



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN
UNMIS
UNMIS Media Monitoring Report, 3rd September 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, the transition debate**
 - Security Council seeks TCCs for Darfur mission
 - President Bashir addresses Muslim scholars
 - Other reactions to UNSCR 1706
- **CPA**
 - South Kordofan religious scholars call for expulsion of United Nations force
 - The Abyei issue
- **GoNU**
 - SPLM criticises use of force against protestors
- **Southern Sudan**
 - Ugandan rebels leave bush despite ICC threat
 - Ethiopia to open consulate in Juba
 - Three people killed in Torit in SPLA, EDF clashes
- **Darfur/DPA**
 - Sudan releases Slovene envoy jailed for espionage
 - Sudan launches major offensive against Darfur rebels
 - Political forces in South Darfur calls for repeal of the National Security Laws
- **Other developments:**
 - Authorities arrest the head of a foreign organization for taking snaps of military areas in Darfur
- **Commentaries:**
 - Before the deadline
 - AlSudani in the weekend
 - Politics and not swordsmanship
 - More dialogue on resolution 1706

HIGHLIGHTS:

United Nations, the transition debate

Security Council seeks TCCs for Darfur mission

Following the Security Council resolution 1706, the Security Council has started contacts with potential Troop Contributing Countries to secure the required number of peacekeepers for Darfur, *AlRai AlAam* reports.

Quoting Inter-press Service, the paper goes on to say that Norway's assistant defence minister said his country has pledged 170 Special Forces that will help the government, the rebel groups and, especially, the IDPs to realise peace.

The paper adds that the Norwegian assistant minister said Sudan's fear of a United Nations force was not in place and referred to the examples of peacekeeping forces in Burundi and the DRC. He also said the first batch of United Nations troops for Darfur may not arrive until January 2007 instead of early October this year. African troops will form the mainstay of this Darfur force but the west has to show some solidarity with the Africans by contributing through their expertise, he adds.

President Bashir addresses Muslim scholars

Most major newspapers have the story on President Bashir's speech before the 2nd Convention of Scholars. *Akhbar Alyaum* daily issues the full text of the President of the Republic's address which is his first public address since UNSCR 1706.

The president reiterated his rejection to the deployment of a United Nations force for Darfur and said that this push for a United Nations peacekeeping role for Darfur is but part of a comprehensive plan designed to bring Sudan under some guardianship and is only a way to re-colonise the country. He called it "old-time colonialism in new clothes".

He said that the government decision to reject a United Nations force deployment came after careful deliberation. He called upon the clerics to play an active role towards resolving the issue of Darfur.

The president also said that the Sudan wants to see balanced international relations where respect is given to the others without a clash of cultures and with respect for religion.

Vic-President Ali Osman Taha vowed the regime would maintain its opposition to a UN peacekeeping force for Darfur and hailed Hezbollah as a model of resistance, official media said Friday.

"We have options and plans for confronting the international intervention," state news agency SUNA quoted Taha as telling a rally in the North Kordofan State capital of El-Obeid late Thursday.

"We are prepared for all possibilities," the vice president said, adding that "the battle with the international community requires patience and strict precautions."

North Darfur governor Osman Yusuf Kibir said the Security Council resolution "lacks legitimacy and credibility."

State television quoted presidential adviser Majzoub al-Khalifa Ahmed as saying the resolution was "entirely unacceptable" and warning that it could "incite sedition".

Other reactions to UNSCR 1706

The Speaker of the National Assembly is quoted in *Rai AlShaab* as disclosing that the National Assembly has called upon all its members to coordinate with the States' Assembly to brief the states on the decision by parliament rejecting the deployment of international forces to Darfur and stressing the obligation to respect that decision and regard it as a general policy of the state.

Justice Minister, Mohamed Ahmed el-Mardi is reported by the *Sudan Vision* as saying that the UNSC resolution has its defects but can not be implemented without the consent of the Sudanese government.

The paper says that the minister's statement was probably in response to earlier statements by a US Administration official who said in the wake of the adoption of the resolution that the consent of the Sudan government was unnecessary for the deployment to take place.

On what legal steps the Sudan government would take on the issue, the minister is reported to have said that the Sudan has never been party to the deliberations leading to the decision.

The same paper goes on to say that the *Chairman of the Sudan Bar Association*, Fathi Khalil, has called on the government to go ahead and expel the African Union forces from Darfur and replace them with a Sudanese police force.

He described the UNSC resolution as stillborn.

Meanwhile *AlSudani* reports that *demonstrations took place yesterday in el-Fasher* where protestors against the resolution chanted anti-United Nations slogans and burnt the US and UK flags.

Donning combat fatigues and a headband, the *Wali* of North Darfur addressed the protestors and reiterated the re-colonisation rhetoric. He promised that the resolution will not be implemented in Darfur.

The *Wali* also said his government will start opening training camps for citizens in all parts of the state.

The Speaker of the regional legislature said that their message is that the international community should know that Darfur is different from Palestine, Lebanon and Iraq.

People in Kulbus also took to the streets protesting the resolution.

Demonstrators in both towns presented copies of their memorandum of protest to the United Nations offices in their respective areas.

JEM leader, Khalil Ibrahim, [according to *AlRai AlAam* and *AlIntibaha*] has expressed strong rejection to UNSCR 1706 and has called on the government to expedite solutions to the problem of Darfur because a delay will only mean "our acceptance for the deployment of a United Nations force to protect our people in Darfur".

He said that UNSCR 1706 does guarantee security for the people of Darfur but this is at the expense of state sovereignty and independence. He also echoed the re-colonization rhetoric and has called on the government to initiate peace negotiations with the NRF based on the DoP signed in Abuja.

He said that the Sudan was not in need of an international force or even the African Union forces and levelled the blame on the government that allowed the situation to develop to this stage.

The JEM leader said that the US and the UK have been trying to come into Darfur but should not be given an excuse to come in.

Khalil said he was not surprised that the government and the NRF share a common objective of rejecting a deployment of United Nations troops to Darfur and added that the situation requires all groups to cooperate and adopt a unified position against the deployment of United Nations forces to Darfur with parallel efforts for a radical solution to the problems of Darfur.

He said the JEM and the NRF are ready to reach a solution with the government and warned that what demands the government rejects to give them now, the international troops will take by force.

Khalil criticised the Minnawi faction of the SPLM for their support for a deployment of United Nations troops to Darfur.

He said that the country will disintegrate if the government is ousted but added that the JEM will have no other option but to oust the government by force if their demands for an autonomous region within the context of a united Sudan and for a just participation in power and wealth are not met.

Of the United Nations, Dr. Khalil said [*according to AlIntibaha*] that they had called for a United Nations intervention in 2003 when hundreds were being killed but the United Nations refused. Now, he adds, they [*the holdout groups*] reject a United Nations intervention because all the excuses given by the United Nations for such an intervention are not convincing*.

* [*The AFP however carries a different story sourced through the Sudan Tribune website in which JEM spokesman Ahmed Hussein Adam reportedly told the AFP over phone from London that the JEM supports the UNSCR 1706 and will cooperate with the international community to implement the resolution*].

Dr. Hassan Turabi of the opposition Popular Congress Party says UNSCR 1706 could have been avoided if only the government had understood and had dealt with the issue in a mature manner and with an open mind.

Turabi told *AlIntibaha* that the government could have engaged the United Nations in dialogue over the number of origin of such a United Nations force and their mandate.

He recalled that the AMIS itself came through a resolution from the Security Council.

Dr. Turabi however did express optimism that a solution could be found somehow.

From the Mile Refugee Camp in eastern Chad, the *AP* reports that US Senator Barack Obama who was on a tour of the camp last Saturday was crowded by *thousands of refugees* to deliver a single message: Bring in the United Nations.

This, the refugees say, is their only hope to enable them go back home.

After his 90-minute visit to the camp, about 750 kilometers (466 miles) east of the Chadian capital, N'djamena, Obama said the United States should take a more active role in pushing Sudan to accept a U.N. peacekeeping force.

GoSS Vice-President Riek Machar says the GoSS welcomes the deployment of United Nations forces in Darfur, reports the *Sudan Tribune* on its website.

He pointed out that United Nations forces are currently deployed to 13 states in the country but have not interfered in the decision-making process in the region.

He called on the federal government to handle the issue with wisdom and accused the government of causing foreign intervention.

CPA

South Kordofan religious scholars call for expulsion of United Nations force

The Kordofan Chapter of the Sudan Council of Scholars issued a statement yesterday calling upon President Bashir to order a withdrawal of United Nations troops from the Nuba Mountains area, *AlAdhwaa* reports.

The council said these troops are not peacekeepers but “keepers of the war” that only stood by watching passively throughout the bloody events the Nuba Mountains area has witnessed since the CPA.

The statement draws a comparison between the United Nations force currently on the ground there and the JMC that they said did a lot in the region despite its limited resources.

The Abyei issue

AlAyaam reports that the ceasefire political monitoring committee has called for the arrest and trial of the perpetrators of the attack on returnees in the Abyei area that led to 23 deaths.

The committee has also referred the issue of allowing military observers access to the north of Abyei to the Presidency.

During a meeting held yesterday at the offices of the SPLM in Amarat, the Parties to the CPA also agreed that discussions on the issue of Abyei be granted priority in the meeting of the committee next Saturday.

GoNU

SPLM criticises use of force against protestors

AlAyaam has it that the SPLM has criticised the use of force to disperse the crowd protesting over an increase in price of combustibles and other things last week.

In a press statement yesterday, Deng Alor expressed regret that such a thing could happen and pointed out that it was only a peaceful demonstration and there was no reason to bar the demonstrators because it was a democratic expression.

But Speaker Ahmed el-Tahir of the National Assembly said that the trial of some of the participants arrested during the procession showed that the demonstration was illegal and the authorities therefore were right in blocking them.

Southern Sudan

Ugandan rebels leave bush despite ICC threat

(*AFP/ST* – 2nd Sep. **Gulu**) Lord's Resistance Army rebels poured out of jungle hideouts in northern Uganda on Saturday, waving and smiling at locals as they trekked toward neutral camps under a less than week-old truce.

Aid workers said groups of up to 100 rebels had been seen walking to locations from where they have been promised safe passage to two camps in south Sudan, while peace talks continue seeking to end the brutal, nearly 20-year war.

The LRA fighters are to remain there for the duration of the peace talks being held in Juba, the capital of southern Sudan, under the mediation of that region's autonomous government.

Since the truce came into force, the LRA has complained of numerous government violations, including requiring their forces, estimated to number between 500 and 5,000, to take specific paths to get to the two camps.

On Saturday, Museveni renewed the amnesty offer but said he would not ask ICC prosecutors to drop the charges unless a comprehensive settlement is reached, suggesting they are an incentive to the peace talks.

"The indictment should remain until Kony agrees to get out of his criminal activities," he told reporters.

"Once Kony does that, we should dialogue with the ICC to inform them that we have an alternative solution to this problem and we would like them to leave these indictments," Museveni said.

Ethiopia to open consulate in Juba

The Ethiopian government has followed the example of some countries neighbouring Sudan and intends to open a consulate in Juba in order to consolidate bilateral relations between them and Juba, *AlAdhwa* reports.

Ethiopia's ambassador met V-P Salva Kiir in Khartoum to declare those intentions.

Three people killed in Torit in SPLA, EDF clashes

(*Khartoum Monitor* 3rd Sep. **Khrt**) 1 SPLA and 2 Equatoria Defence Forces combatants were killed in Torit on Thursday in clashes between the SPLA and the Equatoria Defence Forces leaving behind 1 SPLA and 2 EDF.

Speaking to Khartoum Monitor, the state Director on Information, Clement Otto, said the fighting broke out when the Eastern Equatoria state Minister of Finance, Paul Loddiong, and EDF member was arrested on August 26th by Governor Aloysio Emor Ojetuk.

Darfur/DPA

Sudan releases Slovene envoy jailed for espionage

(*Sudan Tribune* – 2nd Sep. **Khrt.**) Sudanese president Omer al-Bashir has ordered the release of the Slovene presidential envoy, state-run SUNA reports.

The envoy was sentenced to two years in jail for spying, publishing false reports, and entering the country illegally and the Slovene president dispatched a special envoy to Khartoum two weeks ago to plead for the release of jailed Tomo Kriznar.

Sudan launches major offensive against Darfur rebels

The Sudanese government has launched a major offensive against rebels in war-torn Darfur in recent days, human rights activists and African Union officials said Friday, as quoted by the *Sudan Tribune* website.

The fighting, which according to Human Rights Watch has involved government aircraft bombing villages, began as a senior U.S. envoy was in Khartoum to press the government to accept the deployment of U.N. peacekeepers in the western region.

An African Union official in Khartoum, Sam Ibok, said that more than 20 civilians have been killed and more than 1,000 have been displaced since major clashes started early this week according to reports from the affected areas.

International observers in north Darfur reported that civilians attempting to flee the attacks in Kulkul were turned back by Sudanese government troops, according to Human Rights Watch.

Political forces in South Darfur calls for repeal of the National Security Laws

Rai AlShaab reports that political forces in South Darfur including Umma National Party, National Congress Party, and Communist Party have called for a repeal of the National Security Laws and all laws that restrict freedom and to put an end to the militarization of the State.

In a statement issued yesterday, the political forces warned of a humanitarian and health crises that may occur in Darfur due to the situation which is worsening dramatically.

The Political Parties have blamed Rai AlShab

Other developments:

Authorities arrest the head of a foreign organization for taking snaps of military areas in Darfur

AlSudani reports that security authorities in South Darfur State have arrested the head of Church Aid, an official in a foreign organization and two other men while they were taking photographs of the location of the 16th military division in Burram region.

An official source said that four cameras have been confiscated from the suspects.

Commentaries:

Before the deadline

Zuhair el-Sarag of *AlSudani* chose the above as his title for today's column in which he refers to the story on government opposition towards the adoption of the Security Council Resolution No. 1706.

He says there is no wisdom for the NCP to react against the resolution and totally reject and maybe later discover that the decision was a mistake as has been the case in the past.

He cites examples of relations between Sudan and Egypt which rapidly changed to the worst and Sudan lost the Halayeb Triangle at a time the National Congress Party was the dominant force in the country.

***AlSudani* in the weekend**

AlSudani's lead headlines on Saturday read "*River Nile and Northern states threatened by the Nile*" and bbbbreproduces, for the benefit of the reader, the Arabic version of UNSC Resolution 1706.

In its editorial of Saturday 2nd September, *AlSudani* daily notes the SPLM initiative to use its relations with the international community and with the holdout groups to the DPA to avert a confrontation between the Sudan and the international community.

The paper praises the SPLM initiative but points out that it seems government is planning to expel the AMIS in the wake of the UNSC resolution.

The paper wonders whether the SPLM initiative will be taken into consideration or whether the government will choose to take the other direction and expel the AMIS.

Politics and not swordsmanship

In his column in the Saturday edition of *AlSudani*, Zuhair el-Sirraj writes under the heading *Politics and not horsemanship*.

He says the intention in his article is not to try to convince the government to accept the Security Council resolution but is a plea to government to look at the resolution as a political decision that is an outcome of lengthy discussions of a political body that is the Security Council which is a body Sudan recognises. He pointed out that Sudan had indeed filed a number of protests before the Security Council and it had once assumed the presidency of the Council for a period of one month (during former President Nimeiri's tenure).

He said that the government should not look at the resolution as if a person or group of persons had challenged the government to a duel which it was obliged to accept or branded as coward.

He says government's rejection based on its view that the decision is a challenge that has to be met on the field will only increase the suffering of the people.

Government, he adds, should regard it as a political decision and should it want to oppose the decision, should do so in that light and not through the measures it has currently taken of beating the war drums and preparing for a duel.

More dialogue on resolution 1706

Nour-el-deen Medeni of *AlSudani* also goes the same direction and calls for more dialogue on resolution 1706.

He points out that government he does not request government to accept the resolution and adds that he values the rejection by the President of the Republic and the backing he received from his party to that rejection. But, he adds, there are some components of the GoNU who do support the deployment of international forces to Darfur.

Of the way forward, he urges for a Sudanese-Sudanese dialogue that will help bring about a comprehensive peace through the country. He also expressed support for prospects of high level Sudan-US talks