



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN  
UNMIS

**UNMIS Media Monitoring Report, 12<sup>th</sup> April, 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:**

- **UN/ AMIS-UN Transition**
  - UN's Annan voices concern over fighting along Chad-Sudan border
  - Dr. Nafei Ali Nafei holds talks with Mr. Pronk
  - UN Security Council says Darfur peace deal must occur by April 30\*
  - Canada's Dallaire to review UN Darfur plan - TV report
- **CPA**
  - Void widens between NCP and SPLM over constitution of Khartoum State
  - Ethiopian army moving against Anuak in South Sudan
- **GoNU**
  - Caucus of southern Sudanese parties to table a number of issues before the National Assembly
  - Sudan, Eritrea hold talks on security
- **Northern Sudan/ Khartoum**
  - Merowe Dam affected areas exploded into violence and burning
  - Students form a coalition of students' unions
- **Darfur/ Abuja talks**
  - President Bashir says V-p Taha is in Abuja to repeat the Naivasha success
  - Chadian rebels raid refugee camp
- **Southern Sudan/ GoSS/ SPLM**
  - SPLA says only two soldiers killed in Wau clashes
  - Uganda army kills 3 Lord's Resistance Army rebels in Sudan
  - Ugandan traders in Yei request protection
- **Eastern Sudan**
  - Army spokesperson says SAF repulsed a JEM, Beja Congress attack on the east
- **Other Articles**
  - Kampala expresses reservations over Garang crash report

## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

### **UN/ AMIS-UN Transition**

#### **UN's Annan voices concern over fighting along Chad-Sudan border**

(*UN/ST* – 11<sup>th</sup> Apr. **United Nations**) The United Nations today voiced deep concern at the recent intensification of fighting along Chad's eastern border with Sudan and the extension of the armed confrontations to the southern border with the Central African Republic (CAR), particularly after a large armed group entered a camp sheltering 17,700 Sudanese.

In a statement issued by his spokesman, Secretary-General Kofi Annan stressed that the increased violence is heightening political tensions in Chad and that its spillover effect is undermining international efforts to contribute to the stabilization of the situations in Sudan's western Darfur region and CAR.

In the most recent incident yesterday afternoon, an armed group entered the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) Goz Amer camp, some 95 kilometres from the Sudanese border, during a food distribution to some 17,700 of the more than 200,000 Sudanese who have fled the vicious fighting in Darfur over the past three years.

“This action clearly frightened the refugees and is of deep concern to UNHCR and its partners,” spokesperson Jennifer Pagonis told a news briefing in Geneva. “We are extremely concerned.”

A group of 118 staff from various aid groups, including three from UNHCR, were unable to leave the camp, but by this morning the situation was reported to be calm and humanitarian workers who had spent the night inside the camp were able to leave.

In his statement, Mr. Annan also drew attention to the south where Chad is hosting thousands of CAR refugees who have fled growing insecurity due to a mixture of armed insurgency against the Government, military reprisals against northern CAR villages where the insurgents are thought to be hiding, and widespread banditry.

“He strongly condemns the attacks against refugee camps in southern Chad and stresses the need to respect the safety and dignity of refugees and internally displaced persons,” the statement said.

Mr. Annan also firmly condemned the killing in northern CAR of two doctors on a UN-backed mission to deliver vital medical assistance to thousands of civilians trapped by the worsening violence in that part of the country.

“He calls on the authorities for swift action to bring those responsible for the killings to justice,” the statement concluded.

In recent weeks UNHCR has expressed growing concern as clashes have spread along the Sudanese-Chadian border. “We are watching the situation very closely,” Ms. Pagonis said. High Commissioner António Guterres has warned that the fighting poses a growing risk to civilians, the displaced and humanitarian workers.

## **Dr. Nafei Ali Nafei holds talks with Mr. Pronk**

(*Akhbar Alyaum* – 12<sup>th</sup> Apr. **Khartoum**) Dr. Nafei Ali Nafei, Assistant to the President of the Republic and also the NCP's secretary for political and organisational affairs, said that the partners in the GoNU are capable of resolving the Abyei issue and to reach an agreement acceptable to all.

In a meeting yesterday with SRSJ Jan Pronk, Nafei said that the resolutions of the Security Council only hamper the efforts for peace.

He said the people at the negotiations table should be given a chance for more dialogue.

Dr. Nafei reiterated government commitments to the realisation of peace in Darfur and eastern Sudan and lauded the UN for the humanitarian assistance it provides to the needy in Sudan.

## **UN Security Council says Darfur peace deal must occur by April 30\***

(*AP/ST* – 11<sup>th</sup> Apr. **United Nations**) The U.N. Security Council demanded Tuesday that the Sudanese government and rebels reach agreement by April 30 to end the conflict in Darfur and reaffirmed its determination to hold accountable those blocking peace and violating human rights.

A presidential statement adopted by consensus by the 15 council members stressed that "an inclusive political settlement is key to peace in Sudan" and backed the peace talks in Abuja, Nigeria, led by the African Union which resumed Monday.

The Security Council endorsed the decision of the African Union Peace and Security Council setting April 30 as "the final deadline for reaching an agreement." The council "demands that all parties make the necessary efforts to reach an agreement by this date," the statement said.

Decades of low-level tribal clashes over land and water in the Darfur region erupted into large-scale violence in early 2003 when ethnic African tribes took up arms, accusing the Arab-dominated central government of neglect. The government is accused of responding by unleashing Arab tribal militias known as Janjaweed to murder and rape civilians and lay waste to villages - a charge it denies.

The fighting in Darfur has left about 180,000 dead over the last three years - most from disease and hunger - and displaced another 2 million from their homes. Seven rounds of talks in Abuja since August 2004 have yet to yield a breakthrough to end the fighting.

But the decision in the latest talks to negotiate directly could result in the signing of a new cease-fire proposed by mediators "in the coming days" and lead to the conclusion of a peace agreement, an African Union statement cited A.U. chairman Denis Sassou-Nguesso, the Republic of Congo's president, as saying.

In its statement, the Security Council reiterated concern "that the persisting violence in Darfur might further negatively affect the rest of the country as well as the region, including the security of Chad."

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, in a separate statement from his spokesman, expressed deep concern at the recent intensification of fighting along Chad's eastern border with

Sudan's Darfur region and the extension of the armed confrontations to the southern borders with the Central African Republic.

He condemned recent attacks on refugee camps in southern Chad and the killing of two doctors on a U.N.-backed humanitarian mission in the northern Central African Republic, U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said.

Annan said "the increased violence is heightening political tensions in Chad and that its spillover effect is undermining international efforts to contribute to the stabilization of the situations in neighboring Darfur and the Central African Republic," Dujarric said.

In its statement, the Security Council reiterated "in the strongest terms the need for all parties to the conflict in Darfur to put an immediate end to the violence and atrocities."

The council expressed regret at the Sudanese government's recent refusal to allow U.N. humanitarian chief Jan Egeland to visit Darfur and called for an explanation. It also expressed regret at the government's refusal to renew the contract of the Norwegian Refugee Council, which was running one of the largest camps, and expressed "grave concern over the humanitarian consequences."

The council commended the work of the 7,000-strong African Union force which has been trying to prevent the Darfur conflict from worsening and welcomed the A.U. Peace and Security Council's decision in principle March 10 to hand over peacekeeping to a U.N. force.

It called on all parties to provide additional support to the A.U. peacekeeping force until Sept. 30 and "to take all necessary measures to ensure a smooth and successful transfer to a United Nations operation."

### **Canada's Dallaire to review UN Darfur plan - TV report**

(*CTV/ST* – 8<sup>th</sup> Apr. **Toronto**) The United Nations will soon ask Sen. Romeo Dallaire to review a peacekeeping plan for Darfur — something that could mean deploying more Canadian troops there, the Canadian CTV News reported.

"It needs not developing country's troops, it needs developed countries troops," Dallaire, who witnessed the 1994 Rwandan genocide firsthand while commanding handcuffed UN troops, told CTV News about the Darfur situation.

"It needs troops from the northern countries; it needs troops from middle powers like Canada."

MPs from all parties gathered this week to express sadness and horror at the ongoing violence that has killed more than 200,000 people and created more than three million refugees.

"As we gather here in Ottawa, mass atrocity and impunity continue in Darfur," Liberal MP Irwin Cotler said.

They issued a call for action, and it's one that Prime Minister Stephen Harper may act on.

"We have given that some preliminary consideration. We haven't reached any final decision," Harper said.

"This obviously is something that would have to be worked out in concert with all of our allies including the United States and others."

Canada has about 50 soldiers in Darfur acting as advisers or otherwise providing support to African Union troops. In addition, Canada has sent about 100 armoured vehicles.

Dallaire thinks Canada can and should do more.

"Does it have enough depth now to handle another mission? My estimate is yes but it doesn't have any more room after that," he said.

The government has not yet asked military officials to plan for an increased presence in Sudan, but that could soon change.

The UN releases its Sudan action plan on April 24, and that plan will likely call for more peacekeepers.

"We welcome the initiative to develop a plan, that as on the 60th anniversary of the whole concept of peacekeeping which emerged right here from Canada, that Canada's prepared to move from 33rd place in participation to a more significant role," NDP Leader Jack Layton said Friday.

## **CPA**

### **Void widens between NCP and SPLM over constitution of Khartoum State**

(*AlAyaam* – 12<sup>th</sup> Apr. **Khartoum**) Differences between the NCP and their SPLM partners in government over a constitution for Khartoum State, the national capital, may be referred to the Presidency of the Republic for arbitration.

The SPLM says there are 17 points in the draft pushed by the National Congress Party that are not in line with the CPA and the National Interim Constitution and that all efforts to reach common grounds on the issue have failed and the NCP continues to insist that Khartoum State should be regarded in the same light as the other northern Sudanese states and should not be given special consideration in legislature despite the fact it is the national capital.

### **Ethiopian army moving against Anuak in South Sudan**

(*Aegis Trust/ST* – 12<sup>th</sup> Apr. **London**) April 12, 2006 (LONDON) — The Ethiopian Army has entered Southern Sudan in cooperation with the SPLA as part of operations to disarm members of the Anuak ethnic minority, and is currently 24 km from Pochalla, where over 17,000 Anuak refugees are living.

In a press statement, the British charity group, Aegis Trust, said "large numbers of Anuak fled Gambella, Ethiopia, following a massacre in Gambella town in December 2003". A source inside Pochalla has indicated that the Anuak community there fears it may be about to face violence worse than that witnessed in 2003, and believes the troops may arrive within the next 24 hours.

The roads to Pochalla and nearby Otalo, which has a population of approximately 10,000 Anuak refugees, are reported to be blocked on the east by Ethiopian forces and on the west by the SPLA.

Members of the Anuak community state that disarmament operations commenced on 4 April and claim that they have been accompanied by violence against civilians, including a number of killings, rapes, the looting of property and the burning of houses.

The operations follow an attack on highlanders reported in Dimma, Gambella, and a reported request by the Ethiopian authorities for the SPLA to hand over 18 leading Anuak living in Pochalla, some of Sudanese nationality, accused of supporting Anuak rebels against the Ethiopians in Gambella.

In the past two days, members of the Merle ethnic minority are reported to have taken advantage of the disarmament of Anuak by attacking members of the community near Pochalla and also at Ajwara, wounding two people and stealing cattle.

In 2003, oil giant Petronas obtained a concession from the Ethiopian Government to conduct exploration activity in the Gambella basin. Anuak activists claim that the start of their recent troubles is linked to the discovery of Gambella's natural wealth.

## **GoNU**

### **Caucus of southern Sudanese parties to table a number of issues before the National Assembly**

(*AlAyaam* – 12<sup>th</sup> Apr. **Khartoum**) Members of the caucus of southern Sudanese parties at the National Assembly has agreed to table a number of issues for debate before the House.

The issues to be raised include the administrative structure for Abyei, the Cairo incidents in which a number of Sudanese refugees lost their life, compensations for citizens evicted by the petroleum drilling in Mellut, Adar, Bentieu, Abyei and Upper Nile and the recent unrest witnessed at the Juba University.

### **Sudan, Eritrea hold talks on security**

(*AlSahafa* – 12<sup>th</sup> Apr. **Khartoum**) Talks between Sudanese and Eritrean security officials started in Khartoum yesterday.

The talks will focus on means to clear out security obstacles that hinder a complete normalisation of bilateral relations between the two countries.

Delegates at the closed door talks yesterday refused to give statements to the media following the meeting.

## **Northern Sudan/ Khartoum**

### **Merowe Dam affected areas exploded into violence and burning**

(*ST* – 11<sup>th</sup> Apr. **Khartoum**) The year-long tense situation in the Hamdab ( Merowe) Dam affected areas ( 350 km north of Khartoum on the river Nile Fourth cataracts) exploded into an unprecedented violence in Amri area ( the second largest affected group), when the dam authority had unilaterally decided to carry out its plans and resettle Amri group in Wadi Al Mugadam ( a desert location which experts say has been a dumping site for radioactive waste during Nemeris time).

The current events were triggered by the authority when it decided to carry out the final survey by force.

The survey - which was supposed to take place last December - has been postponed many times due to the objection of the affected communities.

The Amri people whose area is known by its numerous land and inaccessibility refused to be resettled in Wadi Al Mugadam and chose resettlement around the reservoir shores.

The violent events started on Friday when the dam authority brought in a huge number of its militia in an attempt to uproot people and clear the area of the inhabitants.

Violent events and confrontation took place between the advancing militia and the villagers who - according to eye witness - swear to defend their land.

Two dam's office buildings were set afire and a number of vehicles belonging to the militia and the dam security force were destroyed when a group of the militia and dam security personnel took refuge in them.

Unknown number of people has been injured, report say three of the injured are in critical conditions. Villagers were successful to turn back the militia. Reports from the area confirmed that a number of people have been arrested and their whereabouts is unknown.

Eye witnesses say tens of vehicles (lorries, trucks and private cars) loaded with villagers demanding the release of their leaders headed towards the town of Kariema ( 25 km north of the dam site) to which the villagers believe their leaders have been taken into custody by dam militia.

Analysts stress that the situation in Kariema town is very tense as the current events come at a critical time and there are fears that these events might inflame the already tense situation as the dam authority has expropriated the land of many people living in the town and the surrounding areas.

Reports say that, while the villagers are heading to Kariema, the dam authority - fearing further escalations and in an attempt to terrorise the affected communities has positioned its militia in and around the entrances and exits of the areas.

A member of the affected communities who spoke by phone from Kariema on condition of anonymity says "The affected communities believe that the blockade by the dam authority is aimed to cut off food supplies from the affected communities to bring them to submit to the will of the dam authority.

The dam authority believes that the world is now busy with Darfur and its time to dump the affected community in the desert before the world turns its attention to Hamdab plight".

The current events represent a fresh round of the ongoing conflict between the dam authority and the affected communities.

These events could possibly set the whole of northern Sudan on spiralling confrontation particularly northern State which the dam authority inexplicably expropriated all its cultivable land last year, a decision that was met by a loud public outcry across the state.

The area is set for further confrontations and unrest, observers believe.

### **Students form a coalition of students' unions**

(*Khartoum Monitor* – 12<sup>th</sup> Apr. **Khartoum**) Students unions of the Khartoum, Upper Nile, holy Quran Shendi, Kordofan and Red Sea universities have ratified the constitution of a coalition combining their unions.

The General Union for Sudanese Students, as the coalition is called, claims it has no political agenda and shall represent students and stand for their cause. Members of this new coalition say the coalition was formed democratically and shall not wait for state recognition to gain legitimacy.

It also called upon the GoNU not to interact with the other older and parallel students' body that, they claim, represents the National Congress Party.

### **Darfur/ Abuja talks**

#### **President Bashir says V-p Taha is in Abuja to repeat the Naivasha success**

(*AlRai AlAam* – 12<sup>th</sup> Apr. **Malakal**) President Bashir has reiterated the commitments of the Government of National Unity to implement the CPA but said peace will only be complete with the realisation of stability and security in Darfur and eastern Sudan.

The President, who was officiating at a graduation ceremony for students of the Upper Nile University in Malakal alongside Vice-President Salva Kiir yesterday, said that Vice-President Taha has been sent to Abuja to lead the talks with the armed groups and repeat the success of the Naivasha talks that culminated in the signing of the CPA.

The President vowed that the NCP will work together with the SPLM to implement the CPA to the letter and to develop the areas destroyed by the war.

He expressed hopes that the referendum on self determination for southern Sudan will result into voluntary unity after the interim period.

#### **Chadian rebels raid refugee camp**

(*AlAyaam/ agencies* – 12<sup>th</sup> Apr.) UNHCR reports that a security officer was killed in a refugee camp housing 17,000 Sudanese refugees when Chadian rebel forces attacked the camp.

A BBC reporter in Chad reports that the security situation in Chad is deteriorating fast especially following the defection of a number of officers from the Chadian army.

### **Southern Sudan/ GoSS/ SPLM**

#### **SPLA says only two soldiers killed in Wau clashes**

(*SRS/ST* – 11<sup>th</sup> Apr. **Nairobi**) The Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) said that a Radio Wau report that 7 people were killed and several others wounded in clashes among SPLA soldiers of the Joint Integrated Unit (JIU) in Wau last week is not accurate.

The SPLA Chief of Military Intelligence of the four Bahr al Ghazal states, Brigadier Marial Nuor, said that only two SPLA soldiers were killed and one wounded in the clashes.



Brigadier Nuor told Sudan Radio Service (SRS) by telephone on Monday 10 April that the clashes broke out when SPLA military authorities paid the salaries of one battalion but told the second battalion to wait for a few days before they would be paid.

According to Brigadier Nuor, the soldiers demanded to be paid immediately, went on a rampage and began shooting at their colleagues in the other battalion that had been paid.

He disputed reports that the Sudanese Armed Forces were involved in the clashes, saying the conflict was limited to SPLA soldiers.

"It was just administrative misunderstanding between our own forces according to what I have received from confirmed sources. Sudanese army there is nothing about them. They are within their places and the JIU, which is also a mix of the Sudanese army and those who came from the SPLA are there. This is what I know", said Brigadier Marial Nuor.

The military official said that the situation was now calm and the soldiers involved in the shoot-out had been detained.

### **Uganda army kills 3 Lord's Resistance Army rebels in Sudan**

(*AlAyaam* – 12<sup>th</sup> Apr. *Agencies*) The Uganda Peoples' Defence Forces says it killed 3 Lord's Resistance Army soldiers who were trying to cross the Nile from Eastern Equatoria on their way to the DRC to join their leader Joseph Kony.

One other Lord's Resistance Army member has been arrested.

A spokesperson for the UPDF said that the three are part of a group of rebels who are trying to flee to the DRC.

### **Ugandan traders in Yei request protection**

(*AlAyaam* – 12<sup>th</sup> Apr. *Agencies*) Ugandan traders operating in Yei have requested the Sudanese and Ugandan governments to protect their interests in the Sudan.

They have called for the opening of a Ugandan consulate in Yei for that purpose.

They point out that the locals in Yei show some hostility towards them and think they are in Sudan to control trade in the area.

They point out that this hostile attitude towards foreign traders in southern Sudan led to the expulsion of Somali traders from Yei two weeks ago.

## **Eastern Sudan**

### **Army spokesperson says SAF repulsed a JEM, Beja Congress attack on the east**

(*Akhbar Alyaum* – 12<sup>th</sup> Apr. **Khartoum**) The Office of the Spokesperson of the SAF issued a statement early this morning stating that the Beja Congress and the JEM launched simultaneous attacks yesterday afternoon (11<sup>th</sup> April) on two SAF positions in eastern Sudan.

In one of these attacks, reinforcements were brought in and the SAF repulsed the attack with the assistance of air cover.

Two of the attackers were killed in the attack.

The attack has caused much anxiety among the civilian population and six citizens lost their life (*the statement does not say what was the cause of death was*).

On the other hand, the statement goes on, a SAF T55 tank caught fire on the main highway to Port Sudan. The incident that happened far from the site of the attacks was caused by an electric short-circuit, says the SAF.

## **Other Articles**

### **Kampala expresses reservations over Garang crash report**

(*AlRai AlAam* – 12<sup>th</sup> Apr. **Khartoum**) The Ugandan government has formally expressed its reservations over the Garang crash report and insists certain amendments have to be introduced.

The Sudanese component of the probe team has totally rejected an amendment and has sent a delegation to Kampala for talks with their Ugandan counterparts on the Ugandan observations in the issue.