



**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN**  
**UNMIS**  
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**(By Public Information Office)**

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**IN THE NEWS TODAY:**

➤ **United Nations**

- Casual labourers complain of bribery to get UNMIS jobs
- SRSG says situation in Darfur better than before
- Darfur JEM responds positively to UN call for Ramadan calm

➤ **United Nations and the Transition Debate**

- United Nations requests government for plan for assistance to the African Union
- President Bashir says confrontation better than agreeing to a transition
- AU will not abandon Darfur - AU chairman
- Arab League urges Arab states to honor Darfur

➤ **CPA**

- Egypt says the crises in Darfur may lead southern Sudan to secede.
- DDR Commission organizes training on Data collection

➤ **GoNU**

- Deputy head of the Minnawi faction of the SLM survives assassination attempt
- 40 killed in rebel clashes in Darfur
- Kiir rejects Minnawi's bid for the Second Vice-Presidency, says Minnawi
- Journalists stage protest calling for release of jailed AlRai AlAam colleague
- SPLM threatens to break the partnership due to the dismissal of the health minister in Sennar State
- Parliamentary defence and security committee requests meeting with Minister of Interior
- Authorities arrest, so far, 19 suspects over murder of AlWifaq editor

➤ **Other Developments:**

- 400 children reportedly lost in Darfur, reports Sudan Red Crescent Society

## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

### **United Nations**

#### **Casual labourers complain of bribery to get UNMIS jobs**

Four Sudanese nationals who until recently had been working with UNMIS as casual labourers told *Khartoum Monitor* yesterday that they had to pay bribes in advance to get their jobs.

One of the workers who spoke on condition of anonymity said that he and some of his colleagues who hail from Darfur had been made to pay SD.5,000 in bribes to qualify for UNMIS' casual labourer's card but pointed out that some other colleagues have paid as much as SD.8,000 to a Sudanese broker who works in collaboration with and under the direction of an expatriate supervisor.

The four claim they were disregarded by their expatriate supervisors as insignificant human being with no rights to complain against mistreatment and delayed pay and that complaining would only make them loose their job which will be filled with "another newcomer on the waiting list ready to meet the SD.5,000 or 8,000 bribe".

The labourers says most of their colleagues lost jobs because of pressures from the broker who would want to "fulfil job promises to waiting clients".

Asked by the *Khartoum Monitor* if they were in a position to prove their allegations, the former UNMIS casual labourers presented their names, phone numbers and expired UNMIS ID numbers for accountability.

On September 9, 2006, a UNMIS casual labourer, AbdelAziz Adam, complained to UNMIS chief, Jan Pronk, through the *Khartoum Monitor*, about mistreatment and his summary dismissal when he asked about his delayed wage. His outstanding wages were paid but he has not been reinstated to his job, reportedly because he had taken his case to the media.

Three of the labourers claimed there were laid off in the interest of the broker and the expatriate supervisor. They say they could possibly get back their jobs provided they meet the unauthorised requirements but are not prepared to do that.

#### **SRSG says situation in Darfur better than before**

Many local dailies quote an *AlJazeera* story saying that SRSG Jan Pronk has criticised statements by his colleagues in the international community who say that the situation in Darfur is now at its worst point since the conflict broke out there.

*AlRai AlAam* describes the SRSG's statement as his fiercest ever criticism and, quoting *AlJazeera*, says that the SRSG pointed out that the situation is not as bad as it was prior to the signing of the Darfur Peace Agreement.

On the other hand, UNMIS Deputy Spokesperson Bahaa Elkoussy told *AlKhartoum* that, contrary to recent reports, UNMIS has never proposed or requested an indefinite extension of the mandate of the AMIS in Darfur. He said that it is not reasonable that someone propose an indefinite extension of the African Union mandate.

He said that the United Nations is committed to assisting the AMIS with funding and logistics support and is still waiting for the Sudan government response to its proposal.

Elkoussy declined to go into details on these proposals but said the United Nations has presented a number of proposals to the Sudan government on peacekeeping in the region. *AlKhartoum* further points out that Elkoussy did not confirm or deny reports the SRSG had adopted a proposal to provide funds and technical support for the AMIS and beefing its forces with forces from Islamic countries.

On recent talks between SRSG Pronk and opposition figures, Elkoussy said that these meetings will continue in the near future with the aim of discussing all issues. He pointed out that SRSG Pronk's recent meeting with Nugud, Turabi and el-Mahdi was not the first of its kind. He pointed out that participants to the meeting agreed not to disclose details of that meeting.

Umma Party's Sadiq el-Mahdi is also reported in *AlRai AlAam* as saying that such consultative meetings between the SRSG and the party leaders will continue.

### **Darfur JEM responds positively to UN call for Ramadan calm**

(*SudanTribune.com* – 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct. **Paris**) The leader of Movement of Justice and Equality, Khalil Ibrahim said, in a letter to the Special representative of the UN Secretary General to Sudan, Jan Pronk, he has instructed his troops to stop fighting during Ramadan.

We “instructed all through not to act except in situations of self-defence and that instruction will be closely watched during the holy month” said Ibrahim.

He further added, “We hope that our adversaries will behave likewise.”

On 21 September, Pronk called upon the Sudanese government and the rebel groups to “to respect a month of tranquillity during Ramadan”.

Khalil, also, invited the UN envoy to call for the resumption of peace talks to settle the endemic conflict. He further said Darfur crisis is a political conflict indicating, “Military confrontation has never been our first choice”.

## **United Nations and the Transition Debate**

### **United Nations requests government for plan for assistance to the African Union**

Sudan's representative to the United Nations, AbdelMahmoud AbdelHaleem, says the government may present to the United Nations its plan to support the African Union in the coming two days, reports *AlRai AlAam*.

He said that the United Nations had requested the Sudan government to come up with the draft plan as soon as possible.

The representative reiterated Sudan government rejection to a transition of AMIS to a United Nations operation but, referring to SRSG Pronk's “third way” course for Darfur that includes technical and logistics support for the African Union, added that the government does not reject any assistance granted to the African Union for its operations as long as such offers serve the plans of the African Union Peace & Security Council.

## **President Bashir says confrontation better than agreeing to a transition**

*(Akhbar AlYaum)* Many major newspapers have as their lead stories for today President Bashir's speech, especially his comments on UNSCR 1706, before this year's annual Ramadhan breakfast organised by the Coptic Church in Khartoum.

Of UNSCR 1706, the president said that this resolution targets Sudan's territory and sovereignty. He reiterated rejection to the resolution and pointed out that he preferred confrontation than giving his consent to a deployment of international troops to Darfur. "Implementation of the UNSCR 1706 would mark the end of Sudan", said the president.

The president pointed out at Iraq as an example of a country destroyed by foreign troops.

He further pointed out that the deployment of foreign troops to Darfur lacks justification and that the joint African Union, United Nations and EU committee that toured Darfur disregarded their findings and only circulated in Addis a draft presented by the US delegation.

On Darfur, the president pointed out that the government has adhered to the ceasefire agreements signed but this does not include the NRF.

## **AU will not abandon Darfur - AU chairman**

*(Reuters – 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct. Addis Ababa)* The African Union will not abandon Darfur but it needs more international support if it is to continue its peacekeeping mission, the AU commission chairman said in a meeting with European Union leaders on Monday.

"Under no circumstance can we leave Darfur without peacekeeping forces. But we know we must strengthen our forces," AU Commission Chairman Alpha Oumar Konaré told a news briefing at the group's headquarters in Addis Ababa.

The chairmen of both the AU Commission and the European Commission vowed to work with the government of Sudan to find an acceptable formula for maintaining troops in Darfur.

"We want to avoid the Rwanda syndrome where the international community goes out and does not fulfil its responsibility," said European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso, referring to the 1994 genocide.

But analysts and aid workers fear that if no such formula is found a security vacuum could arise when the mandate for African troops expires on Dec. 31.

Fresh fighting in south Darfur highlighted the already precarious situation in camps housing millions of displaced Darfuris. London's Guardian newspaper reported on its Web site on Monday that clashes between rebel factions on Friday left 40 dead and forced aid workers to abandon the Gireida refugee camp.

"In the current situation, the African Union cannot assume completely the job if it does not have an important contribution from the U.N.," Michel told reporters.

Talks in Addis Ababa followed a 24-hour visit by the EU group to Sudan to try to break the impasse over peacekeepers.

Western powers insist Khartoum must reconsider its objections to international troops. U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said the choice for Khartoum was between "cooperation and confrontation".

Faced with a stalemate over peacekeepers, aid officials and diplomats have begun discussing an option called AU-Plus. This would involve an extended AU Darfur mission, augmented by U.N. support, with greater policing power for African troops.

During talks with the EU envoys on Saturday evening in Khartoum, Bashir seemed open to the idea of strengthening the AU mission with more support from the United Nations, the head of the EU in Sudan, Kent Degerfelt, told Reuters.

"It would not be troops but logistical and financial support," Degerfelt said.

Konaré and Michel said they still supported a transfer to the United Nations but admitted that could not happen as long as Khartoum rejected the plan.

### **Arab League urges Arab states to honor Darfur**

(AP – 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct. **Khrt.**) Sudan The head of the Arab League on Monday called on Arab countries to provide more assistance to Darfur and honour pledges they made to help the war-torn region in Sudan.

But Secretary-General Amr Musa also said there have been "exaggerations over the exact situation in Darfur" and said he would discuss ways to diffuse the crisis when he meets with Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir during his visit.

### **CPA**

### **Egypt says the crises in Darfur may lead southern Sudan to secede.**

*AlIntibaha:* Assistant of the Egyptian Foreign Minister for the African Affairs, Ambassador Masoom Marzooq doubts that the situation in Sudan may reach to a confrontation between the Government of Sudan and the UN regarding the UN resolution No. 1706.

He said that complication of the crises of Darfur may lead Southern Sudan to secede and has called for a settlement of sorts in Darfur that enables reconstruction and the implementation of the DPA. He added that Egypt is very much concerned with peace in Sudan because the situation here will also affect Sudan's neighbours.

### **DDR Commission organizes training on Data collection**

*AlHayat:* The DDR Commission has launched a training course on data collection.

The course will last for three months and aims at identifying new employment opportunities for the reintegration of demobilised combatants.

### **GoNU**

### **Deputy head of the Minnawi faction of the SLM survives assassination attempt**

*Akhbar Alyaum*: The SLM yesterday disclosed that its deputy leader, Dr. AlRayah Mahmoud, survived an ambush by unidentified people near Gireida in South Darfur.

The JEM has and SLM-Freewill have meanwhile accused the Minnawi faction of the SLM of attacking civilians and killing and injuring 17 in Baraka and Hashaba markets in South Darfur State.

*Rai AlShaab* also quotes that a chief in Gireida, Adam Mohamed Yaqoub, has accused SLM-Minnawi of committing crimes against the local population and has killed and tortured many in the area.

#### **40 killed in rebel clashes in Darfur**

*AlAyam* quotes the Guardian website as quoting that about 40 people killed in rebels' clashes in South Darfur.

This has made foreign aid workers to leave the IDPs camps there.

#### **Kiir rejects Minnawi's bid for the Second Vice-Presidency, says Minnawi**

Speaking at an interview with London-based *AlZaman*, Mini Minnawi, Senior Aide to President Bashir, said that First Vice-President Kiir is still not willing to allow him to take over the position of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President to the Republic. Minnawi says that Kiir argues that this will be in violation of the CPA.

Asked to comment on why he hastened in signing the Darfur Peace Agreement with the government, Minnawi pointed out that his movement commanded 99% of the fire-power in Darfur while the other groups combined could not muster more than 1,500 fighters. He also pointed out that he agreed to sign also because government had accepted to recognise the 1956 boundaries of the Darfur region. Another reason he mentioned is that as the talks dragged on, there was the possibility of a mushrooming of more and more rebel groups demanding to join the talks. He also said that another consideration was that any humanitarian crisis that may erupt in any other part of the world may cause the international community to shelf the Darfur issue.

#### **Journalists stage protest calling for release of jailed AlRai AlAam colleague**

The annual Ramadhan breakfast organised by the Journalists' Union culminated yesterday in a demonstration with journalists protesting the detention by security of their colleague from *AlRai AlAam*, Abu-Obeida Abdalla.

The protestors complained to information minister el-Zahawi Ibrahim who broke fast with them of the many constraints to their work and the minister promised to make efforts to secure the release of the journalist.

#### **SPLM threatens to break the partnership due to the dismissal of the health minister in Sennar State**

(*Rai AlShaab*) The health minister in Khartoum State, Mayan Dut, has condemned the dismissal of his counterpart in Sennar State and says that this could threaten the partnership between the National Congress Party and the SPLM.

He also points out that the dismissal is unconstitutional because the governor had to refer the issue to the Presidency before taking the decision to dismiss.

### **Parliamentary defence and security committee requests meeting with Minister of Interior**

(*Rai AlShaab*) The head of the parliamentary defence and security committee says the committee has requested for a meeting with the Minister of Interior as a result of the numerous incidents of security lapses in various parts of the country and the abuse of firearms.

He head of the committee expressed regrets over these issues and said they will be requesting the interior to carry out investigations into these issues.

### **Authorities arrest, so far, 19 suspects over murder of AlWifaq editor**

Sources say that 19 suspects have so far been arrested in connection with the assassination of the editor of *AlWifaq* daily, reports *AlSudani*. Non of them is a foreigner.

Sources also confirm that the recent extradition from Saudi Arabia of Group of 19 figure, Abu-elGassim Ahmed, was not connected in any way to the assassination.

### **Other Developments:**

#### **400 children reportedly lost in Darfur, reports Sudan Red Crescent Society**

(*Rai AlShaab*) The Sudan Red Crescent Society in collaboration with the (ICRC) have sent an appeal to the civil society and the national companies to assist in funding for the needy in Darfur.

According to the Sudan Red Crescent Society report, 400 children have been lost in Darfur as a result of the war.