



## UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN UNMIS

### **UNMIS Media Monitoring Report 26<sup>th</sup> October 2006** **(By Public Information Office)**

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### **United Nations**

#### **UN protests over Sudanese Government's decision to seek envoy's removal**

(*UN News* – 25<sup>th</sup> Oct. UN) The United Nations has protested to the Sudanese Government over its decision to ask for the removal of Secretary-General Kofi Annan's Special Representative in the country Jan Pronk, a UN spokesman said today.

"We obviously deeply regret the Sudanese Government's decision to ask for his removal but as I've said the Secretary-General continues to have full confidence in Mr. Pronk," spokesman Stephane Dujarric told the daily news briefing in New York, where Mr. Annan will meet with Mr. Pronk on Thursday.

"On Monday, the assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Hédi Annabi met with the Sudanese Permanent Representative Ambassador [Abdalmahmood] Mohamad to protest the decision by the Sudanese Government."

Asked whether there were any plans to appoint a new special representative for Sudan, Mr. Dujarric replied: "Not at all. Mr. Pronk is and remains the Secretary-General's Special Representative in Sudan with the full backing of the Secretary-General."

"He's back here for consultations... and of course we continue while this issue is ongoing with our work full steam ahead in Sudan both in the South and in Darfur in assisting the African Union mission."

Sudan's envoy, Ambassador Abdelmahmood, stated yesterday that the Sudan government's request for New York to terminate Mr. Pronk's duties as SRSG for Sudan is on the basis of the person of the SRSG and not the role the United Nations in Sudan, reports *Akhbar Alyaum* daily.

Pronk, says the Sudanese envoy, has transgressed not only "all the red lines" but even his mandate as SRSG and has therefore become "part of the problem" instead of part of a solution to the problems.

Speaking to the BBC yesterday [*according to Akhbar Alyaum*], the ambassador rebuffed claims that the Sudan government, by requesting the termination, is trying to cover the situation in Darfur. He pointed out that the Sudan government's role in trying to resolve the problems of Darfur is well known to all.

Of the United Nations reaction to the request for termination, the Sudanese envoy to the United Nations said that the United Nations' reaction was calm and that it understood the justification the government gave for the decision and has indeed started to consider appointing a replacement.

He pointed out that the situation in Darfur and monitoring of the peace process in Sudan require the presence of a credible and impartial SRSG who does not interfere in the internal affairs of a member state of the United Nations.

## **Further reactions from the GoNU (MoFA, Ministry of Interior and SLM-Minnawi)**

*A spokesman for Sudan's foreign ministry* says there will be no reviewing of the government decision to expel SRSG Pronk, reports *AlSudani*.

Ambassador Ali el-Sadiq said in press statements yesterday that the decision was taken because Mr. Pronk's activities contradict his mandated duties.

The spokesperson said that the state in Sudan is not concerned with the decisions of the United Nations [*in this regard*] and added that the decision to expel the SRSG is the decision of the [*sovereign*] state.

On the other hand, the same paper reports that a statement issued from the Office of the Senior Presidential Aide to the President of the Republic and head of the SLM, Mini Minnawi, described the decision to expel Mr. Pronk as unwise because the government is now at cross-roads in its relations with the United Nations.

The statement said the decision would further escalate the situation which is already at a crisis point.

It goes on to point out that the SLM-MM does have its reservations towards Mr. Pronk's activities vis-à-vis the Darfur Peace Agreement but does not think this is enough justification for taking such a step and without consultations with the partners in the GoNU.

*The Minister of Interior* has formerly accused SRSG Jan Pronk of hypocrisy and of using Darfur to trade in his own interest and in the interest of other parties on whose behalf he operates, reports *Akhbar Alyaum*.

The minister who was addressing the press in Nyala yesterday on new security measures for the region [*more on that on the section on Darfur below*] goes on to say that by his recent statements, SRSG Pronk wronged the United Nations before the Sudan that is a member state that regularly contributes to the United Nations and the pay of its staff including Mr. Pronk.

He reiterated the line that Mr. Pronk's appointment came as a result of a specific peace agreement but the SRSG has transgressed his mandate thus giving the Sudan government no alternative but to terminate his duties in the country. He said that the Sudan government now only awaits the United Nations' reactions to the expulsion.

The minister further pointed out that the government was ready to expel any other agency or organisation that transgresses its limits.

Commenting on Mr. Pronk's web log article in which he said the government has violated the Darfur Peace Agreement by giving the regular forces free rein in the region, the minister pointed out that Mr. Pronk signed the said agreement as a witness and among the most important provisions of the agreement is that calling for work to consolidate the agreement for a successful implementation and that necessary steps be taken against those who obstruct implementation. But, he adds, authorities have noted SRSG Pronk's secret contacts and his statements that obstruct implementation of the agreement. He said SRSG Pronk carries out a number of activities with the hallmarks of hypocrisy.

## **The Arab League on SRSG's termination request**

Informed sources within the Arab League say league Secretary-General Amru Musa was recently in telephone contact with President Bashir and Secretary-General Annan in a bid to find defuse possible tensions over Sudan's request to terminate the duties of SRSG Pronk, reports *Akhbar Alyaum*.

The sources say the talks were mainly of a consultative nature to find means out of the crisis.

## **Expulsion of UN envoy from Sudan unacceptable - EU**

(AP – 25<sup>th</sup> Oct. **Brussels**) The European Union on Wednesday called Sudan's expulsion of a chief U.N. envoy unacceptable, and said the U.N. had a vital role to play in resolving the Darfur crisis.

"The E.U. emphasizes the vital role of the U.N. in support of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and the promotion of peace and stability in the whole of Sudan," said Finland, which holds the E.U. presidency, according to a statement.

"The E.U. urges the Sudanese government to lend its full cooperation to the U.N.," it said. Western powers have been trying to get Sudan to allow a U.N. force of 20,000 troops to take over peacekeeping in Darfur from a 7,000-member African Union force.

## **Rice, Annan agree on need to return a UN envoy to Sudan**

(AFP – 25<sup>th</sup> Oct. **Washington**) US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and UN Secretary General Kofi Annan agreed on the need to send a special UN envoy back to Sudan after the world body's representative to Khartoum was expelled, US officials said.

But Washington did not suggest demanding that the Sudanese government accept the return of the ousted diplomat, Jan Pronk of the Netherlands, said State Department spokesman Sean McCormack.

"Whether or not to send Mr Pronk himself back or send somebody else in that post is up to Mr Annan," he said.

McCormack said Washington was growing increasingly worried about ongoing violence against civilians in the vast Darfur region.

"It is not getting any better and we're very concerned that it could well be getting worse," he said.

The United States has called on Sudan's partners in the Arab League to step up pressure on Khartoum to accept the UN force, notably by reassuring Sudanese leaders that the peacekeepers would not be tasked with arresting officials held responsible for crimes against humanity in Darfur.

## **Popular Congress and Umma parties critical of Pronk's expulsion**

The Popular Congress Party and the National Umma Party have both issued statements criticising the government for its decision to expel Mr. Pronk.

For more details, please see the separate attachment with a translation of the statements both sourced from the *Akhbar Alyaum* daily.

### **UN resumes repatriation of Sudanese refugees in Uganda**

(*Xinhua* – 25<sup>th</sup> Oct. **Kampala**) The UN refugee agency has resumed repatriation of Sudanese refugees from Uganda after temporary suspension following the killing of 29 civilians in southern Sudan by armed attackers, a UN officer said here on Wednesday.

Roberta Russo, the external relations officer at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) office in Uganda, confirmed to Xinhua that the repatriation exercise resumed on Tuesday.

Plans to return 180 refugees to southern Sudan in a convoy of vehicles were abandoned on Friday after gunmen killed at least 29 civilians in several ambushes on the roads outside of southern Sudanese capital of Juba last Wednesday.

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

#### **Defence minister says UNSCR 1706 disregard government and the African Union**

Defence Minister, Maj. Gen. Abdelrahim Mohamed Hussein renewed the government rejection over the UN Security Council Resolution No. 1706 regarding the deployment of international forces in Darfur, reports *AlSudani*..

“The resolution deprives the government and the African Union their own right and gives it to the international forces”, He added.

He also considers the powers the resolution gives to the international forces as an insult to Sudan for it deprives the country its right to protect civilians and dispossess the police and judiciary of their authorities.

He added that Resolution 1706 violates the CPA.

He denied reports of disagreement in the government over the international forces in Darfur and rejected all accusations against the Sudanese Armed Forces and assured that people of Darfur trust the SAF.

#### **UN official requests Darfur intervention without govt consent**

(*Info Suisse* – 25<sup>th</sup> Oct. **Geneva**) The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, Switzerland’s Jean Ziegler, has demanded the organisation intervene in western Sudan’s Darfur without Khartoum approval.

Ziegler, presenting his annual report in New York, said that the war-torn region represented the worst current humanitarian crisis.

The Geneva sociologist added that the UN had the right to intervene to help local populations without the authorisation of the Sudanese government. Ziegler, who has yet to travel to Darfur, said this was only way of setting up proper and secure humanitarian corridors.

Ziegler said Sudan's president, Omar al-Bashir was doing the same to hinder aid arriving in Darfur. Eight UN humanitarian workers were even killed in the region this summer.

Ziegler, whose mandate will be reviewed by the UN's Human Rights Council next June, also produced reports this year on the food situation in India and Guatemala. He hopes to get to Sudan in 2007 after his visits were refused twice.

### **US's Rice confers with UN's Annan as Darfur deteriorates**

(AP – 25<sup>th</sup> Oct. **Washington**) The Bush administration declared Wednesday the war-torn Darfur region of Sudan is in a dangerous downward spiral.

There was no indication, however, that President Omar el-Bashir was relenting in his refusal to accept a U.N. peacekeeping force despite reassurances the peacekeepers would not go after government leaders.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice conferred by telephone with U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan. Afterward, Rice's spokesman, Sean McCormack, said, "We are very concerned about the situation there. It is not getting any better. We are concerned that it could well be getting worse."

Rice and Annan discussed the forced expulsion of Jan Pronk, Annan's top aide in Sudan, and the importance of having the post filled quickly, either with Pronk or another U.N. diplomat, McCormack said. Rice called the ouster "extremely unfortunate," McCormack said.

Rice and Stephen Hadley, the U.S. national security adviser, met at the White House late Tuesday with Andrew Natsios, Rice's envoy to Sudan, who also met in Cairo, Egypt, with Arab League diplomats.

Even while el-Bashir refuses to admit a U.N. peacekeeping force to take over from undermanned African Union peacekeepers, the United States is soliciting other countries for support in Darfur, particularly Sudan's neighbours and Arab governments.

But el-Bashir is adamantly against what he calls "foreign intervention."

"We have promised before God not to let Darfurians' suffering be a pretext for foreign intervention or a subject for hostile media," el-Bashir was quoted as saying Tuesday.

The Sudanese leader and other top officials have said they are concerned that the U.N. force could be used to track down and arrest leaders of the Sudanese government, McCormack said.

"We have said that this is not the mandate of this U.N., force," he said, and the United States has asked Arab governments to reassure them on that score.

"We ask them to do that in every way that they possibly can," McCormack said.

### **GoNU**

### **Interior Minister tours Darfur and uncovers an unprecedented security measures**

*Akhbar Alyaum* says that the Minister of the Interior told the press in Nyala yesterday that the government will be launching an unprecedented security plan for the Darfurs which will see new changes to the police force and more focus on the country's western borders.

He said this is also part of a government plan to regulate the possession of arms and ammunition and pointed out that the police will act strongly without favour to enforce the law and against those who seek to hamper implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement.

On disarming militias, the minister pointed out that disarmament is a process that has a beginning but has no end. He described it as a regional phenomenon that requires concerted efforts "from the Red Sea to the Atlantic". He said that the police has a constitutional obligation that requires it to consolidate its presence along those borders and deploy widely in order to realise those goals.

### **Strong possibility for renewed talks on the Darfur Peace Agreement under Eritrean Sponsorship**

Quoting sources, *AlSudani* reports that there is a strong possibility for renewed talks on joining the non-signatory groups to the DPA under the Eritrean sponsorship.

The SLM non-signatory factions welcomed holding talks with the government to solve problems and reach a comprehensive peace. It also called for a UN, EU and international organizations representation in the talks.

### **GoSS/ Southern Sudan**

#### **South Sudan orders Uganda to evacuate rebel assembly point**

(*Daily Monitor* – 25<sup>th</sup> Oct. **Kampala**) The South Sudan army, the SPLA , has ordered the Ugandan army UPDF to vacate areas surrounding Owiny-ki-Bul, one of two designated assembly points.

The move, that has pleased the Lords Resistance Army (LRA) has drawn protest from the Uganda government.

According to Ugandan Daily Monitor, chief mediator Riek Machar presented a harmonised paper to the two parties at the Juba talks, late Tuesday, flatly rejecting the LRA's request for permission to travel to Ri-Kwangba but also ordered the UPDF to quit all areas close to Owiny-ki-Bul.

Oddly, many of the areas in question are UPDF military bases in South Sudan.

A source said Dr. Machar asked the UPDF to withdraw from Aruu, Palotaka and Magwi areas, where the Uganda army is heavily deployed in order to give the Lord's Resistance Army confidence to return to Owiny-ki-Bul.

"The paper that was given to us last night [Tuesday], looks somewhat favourable and we hope our friends in government also find it favourable," said Godfrey Ayo, the rebels' chief publicist. A source said Kampala was incensed by the Machar document and raised objections. The government delegation preferred not to debate the matter at the meeting and said the issue of UPDF's deployment in South Sudan was not part of the negotiators' mandate.

Capt. Paddy Ankunda, the delegation's publicist, told Daily Monitor shortly after the meeting that, "Our view is that this [withdrawal of troops] should not be part of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement because the UPDF is in a bigger Sudan under a protocol with the Khartoum government."

But while Machar threw out the LRA's request to cross River Nile and move to Western Equatoria, their preferred area of assembly, the rebel's second in command Vincent Otti, announced yesterday that his fighters would not assemble at Owiny-ki-Bul.

Unconfirmed reports from South Sudan indicated that the security situation along the major highways to Juba has deteriorated with news trickling in of a suspected attack on civilians.

## **Darfur**

### **Chad blames Sudan for new rebel assault**

(AFP – 25<sup>th</sup> Oct. N'Djamena) Chad has accused Sudan of supporting Chadian rebels who have resumed military operations in the east of the country, citing as proof the firing of a ground-to-air missile at a French military plane.

"These rebels entered Chad from Sudan and they could only have procured this type of military equipment within the sight of and with the knowledge of the Sudanese authorities. Sudan cannot deny it," Chadian Foreign Minister Ahmat Allami said.

"Sudan is behind the rebels. This (missile) firing constitutes an unfriendly gesture against Chad and France, and which we firmly condemn," he said.

"There is no mystery. This equipment was delivered under the benevolent gaze of the Sudanese authorities or by Sudan itself."

Chadian rebels from the recently formed Union of Forces for Democracy and Development (UFDD) on Monday captured the town of Am Timan and briefly seized the town of Goz Beida near the Sudanese border on Sunday.

The rebels have also admitted firing a ground-to-air missile at a French reconnaissance plane, which was not hit.

The attack "is a blow against the normalisation between our two countries", Allami said. "We will summon the Sudanese ambassador to Chad to seek an explanation."

"We will support dialogue with Sudan to overcome the problems," he said. "In our accords there exist mechanisms for dialogue such as the political committee, which we will call to a meeting."

Chad and Sudan normalised relations on August 8, agreeing to reopen their common border and respective embassies after several months of tensions.

Chad has accused Sudan of arming rebels who tried to overthrow President Idriss Deby while Khartoum has repeatedly alleged that N'Djamena backed Darfur rebel groups fighting the Sudanese government.



The latest attacks represent a resurgence in violence between rebels hostile to French-backed Deby and the army after a period of relative calm attributed to the rainy season in the central African nation.

The rebels are thought to be within several hours of the capital, N'Djamena, where heavily armed troops were being deployed around public buildings and along main roads.

The army said on Tuesday it was also sending tanks and helicopters to Am Timan to prevent a repeat attack.

Rebel leader General Mahamat Nouri said on Tuesday that his forces had no intention of seizing control of towns and insisted they would not attack N'Djamena.

"What interests us is not taking towns, it is destroying enemy forces," he said.

Nouri initially denied any involvement in the attack on the French plane but then admitted it had been targeted because his men mistakenly thought it was attacking them.

"The guys thought the plane had fired, so they fired," he said.