



## UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN

## UNMIS

UNMIS Media Monitoring Report, 4<sup>th</sup> September 2006

(By Public Information Office)

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**IN THE NEWS TODAY:****➤ United Nations; the transition debate**

- Council of Ministers decides to request African Union pullout from Darfur
- Reactions to the decision by the Council of Ministers and UNSCR 1706
- AU confirms renewed fighting in Darfur
- African Union bids farewell to Kingibe
- Arab League to convene meeting of foreign ministers

**➤ CPA**

- SSDF resolves disputes with SPLA

**➤ GoNU**

- Slovenia files an apology to the Sudanese government over violations by its presidential advisor just released from prison
- Justice Ministry to review draft statute for the SAF

**➤ Southern Sudan**

- GOSS Parliament accuses World Bank officials of corruption

**➤ Darfur/Darfur Peace Agreement**

- AU nominates former president Suwar el-Dahab to head Darfur–Darfur Dialogue
- One student killed and others injured in clashes in el-Fasher University between students and campus security

**➤ Eastern Sudan**

- Eastern Front says it will not disarm

**➤ Commentaries:**

- Clearly declared

## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

### **United Nations; the transition debate**

#### **Council of Ministers decides to request African Union pullout from Darfur**

The decision by the Council of Ministers to request the AMIS pullout from Darfur has made the headlines in all major newspapers today.

President Bashir first addressed the council highlighting the implications of UNSCR 1706. He said that the Security Council resolution that stipulates the creation of an independent judicial system, a qualified police force and protection for human rights means stripping the country of its sovereignty (*AlRai AlAam* reports).

Quoting a press release issued yesterday by the Council of Minister, the papers say the Council of Ministers has confirmed its rejection to a UNSCR 1706 and that it will request an African Union pullout from Darfur before 30<sup>th</sup> September and will take over responsibility for preserving peace in that region based on the plan it presented earlier to the United Nations.

*SudanTribune.com* also reports that spokesperson Jamal Ibrahim of the Sudanese foreign ministry told Radio France International that African Union special envoy Babagana Kingibe will be summoned Monday to be handed a formal request for the AMIS pullout. He recalled that in the Banjul summit meeting last July, the African Union had resolved to stop operations in Darfur and leave if they could not continue their assignment.

The foreign ministry spokesperson added that the African Union had no right to transfer their assignment to another party.

#### **Reactions to the decision by the Council of Ministers and UNSCR 1706**

To balance their coverage on the Council of Ministers statement above, most major newspapers also report that *AU spokesperson Noureldeen el-Mezni* declined to comment on the decision by the Council of Ministers on the grounds that the African Union has not formally been informed of the decision and only received the information through the media.

Meanwhile, reports *AlRai AlAam*, political parties participating in the GoNU held an emergency meeting at the DUP offices in Khartoum last Saturday and declared their rejection of the resolution. They have also called for unity of the internal front and said the African Union should be given toime to

*NCP Vice-Chairman, Ibrahim Ahmed Omar*, said Sudan is now in real confrontation with international forces and called for a united internal front to face the challenge, *AlIntibaha* says.

Speaking to the press yesterday, Omar said that the issue is now not that President Bashir has rejected the transition but that this is the position of all people of the Sudan.

He commended all those who are opposed to a transition and specifically cited JEM leader Dr. Khalil and the NRF for rejecting the transition and described Dr. Khalil as a “returning *Mujahid*”.

*Aliyan Ali, the speaker for the regional assembly in South Darfur*, has also rejected the transition and promised that the regional legislature will mobilise the people against the UNSC resolution 1706 and to continue its efforts towards tribal reconciliations.

### **AU confirms renewed fighting in Darfur**

(*AFP/ST* – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sep. **Khrt.**) African Union peacekeepers in Darfur confirmed US reports that fresh fighting had flared in the war-ravaged western Sudanese region.

"Reports reaching here from the African forces' command in Darfur spoke of battles that have been going on since August 28 in Kukul, Sayah, Abusakeri and Gabr al-Kafud areas in North Darfur," the AU mission's spokesman Nureddin Mezni said.

Mezni said the AU contingent in the North Darfur town of Kutum was investigating the clashes and would submit a report to the AU ceasefire commission.

The Washington Post reported that government aircraft had bombed villages in North Darfur suspected of supporting the rebels, and that thousands of government troops were headed for the region.

The umbrella group of rebel factions opposed to the peace deal, the National Redemption Front (NRF), said that government forces backed by aircraft were attacking villages in the Kukul area.

But armed forces spokesman Brigadier General Osman al-Aghbash insisted any movements of government troops were merely "administrative operations", which the rebels are interpreting for their own purpose and strongly denied that the air force had bombed any villages.

### **African Union bids farewell to Kingibe**

*AlRai AlAam* reports that African Union representative to Sudan, Babagana Kingibe, will soon be leaving the Sudan mission as his term of office here has come to an end.

The paper says the African Union is launching a farewell party for Ambassador Kingibe later today and that representatives of the GoNU, the political forces in the country and the diplomatic and international and regional organisations accredited to the country will participate.

The paper showers praise to Mr. Kingibe for his considerable efforts during his two year tenure.

It also gives a very brief biography of Mr. Kingibe.

### **Arab League to convene meeting of foreign ministers**

The press office at the office of the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States says the Security Council rushed in issuing resolution 1706 on Sudan, reports *AlWihda*.

The spokesperson for the Arab League told the press recently that the Arab League believes that the resolution has further complicated the situation in Sudan and therefore sees the need to convene a meeting of Arab foreign ministers on Wednesday.

The spokesperson said that the Secretary-General of the United Nations has also been invited to attend.

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- *Alwan daily carries an announcement from “Students’ Resistance Council” for a meeting tomorrow at the NCP headquarters with President Bashir. The council expects 10,000 students to attend the meeting which is most probably to confirm their rejection to a United Nations Darfur force*

## **CPA**

### **SSDF resolves disputes with SPLA**

SSDF’s Gordon Kouang says no SSDF faction will integrate into the SPLA but that they have informed Vice-President Kiir that they do not object to cooperating with the SPLM whenever requested to do so, reports *Alwan*.

Meanwhile and in a statement to the *Sudan Media Services*, SSDF’s second in command, el-Toum Daldoum, announced that the SSDF and the SPLM have resolved all outstanding issues between them during their last meeting with V-P Kiir at the Presidential Palace in Khartoum last week.

He explained that the SSDF will remain an independent entity until such a time as when the issue of these forces will be resolved. This is an exception granted them by the V-P, he said, because the movement of such troops is draining on the social and political situation in the country.

## **GoNU**

### **Slovenia files an apology to the Sudanese government over violations by its presidential advisor just released from prison**

Slovenia has apologised officially to the Government of Sudan over violations committed by the advisor of the Slovenian president, reports *Alwan*.

The Slovenian president’s envoy sent to plead Tomo Kriznar’s release conveyed the apology and confirmed Slovenia’s readiness to exert more efforts to help the peace process in Sudan.

He also assured that Slovenia is keen in finding a suitable mechanism to resolve the Darfur crises.

### **Justice Ministry to review draft statute for the SAF**

The minister of justice, Mohamed Ali Almardi assured that fighting is not the only role played by the Sudanese Armed Forces and that it is also a means to achieve humanitarian goals including civilian safety and stability, reports *AlWihda*.

He added that Sudanese Armed Forces statute yet to be ratified contains a number of rights and obligations and gives consideration to military values, human rights and international conventions.

Defence minister Lt. Gen. AbdulRaheem Mohamed Hussein stated that his ministry will immediately refer the draft SAF statute of 2006 to the Ministry of Justice then to the Council of Ministers for ratification.

## **Southern Sudan**

### **GOSS Parliament accuses World Bank officials of corruption**

(*ALWhida*.4th Sep.Khrt)The GOSS Parliament has accused World Bank officials of corruption and argues that this [*corruption*] may affect the World Bank's role towards the war affected areas.

The Deputy Speaker of the GoSS parliament, Tor Deng, informed *AlWihda* daily that the World Bank is the most corrupt financial institution in the world. He also revealed that the World Bank has received 150 million dollars from donors for the rehabilitation of infrastructure projects in Juba.

He also said that World Bank officials have exaggerated the financial budgets in the preparation of the feasibility studies for the projects in southern Sudan and have exhausted these funds on staff entitlements.

## **Darfur/Darfur Peace Agreement**

### **AU nominates former president Suwar el-Dahab to head Darfur–Darfur Dialogue**

*AlSahafa* reports that the African Union nominated yesterday former president of Sudan Field-Marshal Mohamed Hassan Suwar el-Dahab to head the Darfur-Darfur Dialogue.

The African Union also suggested forming a preparatory committee of 25 members including representatives of the government, the SPLM, the armed groups, local administration, the United Nations, the African Union and the Arab League.

### **One student killed and others injured in clashes in el-Fasher University between students and campus security**

A student was killed and others injured yesterday in clashes between the students and campus security in el-Fasher University, *AlRai AlAam*.

The clashes took place while a number of students were conducting a political discussion without permission from the concerned authorities. Dean of el-Fashir University said.

## **Eastern Sudan**

### **Eastern Front says it will not disarm**

A reliable source disclosed to *The Citizen* newspaper that peace negotiations between Sudan's government and the Eastern Front in Asmara saw a major disagreement over security arrangements.

The source said that the Eastern Front insists on maintaining its forces and would not disarm or integrate its into the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF).

## **Commentaries:**

### **Clearly declared**

Yossif Abdul, chose the above as his title for today's column, in which he wrote:

The United Nations Security Council resolution 1706 for the international troops in Darfur region has been drafted by a number of foreign experts and Sudanese voluntary organizations which target the internal front in Darfur and seek to tear apart the community support to the government.

The writer claims intelligence officers have carried surveys of the area and have been taken the photos of most important strategic areas in el-Fashier, Nyala and el-Geneina and of the refugee camps.

He says that in the middle of the crisis came the declaration by the JEM leader of his opposition to the Security Council resolution and his readiness to start negotiations with the government in order to block this looming re-colonization.