

UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN UNMIS

<u>UNMIS Media Monitoring Report – 24th September 2006</u> (By Public Information Office)

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HIGHLIGHTS:

United Nations

UNMIS formally present memo requesting parties to observe a Month of Tranquillity

(AlWihda – 24th Sept. **Khrt.**) The United Nations has presented a formal request to the parties to the Darfur conflict to observe a Month of Tranquillity during the month of Ramadhan.

SRSG Pronk had announced at a press conference later last week that he would req2uest the parties to observe a truce and said this would enable access to those in need of humanitarian assistance.

United Nations/ AU-UN transition debate

Konaré presents African conditions for UN takeover in Darfur

(SudanTribune.com – 22nd Sept. **Paris**) African Union Commission Chairperson Alpha Konaré has said the deployment of UN peacekeeping troops to Sudan's troubled Darfur region is "absolutely necessary" but he indicated that the UN would "come, but with a number of conditions".

Speaking in an interview broadcast by Radio France Internationale on 22 September, Konare said that the AU force did a lot but the lack of resources leads the AU to wish the UN forces.

"It is for this reason that we hoped that the UN would come, but with a number of conditions".

"That means this has to be done with the Sudanese government's approval and we have clearly said that even if the UN was to come, the bulk of the troops would be AU forces; the command would be African and the AU political leadership will be there".

"It is thus clear that we are facing some difficulties with the government of Sudan. The Sudanese government needs to be reassured, but we think that the arrival of the UN force is absolutely necessary and indispensable."

To explain the deterioration of security in Darfur despite the signing of Darfur peace agreement, Konare said "the instability is less by the fact of fighting between the government and the rebels. It was not that at all. There was fighting between the rebel movements themselves."

He also accused Sudanese official of opting for the military solution to quell the rebellion after the peace accords.

The Au official invited the holdout rebel groups to negotiate with the African Union.

"We are ready to listen to them. It is not a question of renegotiation, but where reassurance need to be given, we are ready to do it. Things cannot continue like this".

Sudanese government and a faction of the Sudan Liberation Movement led by Minni Minawi signed the Darfur Peace Agreement on 5 May in Abuja, Nigeria. The other rebel groups

rejected the deal saying the DPA does not meet their demands for more political representation in Darfur and on the national level, they also ask for individual compensations and more guaranties in militia disarmament.

Government accuses Jan Pronk of "crossing the red lines"

(AlSharei AlSiyasi – 24th Sept. **Khrt.**) The government has accused SRSG Pronk of issuing contradicting statements and "crossing the red lines".

President Bashir's envoy to the states of Darfur told the Sudan Media Centre that Mr. Pronk sought to goad the non-signatories of the Darfur Peace Agreement to demand amendments although he said after the signin g of the Darfur Peace Agreement that, "no coma will be changed in the Darfur Peace Agreement".

The envoy, General Mohamed el-Dabi, said that by these contradictions, the SRSG would have crossed the red lines in his mandate.

Government of North Kordofan formally informs UNMIS it can not guarantee its safety

(*Alkhabar* – 24th Sept. **N. Darfur**) The Government of North Kordofan has officially informed the United Nations Logistics Base in el-Obeid that it will not be able to guarantee the safety of its personnel should United Nations forces deploy in Sudan.

North Kordofan governor, Faisal Hassan Ibrahim, says the state has declared a general mobilization against UNSCR 1706 and a number of demonstrations in protest have taken place.

Annan urges Sudan to accept UN forces in Darfur

($Reuters/ST - 23^{rd}$ Sept. **Paris**) United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan urged Sudan on Saturday to accept UN peacekeepers in the troubled Darfur region and condemned a new bombing offensive by Khartoum's army.

In an opinion piece in a French newspaper he said UN troops would be better-equipped than the African Union force that has agreed to stay in the region until the year's end to help stop atrocities in Darfur.

The 7,000 AU forces have been unable to halt violence that has driven 2.5 million people from their homes and killed an estimated 200,000 since 2003.

Annan said the Sudanese government was at risk of "disgrace" and "shame" in Africa and around the world.

"I strongly urge the government to avoid such a situation by accepting the decision of the Security Council to deploy a UN peace operation that would be better-equipped and better-financed than the current African Union mission and would have a clearer mandate," Annan said in the Le Figaro newspaper.

The United States and Denmark sought on Friday to increase world pressure on Sudan to accept the 20,000 peacekeepers, but Khartoum has yet to agree.

UN human rights monitors accused Sudan's army on Friday of bombing villages in North Darfur, killing and wounding civilians and forcing hundreds of people to flee their homes.

They also reported that sexual violence, which has been a feature of the conflict, continued in South Darfur, particularly near camps for the homeless near the town of Gereida.

"I strongly condemn this escalation," Annan said.

"The Sudanese government should immediately stop this offensive. All parties should keep their promises and respect the resolution of the UN Security Council." Annan said a solution to the crisis was not a military one and urged all parties to work towards a political accord.

CPA

JIUs to deploy to Nuba Mountains and South Kordofan

(*AlAdhwaa*; *Rai AlShaab* – 24th Sept. **Khrt.**) The SAF has assumed the chair of the Joint Defence Board for the next three months.

Meanwhile, a recent meeting of the JDB has endorsed the boards first decision to deploy the JIUs in the north.

SAF Spokesperson, Osman Mohamed el-Aghbash, says the JIUs will be fully deployed in the Nuba Mountains and South Kordofan to curb clashes resulting from the widespread presence of illicit arms.

This marks the first deployment of the JIUs in northern Sudan.

Disarmament: SSDF to deploy 9,000 to serve in the Government of Southern Sudan police in Bahr-el-Gazal

(*AlAdhwaa* – 24th Sept. **Khrt.**) South of Sudan Defence Forces has completed preparations for the redeployment of 9,000 of its combatants to serve in the GoSS police in West Bahar el-Gazal and Equatoria.

The process will start from the 9th of next October and will be carried out in coordination between the GoSS and the federal police forces.

Southern Sudan/ GoSS

PDF suspends activities in Equatoria

(*AlIntibaha* – 24th Sept. **Khrt.**) The Popular Defence Forces has suspended its activities in the states of Equatoria, southern Sudan.

The deputy Coordinator-General of the PDF said yesterday that the PDF decided to take the decision because of lack of cooperation with the authorities in those states and that its operations in those areas will be suspended indefinitely.

He said that the GoSS had not ordered the PDF out of southern Sudan, as reported by the media, but that they have decided to suspend due to lack of a conducive work climate in those areas.

Darfur/DPA

5 Justice and Equality Movement commanders walk out of the National Redemption Front

(*Rai AlShaab* – 24th Sept. **Khrt.**) The NRF is headed towards a split as a result of the dismissal of 5 JEM field commanders.

NRF field commander Hassan Jubart Allah said that the NRF Revolution Council decided to dismiss Ibrahim Abu Doum, Altahir Ishag, Hamad Yaqoub, Fadl Alkareem Jubara, and Yahia Alfadil from the Movement and has officially notified all movement members of this decision.

Rizeigat tribe in SLM-Minnawi call for a review of the DPA implementation committee

(*Rai AlShaab* – 24th Sept. **Khrt.**) A committee of Rizeigat tribesmen loyal to SLM–Minnawi have called for a review of the DPA implementation committee.

They also said that nominations for constitutional positions should take into consideration the geography and demography of the people of Darfur.