerate considerably as the state moves to curb insecurity in the capital.

He further revealed that the commission has launched operations in eastern Sudan while MPs from Blue Nile State have expressed their support for the DDR program.

GoNU

Parliament deliberates on defense minister's report on the security situation in Darfur and southern Sudan

(*AlAyaam; The Citizen et al*) The Minister of Defense briefed parliament of the security situation along Sudan's western and southern borders.

MPs fiercely criticized the minister's report on the security situation in Darfur and described it as baseless and not reflecting the deteriorating situation on the ground.

Parliament then decided to form a joint fact-finding team made up of the parliamentary committees on security and peace. The joint team will travel to Darfur for a field assessment of the situation on the ground.

On the situation along the southern borders, parliament has asked the Uganda Peoples' Defense Forces and the LRA out of Sudan and says the security protocol that allowed the UPDF to pursue the LRA into Sudanese territory will not be renewed.

The press was barred from attending the 4-hour session on the grounds that the defense minister's reports contained military secrets, the Speaker told the press after the session.

Kiir holds talks with el-Mirghani

(*AlSahafa*) Vice-President Salva Kiir started his 3-day visit to Cairo with a meeting yesterday with DUP and NDA leader Mohamed Osman el-Mirghani. The VP is expected to hold talks later today with President Husni Mubarak and Prime Minister Ahmed Natheef.

Sources say Kiir and Mirghani may hold talks with JEM leader Dr. Khalil, SLM leader AbdulWahid and NRF leader Ahmed Direij who are either already in Cairo or on their way there.

El-Mirghani told the press following his meeting with Kiir that the meeting focused on cooperation to resolve the problems of the country.

SPLM to sue *AllIntibaha* daily

The SPLM is suing *AllIntibaha* daily on three charges of slander that include its report on the Jebel Auliya incident and its reports that the SPLA had held a meeting in its offices in Amarat to plan the ambush, reports the paper.

The paper's editor argued that *AllIntibaha* based its reports on reports from various sources including within the SPLM itself and from statements by influential SPLA/M figures and pointed out that the SPLA involvement in the incident is no longer a secret.

The daily, in its issue yesterday [21st November]* titled *SPLM blueprint to wipe southern Sudan of the Islamic presence* said that it had in its possession a copy of the SPLM plan to wipe out Islam from southern Sudan ahead of the referendum on unity or secession in order to prepare the south for secession under the umbrella of the Church spearheaded by Archbishop Lokudu of the Kator Church in Juba.

The paper went on to say that the phased plan includes economic sanctions on northern and southern Muslim traders in southern Sudan, obstacles to the movement of southern Sudanese Muslims, closure of Islamic institutions in southern Sudan [*the paper says that this has indeed started as evidenced by the expulsion of the Chamber of Zakat from southern Sudan*]

It goes on to say that in order to fill the gap such action would cause, the SPLM has formed an organization that goes by the name "Marginalized Southern Sudanese Muslims" headed by an SPLM confidante with close links to the Church

The paper further points out that southern Sudanese Muslims, when asked to comment on this SPLM plan, declined to do so but pointed out that they are aware of more dangerous issues than the document *AllIntibaha* referred to.

[*AllIntibaha had promised yesterday to reproduce the "SPLM blueprint" in today's issue of the paper but has not done so*].

** Due to some unintentional fault, the AllIntibaha article was not full covered in yesterday's MMR.*

Forensics confirms SPLA involvement in the Jebel Auliya incident

(*AllIntibaha*) Careful investigations have confirmed SPLA involvement in the recent incident in Jebel Auliya in which 5 policemen lost their lives in an ambush.

Reports say the runaway car carrying the assailants and its driver were found (a PSV Toyota Hiace). The car was being driven by a northern Sudanese who yielded to coercion by the assailants. Some military ID cards were also found at the site of the scene.

Informed sources say that the Jebel Auliya incident was carried out after the assailants were trained and armed by an SPLA colonel. Last Friday, two scouts were sent in civilian cloth to identify the targets at the Jebel Auliya market and the operation was carried out around midnight.

On the other hand and following a spate of crimes attributed to SPLA elements or impersonators, police headquarters has sent memos to all police stations asking them not to deal with SPLA elements as members of a regular force.

This has angered SPLM politicians who have turned to accusing the government and the police of directly targeting the SPLA.

Danish aid minister's visit to Sudan cancelled

(AP – 21st Nov. **Copenhagen**) Sudan has called off a visit by Denmark's aid minister, citing security concerns, a Danish official said Tuesday.

Foreign Aid Minister Ulla Toernaes was to have started her weeklong trip on Friday, including a visit to the troubled Darfur region, but Sudanese authorities cancelled the visit on Monday, an official at the Ministry of Development Cooperation said.

The Sudanese government cited 'general security' as a reason for the cancellation, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because she was not authorized to give her name to the media.

Toernaes was not immediately available for comments.

GoSS/Southern Sudan

Wau government reports that SPLA has detained 11 policemen

(*Khartoum Monitor*) The government of Western Bahr-el-Ghazal State alleges that the Sudan People's Liberation Army has detained 11 policemen accused of the murder of an SPLA soldier in October this year.

In an interview with the Nairobi –based Sudan Radio Service in Khartoum last Monday (November 20, 2006), the Deputy Governor of the state, Colonel Awad Juma Aman, did acknowledge that 11 policemen have been detained by SPLA soldiers.

Darfur/Darfur Peace Agreement

Darfur mini-summit pledges to work for peace

(*Reuters* – 21st Nov. **Tripoli**) Six African leaders on Tuesday pledged to redouble Darfur peace efforts and repair frayed ties between neighbours Sudan and Chad, whose border region has been destabilised by violence in Darfur, a Libyan official said.

Ali Treki, Secretary for African Union (AU) Affairs at the Libyan Foreign Ministry, told reporters a one-day mini-summit of leaders of Central African Republic, Chad, Egypt, Eritrea, Libya and Sudan agreed to "exert all efforts" for Darfur peace.

He said Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir had extended separate invitations to Chadian President Idriss Deby and Central African Republic President Francois Bozize to visit Khartoum in an attempt to stem regional instability.

Treki said the leaders had agreed to continue to try to expand the Darfur peace agreement concluded in Abuja in May to include all factions and end the current crisis.

Libyan and Egyptian officials say the six leaders want the Darfur rebel group, the National Redemption Front (NRF), to sign the May accord between Khartoum and another rebel group.

SLM al-Nur demands Libyan plan to stop Darfur genocide

(*SudanTribune.com* – 21st Nov. **Paris**) In reaction to President Gadhaffi's recent statement on a colonialist tendency of the role of UN troops in Darfur, the AbdulWahid Mohamed Nur has invited Libya to propose a solution to stop the killing in Darfur if he is against it.

Al-Nur, in a press conference held in Paris, reaffirmed his support to the UN takeover from the African Union troops and urged the international community to implement UN resolution 1706 and to take real action on the ground.

He also said African leaders should not allow Sudanese president to become the Chairperson of the pan African organization next year or else be seen as condoning genocide in Darfur.

The SLM founder welcomed the different peace initiatives to resolve the Darfur crisis. He said there are efforts from Eritrea, Egypt, EU, Libya, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, UN and USA but said his movement is not in favour of an Eritrean venue for the talks.

He criticized the African mediators approach in Abuja talks saying "AU mediators and international facilitators had tried during the talks to treat the consequences of Darfur crisis not its causes". Adding "the problem is originally political and it should be dressed as such".

Also, he told the press that Darfur war is not an ethnic conflict because the Sudanese people are one. "The problem consists in the nature of this Islamist regime which used Jihad and religious values to exterminate around three millions in the southern Sudan and now use the ethnic pretext to achieve their genocide in western Sudan", he said.

The rebel leader said "we had been forced to hold arms against the regime because al-Bashir repeatedly and vehemently denied negotiating with political groups arguing his ready to negotiate with armed groups.

According to al-Nur, the people of the Darfur region must be given their right to live in one region. He demands that Darfur people must also be represented on all levels of government in Sudan and in the state executive and legislative departments in accordance with the percentage of the population. Regarding the distribution of wealth, he requests fair compensation for Darfurians for the property they lost. The three-year war destroyed the infrastructure, particularly in the field of education. He calls for introducing languages and local dialects into the curricula in the region.

On the security arrangements, we wanted the agreement to include a clear mechanism to disarm the Janjaweed and pinpoint the side that will undertake this job in a clear and frank manner. Therefore, we wanted an international mechanism.

The also stressed that the question of the property of the land (Hawakir) is crucial for Darfur people. Therefore, he requested the government to restore all the villagers to their areas. He also rejected Khartoum's plans to build villages to house Darfur IDPs.

Editorials/ Commentaries

Why is insecurity rampant in Southern Sudan after the CPA

Khartoum Monitor editorial lists down the reasons of sadness of southern people after the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) into three: rampant insecurity, the

failure transport and reintegrate internally displaced citizens back to their homes and fear of landmines.

The only solution, the paper points out, is through speeding up of the process of DDR.

Where does the oil money go?

AlAyaam: The Minister of Finance said recently that the deficit in revenue from the country's oil revenue for this year alone stands at 158 billion Dinars and that this has had a negative impact on the budget and triggered the hike in commodity prices. Delay in production from Block 5A, the near 30,000 b/d drop in the production of Blocks 1, 2 and 4 and the continued subsidisation of local oil consumption have been cited as the reasons for this deficit in production. The minister made no mention of the increase in oil revenue [*from the original value projected in the budget*] as a result of the international increase in oil prices.

What we would like to note here is that current deficits were as a result of low production but we expect future deficits resulting from drops in oil prices as could be predicted from price indicators. This is what we have to make precautions for.

We have continuously been calling for the utilisation of oil revenue to develop non-petroleum resources so that we do not face a crisis due to dependency on oil money alone but to no avail. It is clear that the larger chunk of oil money is spent on security and the military in conflict areas or in non-productive expenditure or other expenditure that does not reflect on the life of the people nor accelerate development in the other resources.

This has to change lest we remain confined within the circle of backwardness.

Did the IOM carry out its mandated tasks?

This article on *AlHayat* daily highlights the role and functions of the IOM as working towards the voluntary repatriation of refugees to their homes in southern Sudan. It says that the IOM has signed an accord with the Sudan government to carry out this mandate.

The paper points out that the organisation has been here for two years but has done nothing with regards to returns.

In mid October this year, the governor summoned representatives of the IOM and requested them to coordinate with the relevant parties and to conduct field trips and surveys of areas with favourable conditions for return but the organisation failed to do so, says the paper.

The governor of South Darfur told UN Humanitarian Coordinator da Silva during his last visit to the state mid last month that the IOM efforts to implement its mandate could only be summed at "zero". This, the paper adds, was said to da Silva in the presence of representatives of the IOM.

The meeting culminated in the creation of a committee made up of the governor, the UN, OCHA, IOM and the HAC to visit villages identified as safe for returns.

In conclusion, the paper laments the fact that the governor did not order the expulsion of the organisation and was only satisfied with summoning the IOM.