



**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN**  
**UNMIS**  
**UNMIS Media Monitoring Report – 9<sup>th</sup> October 2006**  
**(By Public Information Office)**

*NOTE: Reproduction here does not mean that the UNMIS PIO can vouch for the accuracy or veracity of the contents, nor does this report reflect the views of the United Nations Mission in Sudan. Furthermore, international copyright exists on some materials and this summary should not be disseminated beyond the intended list of recipients.*

**IN THE NEWS TODAY:**

➤ **United Nations and the Transition Debate**

- UN peacekeepers deployment in Darfur is over - Sudan
- Sudan rejects Arab and Muslim peacekeepers for Darfur
- 33 United Nations experts expected in Khartoum in days
- UK plans to send 10,000 troops to Darfur

➤ **GoNU**

- Khartoum welcomes initiative by Senegalese leader
- Update on the investigations into the murder of the el-Wifaq editor
- Committee to unify national ranks
- Sub-committee formed to draft new law governing political parties

➤ **Darfur/ Darfur Peace Agreement**

- Presidency in secret talks with Khalil Ibrahim
- Darfur rebels, Sudanese army clash near Chad border

➤ **Other Developments**

- Authorities destroy large quantities of expired IRC drugs

## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

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

#### **UN peacekeepers deployment in Darfur is over - Sudan**

(*Xinhua* – 7<sup>th</sup> Oct. **Khrt.**) Speaking to reporters at the Sudanese Media Centre Sudan last Saturday, Sudanese Minister of State for Information and Communications Farh Agar announced that the file of deploying UN peacekeeping forces in the country's western region of Darfur had been closed.

"Sudan has surmounted the stage of whether to let in the international forces", Agar told the press.

He said that "the United Nations is now considering how to support the African forces in Darfur while the Sudanese government is talking about increasing and supporting the African forces and reinforcing them with troops from Islamic and Arab countries."

Meanwhile, Sudanese Minister of State for Foreign Affairs AliAhmed Karti also said that the Sudanese government was due to sign new protocol with the United Nations and the African Union (AU) to absorb the new plan for Darfur.

"The three-month mandate of AU forces in Darfur is not enough to complete proposals stated in the plan, but it could be helpful for finalizing a resolution in the region," said Karti.

#### **Sudan rejects Arab and Muslim peacekeepers for Darfur**

(*AP* – 8<sup>th</sup> Oct. **Cairo**) Arab diplomats who accompanied Arab League Secretary-General, Amr Musa, to Khartoum last week said he suggested to al-Bashir that Sudan accept thousands of troops from Arab and Muslim countries, to join the current force of African Union troops and then have that mission later shift to U.N. peacekeepers.

Samir Hosny, who heads the African section of the Cairo-based League, said al-Bashir was still vehemently opposed to sending U.N. peacekeepers, but promised to look into Musa's proposals.

"He (al-Bashir) said he will make an initiative soon. This is what he promised," Hosny said.

Musa's top aide, Hesham Youssef, said al-Bashir promised to make his decision "within days."

"We expect that the ideas will be closer to what is being circulating," Youssef told The Associated Press. "The situation is deteriorating and needs intervention."

#### **33 United Nations experts expected in Khartoum in days**

(*Akhbar Alyaum* – 9<sup>th</sup> Oct. **Khrt.**) African Union spokesperson Nouredine Mezni says 33 United Nations advisors will soon be coming to Khartoum and Darfur to assist in the implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement.

El-Mezni says the new plan will be governed by a protocol that will regulate the role of each party and pointed out that the United Nations will play an advisory role.

Speaking to *Akhbar Alyaum* yesterday, the African Union spokesperson further noted that cooperation between the African Union and the United Nations is not something new but is a strategic cooperation that covers a number of fields in a number of African countries.

### **UK plans to send 10,000 troops to Darfur**

(*AlIntibaha* – 9<sup>th</sup> Oct. **Khrt.**) In a surprise move, UK's Tony Blair has instructed top UK army commanders to prepare a plan to send 10,000 UK peacekeepers as part of a United Nations mission in Darfur.

Some news agencies in the UK however point out that most military commanders in the UK have their reservations over such a move.

Meanwhile in Sudan, authorities here say that UNSCR 1714 rules out the issue of deploying United Nations forces to the Darfur region.

## **GoNU**

### **Khartoum welcomes initiative by Senegalese leader**

(*AlSahafa* – 9<sup>th</sup> Oct. **Khrt.**) The government in Khartoum says it is yet to receive an official notification on the initiative by Senegalese President, Abdoulaye Wade, for a mini-summit in Khartoum to discuss the issue of Darfur but welcomes such an initiative.

An official spokesperson for Sudan's foreign ministry says the government will welcome any initiative that seeks to resolve the issue of Darfur.

### **Update on the investigations into the murder of the *el-Wifaq* editor**

(*Sudan Tribune; most major dailies* – 9<sup>th</sup> Oct. **Khrt.**) The Minister of Interior said that it is now only a matter of time before the case of the murder of the *AlWifaq* daily editor is uncovered.

The minister who was speaking on the occasion of the inauguration of the Civil Records Offices in Karrari and Umbadda said that authorities now have a clear picture of the major elements of the crime.

The minister described the security situation in Khartoum as good.

### **Committee to unify national ranks**

A prominent member of the NRF has described the committee to unify national ranks led by Suwar-el-Dahab as one of the tools to implement the policies and strategies of the National Congress Party, reports *AlSahafa*.

Ibrahim Ahmed Ibrahim who was speaking over phone from London said that the committee would have been better off channelling its efforts to addressing the humanitarian and security situations in Darfur instead of trying to polish up the image of the National Congress Party.

The *Sudan Vision* reports however that Senior Presidential Aide, Mini Minnawi, has also expressed support for efforts of the committee.

Meanwhile, *Akhbar Alyaum* reports that Suwar-el-Dahab who heads the committee was forced to cut a visit to el-Fasher due to some health problems.

The retired army general and former statesman is recovering at the intensive care unit in a specialised hospital in Khartoum after suffering a surprise chest attack.

### **Sub-committee formed to draft new law governing political parties**

(*AlSahafa* – 9<sup>th</sup> Oct. **Khrt.**) A sub-committee of the Constitution Review Commission has started to draft a new law to govern political parties.

Copies of the final draft will be presented to the political parties in the course of this week.

### **Darfur/ Darfur Peace Agreement**

#### **Presidency in secret talks with Khalil Ibrahim**

The “Central Secretariat of JEM Students” has issued a statement demanding that JEM leader, Dr. Khalil Ibrahim, step down from his position, *Rai AlShaab* has learnt.

The paper says that the JEM student supporters learnt that Dr. Khalil has been having secret talks with the Presidency of the Republic in a personal capacity following his announced position against the deployment of a United Nations force in Darfur.

The talks are said to be taking place in Tripoli. 1

#### **Darfur rebels, Sudanese army clash near Chad border**

(*Reuters* – 8<sup>th</sup> Oct. **Khrt.**) Sudanese rebels opposed to a recent peace deal in Darfur clashed with government troops near Sudan’s border with Chad, officials on both sides said on Sunday, and rebels said they had captured a Sudanese officer.

The violence sent scores of injured fighters from both sides streaming across the border for treatment, and 77 combatants were at a civilian hospital in Chad on Sunday morning, a humanitarian source in Chad’s eastern city of Abeche said.

Both sides blamed each other for initiating hostilities on Saturday in Sudan’s war-ravaged west, and rebels reported heavy fighting. There were no confirmed reports on the overall number of casualties.

"The government attacked our positions at Kari Yari dam on the Sudan-Chad border," Khalil Ibrahim, head of the rebel Justice and Equality Movement told Reuters by phone from Paris.

"We completely defeated them and captured their commander Brigadier Abdel Rahman Mohamed Abdel Rahman," he added.

Rebel commander Jar el-Naby in north Darfur told Reuters by telephone the rebels had captured around 70 vehicles and more than 100 prisoners in Saturday’s fighting.

A Sudanese army spokesman blamed the rebel group for the attack, saying: "This is a government camp and the rebels attacked the camp. We have not got complete information to be able to confirm if Brigadier AbdelRahman Mohamed Abdel Rahman was captured or not."

The SAF has also rebuffed rebel reports of having shot down a military aircraft near the battlefield and points out that the Air Force does not fly combat aircraft over Darfur, reports *AlRai AlAam*.

Meanwhile Nouredine el-Mezni, African Union spokesperson, said that the African Union is investigating the clashes that happened in el-Teina along the borders with Chad.

The African Union spokesperson pointed out that such clashes do not help in the implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement and called upon the parties to observe the N'Djamena Ceasefire Agreement.

But the *Sudan Vision* reports however that NRF spokesperson, Ahmed Husasin, has announced that the NRF is ready to negotiate peace with the government without preconditions.

He said that the NRF is fully committed to SRSB Pronk's pleas for a Month of Tranquillity during Ramadhan and welcomes the recent EU call for a no-flight zone over Darfur.

## **Other Developments**

### **Authorities destroy large quantities of expired IRC drugs**

Authorities in Nyala have destroyed large quantities of expired drugs found in the IRC stores in Nyala, reports *Rai AlShaab*.

Sources say that the US-based NGO that operates in the GBV and human rights domains in Darfur sends out false reports on deteriorating health and humanitarian situations in Darfur but stores such large quantities of drugs until past their use-by date despite the great need for such drugs in the areas it operates in.