

UNITED NATIONS



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**Special Media Monitoring Report on the activities of the Joint Technical
Assessment Missions and related issues**

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(By UNMIS Public Information Office)

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Highlights:

Sudan proposes Sudanese troops to Darfur with international monitoring role

(The local press, AP – 21st June. Khartoum) President Bashir held a joint press conference yesterday with the visiting President Mbeki of the Republic of South Africa (*please see excerpts of the press conference in the separate attachment*).

Despite President Bashir's vows not to allow a deployment of United Nations troops to Darfur as long as he is in power, a senior African official said that in private the Sudanese government was taking a softer line, indicating it could accept a U.N. force which does not derive its mandate from Chapter 7 of the U.N. Charter, which authorizes the use of force.

The United Nations cites Chapter 7 for aspects of nearly all peacekeeping mandates for protecting civilians or self-defence.

Meanwhile Dr. Ghazi Salahuldeen, an Advisor to President Bashir, said that the Sudan has tabled a proposal before the Security Council in the last few days that Sudanese troops drawn from the ranks of the SAF and the SPLA be deployed to Darfur to shoulder the peacekeeping role there instead of international forces while the United Nations could be granted a monitoring role that could be agreed upon in order to guarantee implementation of the peace agreement.

Salahuldeen said that the government could provide funding for the Sudanese forces while the United Nations use the money it had earmarked for the Darfur mission to assist with the humanitarian situation in Darfur.

A leading government opponent, Hassan Turabi, has said the government opposes the United Nations in Darfur because the world body has vowed to prosecute all those involved in war crimes.

"They are afraid of the U.N.'s efficiency. The government fears that too many of its allies will end up in an international criminal court," said Turabi, who is believed to be influential with one of the Darfur rebel groups.

The U.N. team in Sudan is led by the world body's top peacekeeping official, Undersecretary-General Jean-Marie Guehenno, who is scheduled to give a press conference at the end of his visit on Thursday.

Jan Pronk, the top U.N. envoy in Sudan, said in a statement Wednesday that Guehenno and the Security Council delegation had stressed that "the United Nations will not intervene in the country," nor will it deploy troops, without the consent of the Sudanese government.

SLM-Minnawi insists on need to deploy United Nations forces to Darfur

(*AlAyaam* – 21st June. **Khartoum**) The SLM-Minnawi advance delegation to Khartoum insists that a United Nations force is needed in Darfur.

The SLM delegation criticised the President of the Republic over his speech the day before yesterday rejecting a deployment of international forces to Darfur.

The delegation's spokesperson pointed out that the government has not toured around to see the people in the Darfur region in order to say so.

A member of the delegation responsible for public information says their spokesperson survived an assassination attempt yesterday as they were driving in Omdurman as some driver tried to crash into the vehicle carrying the spokesperson.

The spokesperson of the SLM-Minnawi accused Sudanese security of planning the foiled assassination attempt and said that this shows that the government does not care for their security.

The spokesperson said that they are capable of protecting themselves and shall not expose Minnawi's delegation to danger.

He also said that his delegation turned down an offer to meet with Dr. Majzoub el-Khalifa who led the government delegation to the Abuja talks and will only do so if government meets the conditions they set.

Sudan rebel representative says U.N. troops are best force to restore peace in Darfur

(*AP* – 21st June. **The Hague**) U.N. troops are the best equipped to restore and maintain peace in Darfur, a rebel representative said Wednesday at the start of a two-day conference on rebuilding the shattered Sudanese region.

"As far as security is concerned, I think they are the most capable forces," Mohammed Eltijani Eltayeb, of the Sudan Liberation Movement, told The Associated Press.

"U.N. forces are already in Sudan everywhere," he added, during a break in talks on reconstruction efforts in Darfur being hosted by the Dutch government in The Hague. "What is the reason for not having them in Darfur?"

His comments underscored marked differences that still exist between both sides, which are attempting to implement a peace plan signed May 5 in Abuja, Nigeria.

The Sudan Liberation Movement and the government are taking part in the conference along with representatives from international groups including the World Bank, African Development Bank and United Nations.

Sudanese Finance Secretary Lhual Deng said both sides need to work toward cementing the peace.

"Our people in Darfur are expecting a lot and we don't need to disappoint them," he said. "We on the government side ... are determined to see to it that we do not disappoint them."

Dutch Minister for Development Cooperation Agnes van Ardenne agreed, saying people forced to flee the fighting deserve peace and stability.

"These women and children have suffered too much and too long," she said.

US accuses Sudan of delaying international peace force

(*ST* – 20th June. **Entebbe**) A top United States diplomat riposted to Sudan refusal of UN force to Darfur by accusing Khartoum of using unhelpful tactics to delay the deployment of peacekeepers in the western region of Darfur, ravaged by more than three years of fighting.

A day after Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir voiced strong opposition to the deployment of Western troops in the region, US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Jendayi Frazer said Khartoum was using "tactics of delay."

"You must recall that before the African Union came in, they resisted African forces. Now they say they want only the African forces," she told reporters in Uganda.

"This is a pattern that is not helpful either to the protection of their own citizens or the reputation of the government of national unity," Frazer added.

The international community has agreed to transform the hapless and cash-strapped African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS) into a United Nations force to help protect civilians, who have been targeted by both government-backed militia and the rebel groups.

The Sudan government itself has resisted the transformation, with Bashir implying that the West wants to use the force to re-colonize Africa's largest country, which has been wracked by near-constant conflict since it won independence from Britain in 1956.

"I swear that there will not be any international military intervention in Darfur as long as I am in power," Bashir was quoted as telling a meeting of his ruling National Congress late Monday.

"Sudan, which was the first country south of the Sahara to gain independence, cannot now be the first country to be re-colonised," he said.

Since fighting broke out in February 2003, the combined effect of fighting and a dire humanitarian crisis has left up to 300,000 people dead and more than two million displaced.

Despite the signing of accords aimed at stabilizing the region, the size of Texas, violence still rages, complicating humanitarian operations and leaving a large majority of displaced civilians to fend for themselves.

Sudan needs UN force despite Bashir objection: US

(*AFP* – 20th June. **Washington**) The United States on Tuesday minimized Sudanese President Omar al-Bechir's repeated opposition to deployment of Western forces in the war-ravaged western province of Darfur.

"We need to not take no for an answer on any particular issue, on any particular day, and continue to work all aspects of the problem, energetically and consistently to make sure that we can implement an effective international response to a crisis that has gone on for far too long," State Department spokesman Adam Ereli said.

"Our diplomacy is not a function of what, you know, one day's statement or another day's statement. Our diplomacy is a function of the reality on the ground, the needs of the people of Darfur, the interests of the international community and what we believe -- we and our allies believe -- is right and necessary."

"And we think that the government of Sudan will come to understand that as well," he told reporters.

Ereli said the United States did not wish to bring international pressure to bear on Sudan.

"That is not our preferred option.

"Our preferred option, and the one that the United States, NATO, the EU, the AU, the UN, have all endorsed, is an effort, in coordination between the AU and the UN, with the support of NATO, to help bring effective security and stability to Darfur in support of and in the context of a broader political settlement," he said.