

UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN UNMIS

<u>UNMIS Media Monitoring Report – 2nd October 2006</u> (By Public Information Office)

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HIGHLIGHTS:

United Nations

SRSG Pronk holds talks with el-Mahdi, Nugud and Turabi

AlSahafa reports that SRSG Jan Pronk held talks at UNMIS headquarters yesterday with Sadiq el-Mahdi, el-Nugud and Dr. Turabi.

Sources report that discussions during the meeting that span about 2 hours focused on the views of the party leaders on the issue of Darfur and the United Nations role.

Sources also report that SRSG Pronk urged the party leaders to play an active role in expediting solutions for the problem of Darfur and convincing the holdout rebel groups to come on board the Darfur Peace Agreement.

The three party leaders were reportedly critical of the way government handled he problem and called for a more participatory method in which all political forces would contribute to solutions to the crisis.

AlSahafa further reports that the three party leaders did not want to reveal to the press the outcome of their meeting especially in light of the widespread criticism that came in the wake of a similar meeting earlier at the Hilton hotel with the delegation of the Security Council.

Restriction on movement of United Nations military

Most major newspapers today carry the story sourced from *SUNA* that the Council of Ministers has endorsed a recommendation by the Ministry of the Interior to restrict the movement of foreign troops in Sudanese towns.

The papers give no further detail but, quoting the official spokesperson of the Council of Ministers, report that the recommendations were among a number of other recommendations by the ministry and included, among others, a detailed demarcation of Sudan's borders with the neighbouring countries, a closer check on illegal migration and control of the presence of foreigners in the country.

Meanwhile, the *Khartoum Monitor* quotes a UN Sudan Bulletin as reporting that UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Jan Pronk has requested the SAF and the SPLA to refrain from restrictions.

The request was in response to the SPLA representative who informed the Ceasefire Political Commission (CPC) in its meeting on 28 September that, since the SAF did not allow the UN to monitor what is going on to the North of Abyei then the SPLA would no longer enable the United Nations to monitor the area to the south of Abyei.

United Nations and the Transition Debate

Rice proposes Arab and Islamic troops for Darfur

Quoting agencies, *AlSahafa* reports that US Secretary of State Condoleeza Rice heads a 30 person US delegation to Cairo where she may propose that President Husni Mubarak to send Egyptian peacekeepers to Darfur.

Also accompanying Rice is an intelligence delegation which will be holding talks with Egypt's intelligence chief and will be asking Egypt to convince Sudan to ease its position on the international troops.

AUPSC delegation expected in Khartoum this week

African Union Commissioner Alpha Oumar Konaré heads an African Union Peace & Security Council delegation to Khartoum next week, reports *AlHayat*.

Sources say that the delegation will be holding talks with Sudanese officials on issues pertaining to the extension of the African Union mandate in Sudan to the end of the year.

Sources add that the delegation will also discuss the additional role the African Union will be carrying out in Darfur and means to lobby financial and logistic support for these forces.

Minnawi rejects Al-Zawahiri call for a jihad in western Sudan

Senior Presidential Aide, Mini Minnawi, rejects Ayman el-Zawahiri's calls that the western Sudan region be turned into a vast ground for jihad against international forces should they deploy to Darfur, reports *AlAyaam*.

Minnawi argues that Darfur faces a humanitarian and political problem and does not need to be turned into a new killing ground.

Darfur students' body reiterates support for deployment of international troops

A spokesperson for the Central Union of Darfur Students has disowned a statement by a "Darfur Students' Union" rejecting a United Nations force deployment for Darfur, report *Rai AlShaab*.

The student's body said they support UNSCR 1706 and see it as a victory for humanity and a ring of hope for the IDPs and refugees in Darfur and call on the international community to expedite implementation of the said resolution.

<u>CPA</u>

127 displaced South Sudan teachers to return home

(*Khartoum Monitor*) The Chairman of the Displaced South Sudan Teachers' Union in the Northern States (DISSTUNS), Ustaz Carlo Arigo Wani, in a press briefing on Saturday said that the first batch of 127 displaced southern Sudanese teachers would be returning to their homes in the ten states of south Sudan beginning from early November.

He said that the repatriation process will be facilitated by the GoSS in collaboration with a UN affiliated body called the International Organization for Migration IOM. He added that these teachers will be travelling with their families from the 16 Northern Sudan states to their homes in southern Sudan.

SPLM Secretary-General in South Kordofan State refutes reports of training for IDPs

(*Khartoum Monitor*) The Sudan Peoples Liberation Movement affirmed a cessation of military training in South Kordofan State in accordance with the CPA.

The SPLM secretary General in the state Simon Kalu, in an interview yesterday, denied recent reports that the IDPs from Darfur were receiving military training in Kauda IDP camps.

<u>GoNU</u>

Bashir blesses efforts of committee led by Suwar -el-Dahab to unify national ranks

(AlHayat; AlAyaam) Addressing a meeting with the committee, President Bashir has given his full blessings to a committee led by former President of the Republic, Abdelrahman Suwar el-Dahab, to unify national ranks.

The president pointed out however that the decision to reject a United Nations force for Darfur was taken after careful study and still stands.

A spokesperson for the committee said that the committee held a series of meetings with political figures, the people of Darfur, IDP camp leaders and representatives of the SLM and the JEM and all have expressed readiness to cooperate.

Eastern Sudan

Sudan, eastern rebels sign wealth sharing deal

(Reuters/ST – 1^{st} Oct. Cairo) Sudan signed a wealth sharing deal with rebels in the country's east on Sunday and hopes to reach a final peace agreement to end a low-level insurgency there by the end of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, Sudanese media said.

The Khartoum government and eastern rebels had earlier reached agreement on security arrangements in the economically important east, and peace talks in the Eritrean capital Asmara will now turn to power sharing, state news agency SUNA reported.

Sudanese Presidential Adviser Mustafa Osman Ismail, head of the government delegation to the talks, expressed "hope that they would sign the final agreement with the Eastern Front before the end of the current holy Ramadan", SUNA said.

Ismail lauded the efforts being exerted by Eritrean side for reaching a peaceful outcome.

The east has the country's largest gold mine and its main port, where its oil pipelines take exports to the world market. Despite its riches, it remains one of the country's most impoverished regions.