



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN
UNMIS
UNMIS Media Monitoring Report – 8th October 2006
(By Public Information Office)

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United Nations

UN using fabricated reports of Darfur rights abuses - Sudan

(AP – 8th Oct.) Sudan's U.N. ambassador accused the United Nations on Friday of relying on fabricated data from non-governmental groups in reporting widespread rights abuses in Darfur, though he acknowledged that violations have occurred in the region.

The ambassador, Abdalmahmood Abdalhaleem, was largely dismissive of a report that U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan sent to the U.N. Security Council on Thursday saying that Sudan's armed forces, as well as rebel factions and militias, continue to violate international human rights laws with impunity.

The report said violence was on the rise and humanitarian access in Darfur was at its worst since 2004.

"These reports are not new. Many of these reports are fabricated by some (non-governmental organizations) whose intentions are very clear to us," Abdalhaleem said.

"I can assure you that of course in any conflict situation ... you have violations of human rights," he said. "It is very bad, this is why we would like to have it over."

The United Nations denied the ambassador's claims. Oliver Ulich, the Sudan team leader in the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, said the United Nations has about 1,500 staffers in Darfur as well as dozens of human rights officers whom it relies upon for information.

He said the U.N. does receive some information from non-governmental groups but believes it is "highly reliable."

"We double- and triple-check reports coming from a variety of sources and have a very high degree of confidence in the reliability of the information that we provide to the Security Council," Ulich said.

"It has now been three months since the Darfur peace agreement was signed," Annan wrote in his report. "However, instead of reconciliation and building of trust, we are witnessing intensified violence and deeper polarization. The region is again on the brink of a catastrophic situation."

Sudan has so far refused to allow the United Nations to take over the peacekeeping mission from the AU, despite the insistence of the Security Council. However, President Omar al-Bashir sent a letter to Annan on Thursday reiterating his stance that he would consent to the U.N. providing support to the AU mission, as U.N. officials have also proposed.

Annan's spokesman, Stephane Dujarric, said in a statement Friday the secretary-general hopes the U.N. advisers could be quickly sent to the region.

That letter was separate from another note that Sudan sent to nations that may offer troops for a future U.N. peacekeeping force in Darfur. It warned that they would be committing a "hostile act" if they promise troops for that mission.

The United States said Friday that Sudan had withdrawn the letter, though Abdalhaleem was more ambiguous. He insisted Sudan wants to avoid confrontation, but would not allow any troops into the country without the government's consent.

"Everybody has to draw his own conclusions about this, but our intention has never been to intimidate anybody and has never been to threaten anybody," he said.

UN moving some refugees in Chad due to Darfur risk

(Reuters – 6th Oct. N'Djamena) The U.N. refugee agency is moving several hundred Sudanese refugees in Chad away from the border to avoid an increased risk of violence in the Darfur region and from local rebels, a spokesman said on Friday.

The UNHCR is assisting some 213,000 Sudanese in eastern Chad who have fled fighting in Darfur, the western Sudanese region where ethnic and political violence has killed tens of thousands of people and displaced more than two million since 2003.

Matthew Conway, UNHCR spokesman in Chad, said refugees sheltering near the border were asking to be moved further into Chad because of the deteriorating situation in Darfur, where Sudan's government refuses to accept a U.N. peacekeeping force.

In addition, Chad's eastern border region had recently seen renewed clashes between Chadian government troops and rebels seeking to overthrow President Idriss Deby.

"There are fears that the situation is deteriorating further in Darfur, with refugees risking being caught between the two fires, Darfur and the Chadian rebellion," Conway told Reuters.

"It's an ongoing state of generalised insecurity and we would like to get them to a safe haven," he added.

UNHCR this week began transferring an initial group of 284 refugees from a border area to an established refugee camp.

An additional 921 refugees, who had been living in the region since 2005, had also expressed interest to move to the camp after the November harvest.

UNHCR had recently also signed an agreement with the Chadian government to increase security around its 12 camps housing Darfur refugees in eastern Chad.

An additional 75 Chadian gendarmes were being deployed by the government to join the existing 200 who already provided protection around the camps, which have sometimes been the target of raids by rebels and militias in the past.

"It helps, but with the size of the territory we're dealing with, it's not enough," Conway said.

In less than a year, raiders have stolen 40 vehicles from humanitarian agencies in eastern Chad, and the UNHCR needs to drive in convoys with armed government escorts to reach six of its 12 camps.

UNHCR officials say the deployment of an effective U.N. peacekeeping force in Darfur, so far resisted by Khartoum, is the best way to guarantee security along the Chad-Sudan border.

But they have also raised the idea of a separate international force of European soldiers to beef up protection for the refugee camps in eastern Chad.

EU boosts WFP operations in Sudan's Darfur

(*Xinhua* – 6th Oct. **Nairobi**) The European Commission (EC) has donated 28 million euros (35 million U.S. dollars) to UN World Food Program (WFP) to help sustain the agency's operation in Sudan's strife-torn western region of Darfur.

In a statement issued in Nairobi, the WFP said the two significant donations — 26 million euros (32.5 million dollars) for WFP's emergency relief operations and two million euros (2.5 million dollars) for the Humanitarian Air Service (WFPHAS) which transports both the WFP and other humanitarian staff to areas which are inaccessible by road, will have direct impacts on the well-being of the people in Darfur.

"This generous contribution will have a direct impact on the well-being of the people we're trying to help in Darfur," said Kenro Oshidari, WFP's representative in Sudan said in the statement.

"With these funds, we can replenish our food stocks and keep WFPHAS helicopters and aircraft flying so that all those engaged in providing humanitarian assistance can reach remote parts of Darfur that would otherwise be cut off," the UN agency said.

According to the WFP, the donation brings the EC's total contribution to Sudan to 71.9 million euros (90 million dollars) this year, a 60 percent increase from its 2005 contribution.

In August, the WFP said it fed a total 2.6 million people in Darfur, but was unable to reach a further 355,000 people — mostly in North Darfur — due to ongoing fighting and banditry which have blocked humanitarian aid.

The WFP said it currently has enough food for its beneficiaries until the end of 2006, but unless new donations are made soon, food stocks will begin to run down in January.

UNMIS seeks new premises

UNMIS is seeking new premises for its offices to replace the headquarters on Obeid Khatim Road (Zero-8), reports *AlWatan* on Saturday 7th October.

Quoting its sources, the paper says that the owner of the property that houses most of UNMIS' "diplomatic, civilian and military activities" had requested United Nations Mission in Sudan to leave the area that originally had been licensed for a hospital or so.

UNHCR requests road closure

Alwan daily reports on Saturday 7th October that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was surprised by a request from the UNHCR that the western entrance to the Mohamed Naguib Road from which it operates be closed to traffic.

The paper adds that authorities have a plan in the pipeline to actually relocate the UNHCR offices from Khartoum altogether because its work is focused on areas of a large refugee population.

The paper does not say why or when the UNHCR has requested the road closure but points out that by this request, the UNHCR sought to emulate the US Embassy that closed AbdelLateef Road in central Khartoum to what it described as staff security concerns.

More than 80 infants dies each day in Darfur - UNICEF

(AP – 7th Oct. Mellit)— Myriam Ibrahim doesn't like to talk about her daughter Fawzia, the smallest of three triplets born in May who died last month in north Darfur after struggling to keep alive despite a lack of milk and medical care.

"Fawzia started having fever, then diarrhea, and then she died. It was a month ago," Ibrahim, 28, said with the soft, sad smile — a mark of Darfurian women recounting their survival.

Fawzia is among the 80 children under age 5 who die each day in Darfur because of malnutrition, disease and generally poor living conditions created by violence in this barren region of western Sudan, the U.N. Children's Fund estimates.

When Ibrahim gave birth to her triplets in May, stress and lack of food left her with no milk for her daughters.

Fawzia weighed barely three pounds and had a tube in her nose to feed her liquid proteins when an Associated Press reporter met with the family in June at a hospital in El Fasher, North Darfur's capital.

After emergency care at the hospital, the triplets and their mother went back to their hometown of Mellit, about 30 miles (48 kilometres) north.

But when Ibrahim, who has three other children, returned to Mellit, the violence in the region had driven off aid workers, and she was among some 350,000 people who were deprived of any medical or food aid.

Thirteen humanitarian workers were killed over the summer due to rebel infighting and a large government offensive. As a result, humanitarian workers have withdrawn from large stretches Darfur in recent months, leaving sick children with virtually no medical care.

"Lack of access and the humanitarian pullout likely means that child mortality is going to go up again rapidly," said Jonathan Vietch, the UNICEF emergency chief for Sudan.

Aid workers, who began to return to Mellit late September, said Thursday they didn't know what killed Fawzia, but believed the baby could have been saved if they'd been able to access her town earlier.

When Mellit was cut off from humanitarian aid, Ibrahim said she'd had to ration powdered milk for the triplets. Even now with only two babies left, both of whom are in reasonably good health, she said she only has enough milk left to last a week.

Awatif Khalil, a visiting government nutritionist, said Mellit's clinic doesn't have the money to bring in powdered milk to the clinic.

"It's up to parents to buy it in pharmacies in El Fasher," she said.

But Ibrahim's husband and the babies' father, Ahmed Adem, said he couldn't afford to travel to El Fasher to get the milk with the little money he makes selling fruits on the market.

"Anyhow, the road is still much too unsafe to go to El Fasher," he added.

A German humanitarian group working with the World Food Program recently dropped some aid in Mellit, a tense town guarded by several Sudanese army check points.

But future distributions remain unpredictable in the wartorn region. Residents in the area said their village was bombed by government planes as recently as last week. Rogue rebel factions also rampage nearby.

The WFP says its budget of more than US\$520 million (A410.6 million) will enable it to feed most needy Darfurians through 2006, if they can be reached. But the agency says its food stocks will begin to run down by January, and it could face a shortfall by March without more international contributions.

Ibrahim depends on aid to feed her family. She said she can't cultivate her fields because she fears militias may rape and loot her if she walks out of town to the fields.

"If food doesn't arrive soon, I don't know what my children are going to eat," Ibrahim said.

Security Council renews UN mission in Sudan for one year

Oct 5, 2006 (UNITED NATIONS) — The UN Security Council decided today to extend its mission for North-South peace agreement until 30 April 2007. The world body stated its intention to renew this extension beyond that date.

The resolution 1714 adopted unanimously Friday the Security Council decided to extend, for 12 months, the mandate of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) until 30 April 2007.

The mandate of UNMIS is set to expire on 8 October.

Preliminary reactions to UNSCR 1714: UNSCR 1714 extending UNMIS' mandate has been received with great relief in Khartoum, as most major local dailies report on 8th October.

AlRai AlAlAam reports that the Sudan government's relief is because UNMIS' mandate has not been altered. But government has however described as "bad" some clauses of the UNSCR 1714.

Sudan's representative to the United Nations has promised that Sudan will get into serious dialogue with the United Nations to resolve the Darfur problem.

United Nations and the Transition Debate

Annan welcomes Sudan's acceptance of UN help for African Union mission in Darfur

(*UN News* – 6th Oct. UN) Secretary-General Kofi Annan today welcomed the Sudanese Government's positive response to the United Nations' move last month to enhance its support of the African Union mission as it tries to maintain peace and security across the war-torn Darfur region.

His welcome came as the Security Council voted today to extend the mandate of the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) until the end of April 2007, expressing "grave concern" over Darfur's deteriorating humanitarian situation.

In a statement issued by his spokesman, Mr. Annan noted he had received a letter from Sudanese President Omer Hassan Al-Bashir in which Khartoum voiced acceptance of the assistance package.

Mr. Annan "very much hopes that the proposed support package can be implemented expeditiously, in consultation with the African Union (AU) and with the full cooperation of the Government of Sudan," the statement said.

"The Secretary-General also welcomes the expressed readiness of the Government of Sudan to pursue its dialogue with the United Nations in the interest of an early and lasting resolution of the Darfur crisis."

The UN has pledged to provide support to the AU in logistics, materials and with military staff and police officers, while also offering civilian support in mine action, public information and the implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA).

Sudan to set up "Third Route" Protocol with United Nations, African Union

State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ali Ahmed Karti, reveals that the government is about to sign a new protocol with the United Nations and the African Union for a new plan on Darfur , reports the *Sudan Vision*.

He pointed out that the protocol had nothing to do with UNSCR 1706.

The state minister says the three months timeframe may not be enough for the implementation of the said plan but assured that the Sudan government will do its best to implement the Darfur Peace Agreement and facilitate access to those in need of humanitarian assistance in addition to exerting more efforts to bring on board the holdout groups.

Sudan rapped for warning countries against contributing troops to Darfur

AFP: Security Council members slammed as "inappropriate" and "offensive" Sudan's warning to fellow African and Arab countries that contributing troops to a proposed UN force for war-torn Darfur would be seen as a "hostile act".

US Ambassador to the UN John Bolton called a special meeting of the 15-member council to condemn what he called Khartoum's bid "to intimidate" countries planning to contribute troops to the proposed UN peacekeeping force for Darfur.

"In the absence of Sudan's consent to the deployment of UN troops, any volunteering to provide peacekeeping troops to Darfur will be considered as a hostile act, a prelude to an invasion of a member country of the UN," said the letter sent Tuesday by Sudan's UN mission to all African and Arab missions here.

"This is unprecedented," Bolton said Thursday. "This is a direct challenge to the authority of the Security Council ... and requires a strong response."

The US envoy said that if Khartoum's attempt "to intimidate troop contributing countries" was allowed to stand, it would mean the failure of UN plans to deploy a robust UN force in Darfur.

Japan's UN Ambassador Kenzo Oshima, in his capacity as the council president for October, later met with Sudan's ambassador and said he received some "clarification" which he planned to relay to his council colleagues.

Some members felt "the language (in the letter) was inappropriate and offensive," Oshima said.

He added that his Sudanese colleague Abdalmahmood Mohamad told him that the council should instead focus on a conciliatory letter Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir sent to both UN chief Kofi Annan and Alpha Konaré, the chairman of the African Union Commission.

The Bashir letter welcomed a recent UN offer of logistical support to the ill-equipped AU force in Darfur and pointed to a number of actions taken by Khartoum to ensure "effective implementation" of the Darfur peace agreement reached last May.

Earlier Oshima said there was some talk of releasing a non-binding statement condemning the Sudanese letter but said most members wanted to focus on the more important issue on how to restore peace in troubled Darfur.

Britain's UN envoy Emyr Jones Parry, speaking to reporters Thursday, meanwhile outlined a four-point Darfur strategy, beginning with a beefing-up of the cash-strapped African Union (AU) force.

He said the United Nations should provide the ill-equipped AU force with technical assistance very quickly.

Jones Parry also stressed the need to get two Darfur rebel groups to sign the peace agreement already signed last May by Khartoum and the main Darfur insurgent movement.

He called for continued international efforts to persuade Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir that allowing a UN force into Darfur was in Sudan's best interest.

The British envoy also called for better security for displaced persons in camps in Chad, which has been reeling from the spillover for the Darfur conflict.

African leaders to visit Khartoum to discuss Darfur

The presidents of Senegal, Nigeria and Gabon are to travel to Khartoum "shortly" for talks with their Sudanese counterpart Omar el-Bashir about ending the crisis in Sudan's western Darfur region, *AFP* quotes the Senegalese foreign ministry on Saturday.

"The delegation, which is expected by the Sudanese authorities, aims to bring it's multifaceted contribution to overall African Union efforts, to obtain the complete end to hostilities and a global and lasting peace in Darfur as soon as possible," the ministry said in a statement.

Saturday's statement described the African presidents heading to Khartoum — Senegal's Abdoulaye Wade, Nigeria's Olusegun Obasanjo and Omar Bongo of Gabon — as a "committee of wise men" of Africa, formed under Wade's initiative.

Wade serves as the committee's coordinator, while Obasanjo will coordinate inter-Sudanese dialogue on behalf of the African Union and Bongo will represent heads of African states, the Senegalese ministry said.

Wade also spoke Friday with US President George W. Bush on peace and security issues in Africa, the statement added.

CPA

Sudan urges world to help refugees' repatriation

(SRS – 7th Oct. Geneva) The Sudanese minister of state for the Interior in the Government of National Unity has urged the international community to help repatriate Sudanese refugees from the neighbouring countries.

Speaking at the meeting on Wednesday 4 October, Aleu Ayieny Aleu said that the Government of Southern Sudan wants all refugees to return home to help in the reconstruction process, the Sudan Radio Service reported.

Aleu said the government has signed an agreement with the governments of Kenya, Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Central Africa Republic to make repatriation easier.

The Minister also urged the international community to study the causes of the Darfur conflict so as to find a comprehensive solution to the crisis.

Meanwhile, the United Nations high commissioner for refugees, Antonio Guterres, called on the holdout rebel groups in Darfur to join the Darfur Peace Agreement signed between Khartoum and one rebel faction last May.

Guterres further said that humanitarian assistance can only reach the people if there is peace in the region.

The Annual Executive Committee meeting of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees took place in Geneva from 2 -6 October.

5,805 IDPs return to Unity State

Unity State SPLM coordinator James Hoth Lor yesterday, addressing the press at Sharjah Hall, Khartoum, denied that reports of a disagreement between First Vice President, President of the Government of South Sudan, Lt. Gen. Salva Kiir and Unity State Governor Brigadier Taban Deng and accused some circles, whom he did not mention, of circulating baseless information, reports *The Citizen*.

Regarding the repatriation of the IDPs, the coordinator assured that it is progressing according to the plan, disclosing that 5,805 out of 22,000 IDPs have already been repatriated from Khartoum to Unity State.

SPLA deploys 4,500 in Jalhak, Upper Nile

Allintibaha sources reveal that Jewish elements in southern Sudan are plotting for a secession of the south from the north.

Sources from *AllIntibaha* also claim the SPLA is bringing in reinforcements for its forces in northern Upper Nile State and bringing in heavy weapons – a violation of the CPA.

The paper also reports of an SPLA build-up of 4,500 soldiers in Jalhak area.

The paper further criticizes the United Nations for its “passive role in the south” and pointed out that the United Nations is ignoring the violations committed by the SPLM in southern Sudan.

Sudan ruling party reiterates threats to cancel peace with SPLM

(*Sudantribune.com* – 7th Oct. **Khrt.**) The deputy leader of the Sudanese ruling party has reiterated his controversial statement threatening to cancel a peace deal signed with the former rebel Sudan People’s liberation Movement, saying the Naivasha accord will cease to exist if SPLM welcomes UN forces in Darfur.

In an interview with London-based *Al-Sharq al-Awsat* on 5 October, the deputy leader of the ruling National Congress Party said "If invading forces enter Sudan and the SPLM, the partner in government, welcomes them, there will be no national unity government and the Naivasha agreements will cease to exist."

He further added "The majority is against international intervention, except the SPLM, the People’s Congress, the Communist Party, and part of the National Ummah Party. Some of these parties have an agenda to bring the government down."

He indicated that his talks with the leader of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), Mohamed Osman al-Mirghani, in Cairo aimed at reaching a common vision vis-à-vis the foreign interference, not a political partnership between the two parties.

GoNU

Sudan says foreign organizations support political activities

(*SudanTribune.com* – 6th Oct. **Khrt.**) A Senior Sudanese official renewed accusations of foreign humanitarian organizations working in the country of violating law, saying they support political activities.

The state minister for humanitarian affairs, Ahmad Mohamed Haroun, has revealed breaches by Western humanitarian organizations operating in Sudan. He said a western embassy had granted an organization approximately 42m dollars, without the ministry being informed, in support to activities that were likely to be political.

This came about during a conference Wednesday organized by the Tayibah Communication Centre in Khartoum, which discussed ways to organize voluntary work.

He added that an interim decree had been passed to organize voluntary work and observations had emerged on procedures and issues about the law on voluntary work.

Head of the organizations at the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Ahmad Mohamed Adam, said there were approximately 1980 organizations registered at the ministry and the support of national work through these organizations was a must with the participation of a national partner.

He also indicated that UN organizations should be included within the civil organizations and their activities. He pointed out that the organizations should be compelled to renew their registration on a yearly basis so that their movements can be monitored.

He added that in the past it had appeared that a single individual had received approximately 450m dollars and an organization had distributed approx 50m dollars to voluntary organizations, a thing which had revealed a blatant interference of some organizations.

He said this situation called for the need to put restrictions on voluntary work.

Southern Sudan

SPLM arrest JIU officer and Islamic cleric in Juba

Allintibaha: The SPLM 's intelligence offices have escalated arrest campaigns in Juba targeting citizens on the pretext of affiliation to the Popular Defence Forces.

Eye-witness informed *Allintibaha* that members of the SPLM intelligence office attacked a JIU officer in his vehicle claiming that he is affiliated to the PDF.

SPLM intelligence is also keeping in detention for the last week Ms. Sabila Awad, an Islamic cleric in Juba, when she was walking out of the Omdurman Islamic University's Juba campus.

Commissioner escapes assassination attempt

The commissioner of Yirol West County, Mr. John Akech, escaped death narrowly after his vehicle was ambushed by armed men on the way to Yirol town last Friday, reports the *Khartoum Monitor*.

Commissioner Akech was on a visit to his home and seemingly the attackers knew the route of his journey and waylaid him on the road to the town. Sources close by during the incident said two of his guards who were in the vehicle were injured

An Official of Yirol based indigenous NGO Bahr el Ghazal Youth Development Agency (BYDA), Mayon Chor, said the Commissioner would have almost been killed had the vehicle not sped off.

The criminals have not been identified and there are no serious investigations that may lead to their arrest.

Uganda asks SPLA to beef up security for LRA rebels

(*Xinhua* – 7th oct. **Kampala**) The Ugandan government has requested the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) to beef up security at two assembly zones in a bid to encourage the rebels of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) to come.

Uganda's State Minister for Defence Ruth Nankabirwa was quoted by New Vision on Saturday as saying the government had conveyed the message to the southern Sudanese authorities.

"One of the issues was that there was not enough deployment of SPLA to receive these people (LRA). We raised this with (chief mediator and Vice President of southern Sudan) Riek Machar and we hope they will increase their presence," Nankabirwa said.

"This will give them (LRA) more confidence, because the issue of UPDF (Uganda People's Defense Force) besieging them will not arise," she said.

The two assembly zones of Ri-Kwangba and Owiny Ki-bul, both in southern Sudan, were supposed to cater for rebels in the Democratic Republic of Congo and northern Uganda as agreed on in a truce signed by the Ugandan government and the LRA on August 26.

But the rebels reportedly appeared and disappeared in the assembly zones, citing alleged siege of the UPDF, Ugandan military claimed.

Darfur/ Darfur Peace Agreement

Clashes north of el-Teina between the NRF and government forces*

AlAyaam: The NRF has announced it has captured the government military garrison in Kaubadey, 150 km. North of el-Teina along the Sudan-Chad border.

The NRF claims the attack was in retaliation to an earlier SAF offensive.

The Office of the Spokesperson of the SAF denies the NRF claims.

** Please see related statement by the NRF attached separately*

Darfur-Darfur Dialogue

AlSahafa (6th October) reported that AU mediator Ambassador Sam Ibok says Sudan's Abel Alier has turned down an offer to chair the Darfur-Darfur Dialogue.

He told a preparatory committee yesterday that Mr. Suwar-el-Dahab has accepted the offer but on condition of consent from all parties.

Ambassador Ibok pointed out that the African Union and the United Nations are coordinating for the success of the Darfur-Darfur Dialogue Conference.