



## United Nations Sudan Bulletin

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20 September

### Highlights:

- Activities at and around the UN General Assembly session in New York focused on Darfur. Kofi Annan, SRSG Pronk and Governments addressed the Security Council
- AU postponed the Peace and Security Council meeting until 20 September in New York

### General:

- Intensive diplomatic activity at and around the UN General Assembly session in New York focused on Darfur. In speeches to the General Assembly on 19 September, Secretary-General Kofi Annan invoked the responsibility to protect. President Bush called for the UN to act, with or without Sudan's consent, and announced the appointment of former USAID administrator, Andrew Natsios, as Special Envoy for Darfur. China maintained its position of further dialogue aimed at winning Sudan's approval of a UN operation. On 18 September, the US and Denmark called for a UN Security Council ministerial meeting on 22 September to discuss Darfur. US Representative John Bolton announced that he was circulating a draft resolution calling for a six-month extension of the UNMIS mandate which also called for increasing UNMIS troop strength to 20,000.
- SRSG Pronk addressed the Security Council on 18 September, calling for a boost to the AMIS force in Darfur and outlining a five point plan for reviving the DPA.
- President Bashir is scheduled to address the General Assembly today.
- On 18 September, in New York, the AU postponed the Peace and Security Council meeting until 20 September. Media speculation indicates that the AU will propose a three-month extension of its mission and AMIS.
- UN High Commissioner for Human Rights speaking at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, called on that the Security Council to act on Darfur, describing an atmosphere where armed groups were indiscriminately attacking civilians, and noting an increase in rape and other atrocities.
- In Khartoum, on 18 September, VP Taha held a press conference in which he affirmed the Government's commitment to a political solution to the Darfur crisis through implementation of the DPA. He announced that decrees establishing the Transitional Darfur Regional Authority should be issued next week. He called on the international community to maintain humanitarian support for Darfur, and boost DPA implementation efforts. He restated the NCP's opposition to a UN operation in Darfur.
- On 18 September, in Khartoum, the chairman of SLM-Free Will faction Abdel Rahman Musa met with the Senior Assistant to the President Minni Minnawi to discuss DPA implementation, the establishment of DPA commissions and steps to convince non-DPA signatories to join the peace process.
- On 18 September, the official spokesperson of the National Intelligence and Security Service told local media that VP Taha has ordered it to lift the recent emergency censorship procedures on local media.

- On 18 September, parliamentarians told local media of efforts by MPs to table a censure motion against the National Assembly Speaker, Ahmed Ibrahim Al Tahir. The sources referred to Tahir's recent criticism of political parties and his mismanagement of sessions.

### **UNMIS Military:**

#### **CRITICAL INCIDENTS**

- On 17 September, a cattle camp 10 km East of Cueibet (56 km Northwest of Rumbek) was attacked by unknown persons. One person was killed.

### **UNMIS Police:**

- An increase in the number of vehicles in Dilling Town prompted UN Police and the local Police to create a traffic awareness program covering all basic schools in the area. At Karkaraya Primary School, 330 students and 10 teachers were taught traffic rules.
- UN Police met with Miseria and Dinka chiefs, and they requested UNMIS to facilitate a meeting between the two tribes. The meeting would discuss the peaceful movement of the Nomads with their cattle from the North to the South in the coming month.

### **Khartoum and Northern Sudan:**

#### **Security:**

- On 18 September, UNDSS and UNMIS met with the Governor of North Kordofan in El Obeid regarding an incident on 15 September. On that day, the Wali ordered four UNMIS vehicles travelling to Khartoum to return to the logistics base due to the insecurity situation in the area. UNMIS will now inform National Security about their driving courses so that NS can provide security and training ground. Driver training outside the logistics base is suspended until further notice.

#### **Rule of Law:**

- The National Constitutional Review Commission (NCRC) resumed its work on 18 September. Addressing the opening session, VP Taha stated that the presidency was committed to NCRC's work and called on all political parties to engage actively in the NCRC's discussions. On 19 September, the NCRC decided to form specialized committees to discuss the following bills: the Political Parties bill, the Human Rights Commission Bill, the Land Commission Bill and the Civil Service Commission Bill. Outcome of the discussions of the specialized committees will then be submitted on 25 September.

### **North Darfur :**

#### **Security:**

- On 19 September, AMIS reported that 21 female IDPs were attacked about three kilometres northwest of Kassab IDP Camp (near Kutum) by 13 unidentified armed men.
- Two UN Agency hired commercial trucks with food commodities were ambushed by armed men on the Tawilla – Kabkabiya road from El Fasher to Kabkabiya. The drivers were beaten and then were allowed to proceed. Two kilometres later, the trucks were ambushed again and the drivers were beaten. Their personal belongings were taken, but no food was stolen.
- Two unknown men attempted to break into an INGO compound in El Fasher.
- A UN Agency team was harassed at a checkpoint in Abu Nahla (near Kulkul) and questioned if there were Americans in the vehicle before they being allowed to pass.

### **South Darfur**

#### **Humanitarian:**

- On 18 September, 114 HH from Al Amoud Alakhdar arrived to Otash IDP camp (Nyala).

### **West Darfur**

#### **Security:**

- On 18 September, two INGO vehicles travelling from Garsila to Zalingei were ambushed.
- On 17 September, a PDF soldier killed one Government policeman and two women of the Tama tribe in Adar village (near El Geneina) over a personal dispute.

#### **Humanitarian:**

- In Um Shalaya, 164 cases of acute jaundice were reported.
- WFP announced that they would strengthen air capacity in West Darfur by adding an extra helicopter.

### **Southern Sudan**

#### **General/Security:**

- On 18 September, FVP Kiir visited Rumbek and held a closed door meeting with the new governor of Lakes State, Daniel Awet Akot.
- On 18 September in Kampala, Ugandan Deputy Defense Minister Ruth Nankabirwa denied reports that LRA leaders Joseph Kony and Vincent Otti had reached the Ri-Kwangba assembly point in Southern Sudan. On 19 September, Interior Affairs Minister Ruhakana Rugunda stated that the Government of Uganda would negotiate with the LRA delegation a short extension to the assembly deadline.
- On 19 September, a demonstration by the students of Bahr el Ghazal University (Wau) protesting education and welfare issues turned violent. Stones were thrown at the Police. The Police fired shots to disperse the crowd. No injuries were reported. Local police arrested five students.
- On 17 September, a UN Police officer was stopped at gunpoint by SAF military personnel at a checkpoint in Wau. The incident will be discussed at the AJMC meeting on 19 September.
- On 17 September, the Eastern Equatoria State (EES) Minister of Finance and the former secretary to the EES governor were arrested by local Police. The Minister of Finance was arrested for refusing to vacate the government's house which was allocated to the EES Governor. The governor's secretary was arrested for signing for the transfer of a Kenyan suspect from Torit hospital to Juba hospital without approval. The Kenyan suspect is still missing.
- Following the inter clan fight between Nyui and Panyar and the killing of a village chief in Akot on the 13 September, 700 SPLA soldiers have been sent to the area.
- On 18 September, an INGO's accommodation compound in Rubkona was partly destroyed by a fire. There were no casualties, and the cause of the fire is unknown.

#### **Civil Affairs:**

- On 19 September, the Peace Commission continued its workshops in Rumbek with discussions on disarmament issues, resulting in resolutions agreed to by commissioners and governors from the Lakes State, Warrab State, Northern Bahr El Ghazal, and Western Bahr El Ghazal

#### **Humanitarian:**

- From September 15 - 17, successful county mapping exercises were carried out in Awerial, Rumbek North, Yirol West and East. State and Payam officials including local civil society and the WFP, UNHCR, UNICEF and OCHA representatives participated.

## **Abyei, Blue Nile and South Kordofan:**

### **Civil Affairs:**

- On 18 September, UNMIS with women party members from the NCP and SPLM in Kadugli, conducted a workshop on Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. Participants were from the NCP, SPLM, Umma and General Leadership Party – the first time in South Kordofan where such cross-party collaboration had taken place. A number of critical issues affecting women and girls in South Kordofan included: lack of awareness of women's rights, rights within the home; and lack of free participation in political organizations and decision-making bodies. The party members committed themselves to promote gender equality in their own political parties, and to develop programmes on these issues.

## **Eastern Sudan:**

### **Humanitarian:**

- On 18 September, OCHA and UNMIS assessed the living conditions of 682 Households (HH) who were from Hamesh Koreib in Togli IDP camp (52 km north east of Kassala). An INGO funded the construction of a health post. WFP provided relief food on a monthly basis. UNICEF provided a new school and educational materials. The IDPs stated that they do not want to return to their villages claiming that they lost their livestock and lands. The IDPs are negotiating with the government for a forestation project to cultivate the lands and are requesting for livestock.
- Some wildlife has returned, as an estimated 50 elephants and some giraffes were observed about 50 km east of Rumbek.

### **Safety of Personnel: NSTR**

#### **Restriction of Movement:**

- A UN Agency Team travelling to Kalma IDP Camp were stopped at a checkpoint and returned to Nyala because they did not have HAC authorization which is in violation to the SOFA agreement. Also, another UN Agency staff member was prevented from travelling to Um Doukhoum.

Bulletins generally sum up the main events, incidents and developments on the ground in the various areas of UNMIS operation in Sudan. As public records of occurrences, the reports include statements and accounts from a wide range of sources and witnesses such as the internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees, representatives of the Government, rebel movements, non-governmental organizations and others. As such, statements and accounts cited in the Bulletin and quoted from such individuals do not necessarily reflect the views of UNMIS.

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