



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN
UNMIS
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(By Public Information Office)

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IN THE NEWS TODAY:

- **UNMIS/ United Nations**
 - UNMIS criticised
 - Jan Egeland holds talks with V-P Kiir
 - WFP cuts down on assistance to Darfur
 - UNESCO chief condemns killing of Sudanese newspaper editor
- **United Nations/ AU-UN transition debate***
 - On the United Nations Security Council debate
 - Sudan's foreign ministry receives UN observations on Sudan's Darfur plan
 - Foreign Minister Akol in Washington
 - UN resolution ignores political roots of Darfur crisis - SLM
 - African Union forces will stay in Darfur, says Egyptian envoy
 - 3,000 Mujahids in S. Kordofan ready to fight to the death
- **CPA**
 - Former child soldiers may go back to SPLA
- **GoNU**
 - Parliamentary defence and security committee to discuss security in the capital
 - SPLM political office to discuss Darfur and the democratic transformation
- **GoSS/ Southern Sudan**
 - GoSS lacks funding for Uganda, LRA talks
 - Government of Jonglei State arrest 9 trade unionists
- **Darfur/Darfur Peace Agreement**
 - Sudan's Antonovs drop more bombs on Darfur villages
 - SAF rebuffs NRF claims that it had launched an offensive on Oum Sidir
- **Eastern Sudan**
 - Eastern Front and government negotiators differ on vital issues
- **Editorials and Commentaries:**
 - Three Weeks to Save Darfur
 - Ambitious program for the development of the south
 - The foreign intervention between challenges and acceptance
 - Don't beat up the Khawaja

HIGHLIGHTS:

UNMIS/ United Nations

UNMIS criticised

In an unprecedented criticism of the UNMIS by a member of the GoSS, Deputy Speaker of the GoSS parliament, Tor Deng, says UNMIS and the international community have departed from facing their priorities towards supporting the GoSS in its efforts to develop in southern Sudan and returns and insists instead in pushing for a deployment of United Nations forces in Darfur despite the rejection of the Sudan government.

Speaking to the SMC [sourced from Alwan daily], the Deputy Speaker said that the international community knows full well that the south is dependent on its share of the country's oil revenue channelled through the GoNU and that that money is not enough for carrying out the development work required while the United Nations issues baseless reports of corruption in the GoSS.

He said that the deployment of international troops for Darfur will only cause a deterioration in the security situation in the region.

UNMIS has also come under attack from an SSDF spokesperson who, speaking at an interview with Allintibaha, criticised UNMIS' spokesperson Radhia Achouri over recent statements calling for urgent solutions to the issue of other armed groups.* He pointed out that the UNMIS is "beating around the bush" and is aware that the CPA created the Other Armed Groups Corroborative Committee that is the competent body on the issue and that this body has not been active.

He also pointed out that the UNMIS is only a monitoring body and should not interfere on these issues since none of the armies recognised by the CPA has field a complaint.

He blamed UNMIS for the escalation of the violence in the Fam-el-Ziraf area on the grounds it did not move fast enough to defuse the tension.

The SSDF spokesperson also expressed doubts over the figure of combatants (33,000) that the SPLA claims to have integrated into its ranks and said that UNMIS had promised to verify these figures but this is yet to be done.

The SSDF, he adds, is waiting to integrate 19,000 of its combatants into the SAF.

- *The paper promises to produce a full text of the interview in future editions.*

Jan Egeland holds talks with V-P Kiir

Jan Egeland is in Juba where he commended the GoSS for its mediation efforts between the Uganda government and the Lord's Resistance Army, *AlSudani* reports.

The United Nations humanitarian chief held talks with GoSS President Salva Kiir and his deputy during which he was briefed on development in the negotiations process.

They also discussed possibilities for providing humanitarian assistance to the Lord's Resistance Army.

AlSudani goes on to say that sources report that Mr. Egeland will be holding talks separately with the two sides to the talks.

WFP cuts down on assistance to Darfur

In a recent statement, WFP chief Kenro Oshidari said thousands face the threat of starvation due to diminishing food reserves, reports *AlSahafa*.

In the statement that was also quoted by some local dailies such as the *Khartoum Monitor*, the WFP cites security concerns as barring access to hundreds of thousand in Darfur during the last three months while increased violence has blocked access to 355,000 in N. Darfur.

The WFP chief says those affected are now entering three months without food in the middle of the hunger season.

UNESCO chief condemns killing of Sudanese newspaper editor

(www.un.org - 11 Sept.) "I condemn the brutal murder of Mohammed Taha Mohammed Ahmed," UNESCO Director-General Koïchiro Matsuura said. "Freedom of expression is not only a fundamental human right but also a pre-requisite for effective democracy and rule of law."

Voicing shock at the brutality of the crime, he called on the Sudanese authorities "to do all they can to ensure that Mr. Mohammed Taha's killers are brought to trial."

[*This has also been covered in AlRai AlAam and some local dailies*].

United Nations/ AU-UN transition debate*

On the United Nations Security Council debate

The Reuters story [quoted in most Arab language dailies] says that U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan on Monday warned Sudan its military bombardment and troop deployment in the Darfur region was illegal and predicted further disasters unless U.N. troops were deployed while the AlIntibaha headline, referring to this, reads, "Secretary-General Annan rejects government plan on Darfur".

Local dailies highlight that Secretary-General Annan did stress that a deployment of United Nations forces to Darfur is contingent on acceptance from the Sudanese government.

Annan, in a blunt speech, evoked the 1994 genocide in Rwanda by asking, "Can the international community, having not done enough for the people of Rwanda in their time of need, just watch as this tragedy deepens?"

Annan said thousands of Sudanese troops had been deployed in Darfur and there are renewed aerial bombings. He condemned these developments and called upon the Sudan government to immediately stop the offensive.

The government's rejection, Annan said, could lead to "yet more death and suffering, perhaps on a catastrophic scale" and warned that neither those who decide such policies, nor

those who carry them out should imagine they will not be held accountable, he warned for the second time in a week.

But Sudan's envoy, in a U.N. Security Council debate, defended Khartoum's action as part of a peace deal and condemned the council's Aug. 28 resolution 1706 "as a hasty measure" that amounted to a "one-way dialogue."

Yasir Abdelsalam said 6,000 troops would be deployed by Sept. 30 and another 10,000 by Dec. 31.

But U.S. envoy William Brentick said Annan's comments should "resonate all the way from this chamber to the presidential palace in Khartoum."

Responding to Abdelsalam, Brentick said the "one point he left out was a stated commitment by the (government) to address the humanitarian situation in Darfur by consenting to the deployment of U.N. forces."

"How many people need to describe the horror of the situation in Darfur or how much worse does this situation have to get" before Sudan got the message, he asked.

Brentick said he was circulating a presidential statement to allow the council to speak with one voice and tell Sudan to "work with us, because the situation in Darfur cannot stand."

In an apparent reference to Sudan's allies, Annan said his voice was not enough and that leaders in Africa and beyond had to exert their influence. The council, he added, had to issue "a strong and uniform message."

Sudan's foreign ministry receives UN observations on Sudan's Darfur plan

Sources told SUNA [as quoted in Alwan and AlKhabar dailies] that the United Nations' comments on the Sudan government plan for Darfur was generally critical and only aimed to strengthen the case for the UNSCR 1706.

The source said that government is currently studying these comments and pointed out that the government will be flexible in implementing the government's plan which, he adds, is "not scripture" and can be changed. He said government is very much committed to meet its responsibilities towards the realisation of security and stability in Darfur.

The international community should have rather pressured the non-signatories of the Darfur Peace Agreement to come on board.

Foreign Minister Akol in Washington

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said on Monday she had urged Sudan's government "in the strongest possible terms" to accept a U.N. force in its troubled Darfur region but did not say whether she got any signal that Khartoum would drop its objections to a United Nations force.

Asked what Akol told her during their meeting, she replied: "He brought hopes, for better relations between the United States and Sudan, and I told him in no uncertain terms that that wasn't on the agenda unless the Sudan acted responsibly."

Rice said Akol had with him a letter to Bush from Sudan's President Omar Hassan al-Bashir but she did not know its contents.

In Washington, a State Department spokesman said Rice had also voiced strong concern to Akol over the build-up of Sudan's military in Darfur and reports of violent attacks on civilians.

Most local newspapers quote *Reuters* on this story.

UN resolution ignores political roots of Darfur crisis - SLM

(SudanTribune.com) In a letter sent to Kofi Annan by the chairperson of a faction of The Sudan Liberation Movement, Ahmed Abdelshafi Bassey, the SLM expressed some reservations on the United Nations Security Council resolution on the deployment of UN forces in Darfur under Chapter seven adopted on 31 August.

A press statement signed by the SLM spokesperson, Jafar Menro, said that the resolution is focused on the security and humanitarian aspects ignoring the political roots of the crisis and closes the door for any amendments to the DPA.

The SLM also points out that the resolution is meant to implement the Darfur Peace Agreement, despite the rejection it faced from the people of Darfur – a fact that “the UN is fully aware of”, reminds the Arabic language text.

African Union forces will stay in Darfur, says Egyptian envoy

President Mubarak's special envoy, Ambassador Ahmed Haj, says African Union forces will remain in Darfur and that an understanding has been reached between the United Nations and the Sudan government that United Nations peacekeepers could be deployed to work alongside African Union troops in Darfur, reports AlKhabar daily.

The Egyptian government had announced earlier it will not allow a security void along its southern borders and will exert efforts to convince the Sudanese government to reach an acceptable solution.

3,000 Mujahids in S. Kordofan ready to fight to the death

About 3,000 Mujahids are to declare a “pledge to the death” before the Coordinator-General of the Popular Defence Forces next Thursday at the PDF headquarters in South Kordofan State, reports AlHayat.

Most of the 3,000 are from the Misseriya and different sectors of civil society in South Kordofan and will pledge readiness to fight against United Nations troops should they deploy to Darfur.

CPA

Former child soldiers may go back to SPLA

(SRS/ST – 11th Sept. Kapoeta) Head teacher Bol Jalab of the Deng Nhial primary school in Lakes state told Sudan Radio Service that most of the about 168 former child soldiers in the school say they will go back to the army because the school cannot provide their basic

needs and doesn't have enough trained teachers. He said there is dire need for professional counsellors in the school to help students recover from their traumatic experiences in the war.

He said enrolment of children in schools across Lakes state has recently decreased due to lack of food.

Bol appealed to the state Ministry of Education to work with local and international organizations to improve education in the state. Deng Nhial primary school was established specifically to educate former child soldiers.

According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), in the past five years more than 15,000 children have been disarmed, demobilised and returned to their families and communities from SPLA ranks. Of these, 900 were disarmed after the signing of the CPA.

GoNU

Parliamentary defence and security committee to discuss security in the capital

Parliamentary defence and security committee of the National Congress is to discuss today the security in the capital following the assassination of the AlWifaq editor-in –chief Mohamed Taha Mohamed Ahmed. The committee is also arranging for two workshops under the titles “The Security Arrangement with reference to Naivasha, and The United Nations and Sudan”, *AlAyaam* reports.

Meanwhile *Akhbar Alyaum* quotes the Minister of Interior as saying with reference to the killing of the newspaper's editor, that the country is paying the price of having lifted the state of emergency and dismantling checkpoints.

SPLM political office to discuss Darfur and the democratic transformation

(*AlAyaam*.- 9th Sep. **Khrt**) The SPLM has adjourned the meeting of its political office from 12 September to 15 September

SPLM spokesman Yasir Arman said the meeting will mainly discuss issues pertaining to Darfur, democratic transformation, SPLM performance on the regional and central levels, the party structure, the implementation of the peace agreement and the next meeting of the SPLM and NCP.

GoSS/ Southern Sudan

GoSS lacks funding for Uganda, LRA talks

Quoting sources, *AlHayat* reports that the GoSS says it has failed to guarantee funds for the ongoing talks between the Uganda government and the LRA.

The talks are expected to continue for about two months but sources within the GoSS finance ministry says the talks have so far cost the GoSS about 657,000 dollars.

Government of Jonglei State arrest 9 trade unionists

(*AlHayat* 9th Sep. **Khrt**) The Government of Jonglei State has arrested 9 of trade unionist and is said to be currently torturing them in a place about 13 kms. outside Bor.

The Secretary-General for the Sudan workers federation, Adam Fadel, called upon the GoSS to stop harassing trade union leaders in Jonglei.

Darfur/Darfur Peace Agreement

Sudan's Antonovs drop more bombs on Darfur villages

Quoting sources, *IRIN* reports from el-Fasher that the Sudanese military have used Antonov planes to bomb another seven villages in the volatile region.

"On Saturday, Antonov planes were bombing seven villages south of Tawilla town, focusing on Tabarat and Tina," a local source, who declined to be named, said. "On Sunday, about 45 vehicles carrying government troops moved through Tina."

Meanwhile, one of the NRF rebel coalition members, the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), is reportedly moving towards the Chadian border, away from the main NRF force. "It seems the NRF is splitting up," a political analyst said.

Although government forces recaptured the minor towns of Sani Hayi and Sibafi over the weekend, it seems that the offensive north of El Fasher has slowed down. Initially, the Sudanese military rapidly gained territory as NRF rebels avoided a direct confrontation. With the loss of Um Sidir town, however, the NRF started to counter-attack, slowing down the advancing government forces.

The offensive started on 28 August when the villages of Abu Sakin, Kukul, Sayah and Turra, 35 km northwest of El Fasher, were attacked by Antonov planes. Subsequently, Sudanese armed forces took over the area and pushed further northwards, recapturing Um Sidir on 31 August.

SAF rebuffs NRF claims that it had launched an offensive on Oum Sidir

The NRF has called on the Security Council to issue a resolution prohibiting all SAF military flights over Darfur while the SAF has rebuffed NRF accusations that it had launched a raid on Oum Sidir, in the North of Darfur, reports AlIntibaha.

The daily reported that the field Commander of the National Redemption Front AbdelAziz Usher said that the SAF started the offensive in Oum Usher yesterday, but the SAF spokesperson Dr. Mohamed Osman AlAgbash denied it and confirmed that the SAF was doing its job of protecting civilians.

Meanwhile, *AlSudani* reports that the NRF has claimed control over Oum Sidir area 50 km north of el-Fasher, the capital of North Darfur State.

Eastern Sudan

Eastern Front and government negotiators differ on vital issues

(*The Citizen* - 9th Sep. **Khrt**) Talks between GoS and the Eastern Front, taking place in Asmara have entered its semi final round on wealth sharing.

The tow parties had presented their views on this issue to the Eritrean mediators last Monday but sources from the Eastern Front say there still is a big gap in the views of the two sides.

Editorials and Commentaries:

Three Weeks to Save Darfur

NY Times Editorial; September 11, 2006

Last month the United Nations Security Council passed a resolution authorizing the creation of a peacekeeping force to intervene in Darfur. But it had a big catch. These troops can be deployed only with the consent of Sudan's government, which in effect allows the regime responsible for this genocide to decide whether or not the killings will continue.

Clearly, that cannot be the end of the discussion. The next step is for leading governments, including Washington, to apply maximum political pressure on Sudan, all the countries that support it (including China) and all the nations that could help sway it from its current course. The Bush administration needs to couple its tough talk on Darfur with some focused, high-level diplomacy. This would be a good time for President Bush to name a special envoy for Darfur. To make clear that the full weight of the administration is behind the new envoy, Mr. Bush and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice should call officials in Sudan, China and Russia, as well as in powerful African countries like South Africa and Nigeria. Similar efforts should be made by leaders of the European Union.

At the end of this month, African Union forces, the only peacekeepers in Darfur, are scheduled to go home. That will leave the field open to President Omar Hassan al-Bashir and his army to resume the killing, which they have given every indication of doing. That gives the rest of the world only three weeks to avoid a worsening tragedy.

Ambitious program for the development of the south

Mahgoub Mohammed Salih of *AlAyaam* chooses the above as his title for today's column.

He refers to the Silva Kiir when he addressed the regional parliament in Juba where he unveiled the 200-day plan for the GoSS.

He said that this marks a phase of transformation and shows that the GoSS is committed to this plan.

The foreign intervention between challenges and acceptance

Hassan Bakhit of *AlRai AlAam* refers to the African reactions towards the Sudan's opposition to UNSCR 1706 and cites in particular those of the Libyan leader Muammar el-Gadhaffi in his address before the summit meeting in Sirte.

Gadhaffi had urged African states to support Sudan's position on the issue.

He pointed out that reports are that the Sudan has showed some flexibility and has passed sent four proposals to the Bush Administration in a bid to avoid a confrontation but, the writer points out, the people of Sudan will courageously support the leadership and offer sacrifices to protect the country's sovereignty should these proposals be turned down.

Don't beat up the *Khawaja*

Abdelmajeed Olaish of *AlAdhwaa* comments on a report issued in *AlSahafa* daily on 8th September that ***“the authorities have arrested three United Nations staff while they were taking photos and interviewing the protestors during the peaceful demonstration”***.

He says such actions by the authorities can set a bad model for Sudan’s outside image at a time when efforts are needed to improve the country’s image all over the world.

To make it clear, foreigners are not in an extreme need of these photos .They will not add more to their knowledge by interviewing people, for they know about our country more than we do. We can describe what has happened as a confirmation to the bad situations in Sudan which the foreigners are trying to change while we Sudanese stand passive and motionless.

We implore all people, particularly those who work for the foreign information and Ministry Foreign and the National Friendship Council to exert more efforts to improve the Sudan outside image.