



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN  
UNMIS

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**(By Public Information Office)**

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# **HIGHLIGHTS:**

## **UN/ AMIS-UN transition**

### **President Bashir reiterates: No to foreign intervention in Darfur**

(*AlRai AlAam* – 20<sup>th</sup> Apr. **Port Sudan**) Speaking to political activists and representatives of pressure groups in Port Sudan yesterday, President Bashir said some foreign elements seek only to clear Darfur of all its inhabitants following confirmed reports of vast reserves of uranium in the Darfur region.

He said plans were underway as far back as the 19<sup>th</sup> century to turn Sudan into a Christian African state or, failure to do so, to cause its disintegration into many parts.

The President reiterated his rejection to an AMIS to UN transition saying, “We shall not sign any document to colonise the country through allowing a UN force into Darfur”.

He said this will be a new form of colonization and pointed out that the UN is planning to send forces to Darfur in order to follow up on the ICC resolution [*on the list of 51 suspects of Darfur war crimes*] and to turn the Sudan into another Iraq.

“No to another Iraq in Sudan and no to another Abu-Ghraib [*prison*]”, he added.

The President further adds that the international forces are coming to Darfur to split the country and once here “we shall hear talk of a right to self-determination for Darfur and secession”.

On US and UK attempts to convince the Security Council to allow sanctions on 4 Sudanese accused of war crimes in Darfur, the president said no Sudanese will be tried outside the country “be it through a Security Council resolution or a resolution of the US Administration!”

“Why do they threaten us,” he wondered, “we will only die when our day is come”.

The President pointed out that the Sudan is not against the UN but only part of its components and requests the UN to approach on a straight path and through the consent of the Sudan government and not to impose itself on the country.

He warned of another Sheikan\* should the UN use force in deploying to Darfur.

*\* Sheikan is the name of a famous battle which derives its name from a place in eastern Sudan where the Mahdi's forces totally crippled the forces of Hicks Pasha before independence.*

## **Local press coverage on yesterday's press conference at UNMIS**

**On the transition:** (*AlAyaam, AlSahafa*) ASG Annabi, at a press conference at UNMIS yesterday, underlined the need to start deploying international forces into Darfur right from now.

He said he held talks with officials in the government of Sudan over a possible transition of the AMIS to a UN operation at the beginning of October this year. He pointed out that if an international peacekeeping force is to be deployed to Darfur, it is important that deployment start now in order not to prolong the transition as the deployment process takes a long time.

He said Troop Contributing Countries are needed as well as a mandate from the Security Council based on recommendations of the Secretary-General concluded in consultation with the parties and an assessment of the situation on the ground.

Annabi said he had talks while in Addis with the African Union Peace & Security Council Commissioner Saeed Djinnit and agreed to work together (UN and the AU) and establish joint mechanisms.

He assured the press that the UN has no hidden agenda.

The ASG further said that the government does not support a transition at this stage and feels the focus should currently be on achieving peace after which discussions may take place on a possible UN role.

He said he assured the government that the UN is not here to impose itself but wants to work with the people of Sudan to monitor the peace in Darfur and assist the parties in implementing the peace agreement once realised.

He said the UN will continue to lobby for support to the AU until the end of its mandate period this September and that current discussions with the government are focussed on the deployment of UN forces after a peace deal is reached in Abuja.

ASG Annabi also said that a UN assessment team will be coming to Sudan but its visit will be carried out without prejudice to the decisions of the Sudan government.

**On the developments in Chad and Darfur:** (*AlAyaam*) ASG Annabi told the press yesterday that the UN has called upon the governments of Sudan and Chad to honour the Tripoli Agreement and reach a negotiated settlement.

SRSG Pronk, on his part, criticised the postponement of the meeting of the ceasefire military committee for the fifth time.

He said that the postponement may affect the security situation on the ground but pointed out that the recent developments in Chad have not affected the Abuja talks.

Pronk underlined the need to improve the security situation in Darfur before a peace deal is reached and for a "bridge between Abuja and Darfur".

Pronk, on the other hand, was optimistic that a peace deal will soon be reached in Abuja before the end of this month and praised the efforts of the government of Sudan towards that end, reports *AlSahafa* daily. He said the Sudan delegation has raised the level of her

representation there to the level of Vice-President Taha whom, adds Pronk, did not travel to Abuja for a day or two but will remain there until an agreement is reached.

He said he is preparing to travel to Abuja before going to New York.

**On eastern Sudan:** (*AlAyaam*) The UN has called on the armed movements of Darfur to withdraw from eastern Sudan before the end of July this year.

In a press conference at UNMIS yesterday, SRSG Pronk underlined the need for a political decision before the start of talks before the Khartoum government and the eastern Sudanese rebels.

He said that the UN is not participating in these talks but may be an observer should it receive invitation from the parties.

### **Security Council likely to appeal to Chad, Sudan to self-restraint**

(*AP/ST* – 19<sup>th</sup> Apr. **United Nations**) The U.N. Security Council is likely to respond to the recent rebel attack on the capital of Chad with an appeal to the leaders of Chad and neighbouring Sudan to stand by their February pledge not to destabilize each other's country, France's U.N. ambassador said Tuesday.

Ambassador Jean-Marc de La Sabliere said the council is also likely to stress in a statement being drafted by African members of the council that it is unacceptable in 21st century Africa for anyone to seize power by force.

"Things have changed," he said. "Making coups like 15 years ago or 20 years ago ... is not acceptable. ... Secondly, using the territory of one country to destabilize another country is something which is not acceptable."

Secretary-General Kofi Annan, who has called the attempted coup in Chad "very worrying," briefed the council late Tuesday on the latest developments and the recent attack. He urged the council to think about taking some measure, which is likely to be a presidential statement, Japan's U.N. Ambassador Kenzo Oshima said.

At Tuesday's closed-door briefing, diplomats said council ambassadors were told that 125 new vehicles transported well-armed rebel fighters in new uniforms 1,000 kilometers from the Sudan-Chad border to N'Djamena, the capital of this volatile, oil-producing nation in the center of Africa. Council members want to know who supplied the vehicles, weapons and uniforms, the diplomats said, speaking on condition of anonymity because the meeting was closed.

De La Sabliere said the rebels came from the conflict-wracked Darfur region of neighboring Sudan.

The assault underscored concerns that the civil war in Darfur has undermined Chadian President Idriss Deby's authority and destabilized the entire region. It also showed how little control Deby wields in the countryside, where rebels cruise the desert at will.

Deby blamed Sudan's government for backing the rebels in Chad, where more than 200,000 refugees from Darfur have fled. He severed relations with Sudan and threatened to expel the refugees if the international community did not do more to stop the rebels from destabilizing

his government before Chadian presidential election scheduled May 3 - though he later backed down on the expulsion threat.

Sudan denies the claim and accuses Chad of backing a different rebel group in Darfur.

De La Sabliere said both Annan and Salim Ahmed Salim, the African Union mediator trying to get the parties in Darfur to agree to a peace deal, stressed Tuesday that the Darfur-Chad situation could destabilize the whole central African region, "so this is very dangerous."

"The discussion we had showed that the members of the council think that the African Union should be on the forefront," of trying to resolve the conflicts, he said.

What council members want, the French ambassador said, is for the Sudanese and Chadians to abide by the peace agreement they signed in Tripoli, Libya, on Feb. 8 in which they pledged to normalize diplomatic relations and deny refuge to each other's rebel groups.

In the agreement, Deby and Sudanese President Omar el-Bashir pledged to work to prevent the presence of rebels on each other's territory.

"So it should be a collective effort to calm down the situation and have the countries respecting what they have signed in Tripoli," de La Sabliere said.

Argentina's U.N. Ambassador Cesar Mayoral said in addition to the situation in the region, the international community needs to address the problem of relief workers helping the refugees and what happens in the interior of Chad.

### **US draft urges UN sanctions against Sudan officials**

(AFP/ST- 19<sup>th</sup> Apr. **United Nations**) The United States submitted a draft resolution in the UN Security Council urging targeted sanctions against four Sudanese officials blamed for the bloodshed in Darfur.

The text, which did not name the four individuals or give their rank, was circulated among the council's 15 members as the chief mediator in Darfur peace talks said that the conflict was "ripe for resolution" in view of Khartoum's new flexibility.

The sanctions involve an assets freeze and travel restrictions on the four persons for their alleged role in the Darfur violence, which Washington calls genocide.

They were to have been adopted at the end of a 48-hour silence procedure launched by the council's sanctions committee, which expired at 4:00 pm (2000 GMT) Monday, provided no council member objected.

But Russia and China said Monday that the time was not right for the sanctions in view of ongoing African Union-brokered Darfur peace talks in Abuja, Nigeria.

US Ambassador John Bolton therefore introduced the resolution Tuesday to circumvent the opposition from Russia and China with the hope that the two countries would not veto the text.

"We are going to talk about it tomorrow," Bolton said. A resolution requires nine votes and no veto from the five permanent members — Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States.

The US draft said that the targets were one official linked to the Sudanese Air Force, another to the Jalul Tribe in northern Darfur and two others to two Darfur rebel groups, the Sudanese Liberation Army and the National Movement for Reform and Development.

Bolton said their names would be released once a consensus emerges on the draft and it is ready for adoption.

The names were submitted by the council's sanctions committee more than a year after the council adopted Resolution 1591, which authorizes measures against people committing atrocities or undermining peace efforts in Sudan's western region.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said: "I have to remind people that there have been heinous crimes that were committed (in Darfur). It is time to start to hold people responsible for those crimes and for the actions that they have taken ... We believe that it's time to act."

But briefing the Security Council on the Abuja peace talks, AU mediator Salim Ahmed Salim of Tanzania said: "The conflict in Darfur... seems at last to be ripe for resolution."

He told the council that Khartoum was showing some flexibility on the key issues of power and wealth sharing as well as security arrangements.

"For the first time there are intensive bilateral and direct discussions between the parties, as well as meetings facilitated by the (AU) mediation," he said. "We are hopeful that the differences can be narrowed."

Asked what impact sanctions might have on the peace process, Salim said: "Sanctions can be an effective instrument in conveying the message, particularly for those who are spoilers of the peace process."

"But sanctions can also help to harden the position of some of those involved," he added. "One has to strike the right balance ... It is up to the Security Council to say (whether) the sanctions should be imposed."

Monday, China's UN envoy Wang Guangya, the president of the council for April, argued that "this is not the right moment" to impose the sanctions in view of the ongoing Abuja talks.

The Abuja talks, now in their seventh round, had until now made little progress but both the United Nations and the African Union are putting pressure on the parties to strike a deal and conclude the talks by the end of this month.

Salim meanwhile pleaded with council members to ensure that once a comprehensive ceasefire accord is signed, they will extend "maximum support to the cash-strapped AU peacekeeping force in Darfur (AMIS) to enable it to cope with additional responsibilities".

UN officials are preparing to send peacekeepers to Darfur by the end of the year or at the beginning of 2007 to take over from the AMIS force, which has failed to restore peace in the vast western Sudanese region.

But Sudanese President Omar al-Beshir is strongly opposed to the UN mission.

### **Sudan denies visas to Darfur for UN military group**

(Reuters – 19<sup>th</sup> Apr. **United Nations**) Sudan's president refused to grant visas to Darfur for a U.N. military assessment mission that wanted to plan for a U.N. peacekeeping mission, a U.N. spokesman said on Wednesday.

The Khartoum government has not consented to U.N. troops to augment the African Union soldiers currently trying to stop atrocities in the violent Darfur region but officials said they would discuss it after a peace agreement under negotiation in Abuja, Nigeria.

Hedi Annabi, a U.N. assistant secretary-general for peacekeeping, went to Khartoum this week and spoke to President Omar Hassan al-Bashir and other officials about sending the U.N. team to Darfur.

"They felt this was not the time for a U.N. assessment mission to go into Darfur until the Abuja process was completed," U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said. "We have a clear political line from the Sudanese at this point."

U.S. Ambassador John Bolton said "That's clearly a mistake that undercuts our ability to do contingency planning."

But Dujarric said contingency planning continued and options for an eventual force in Darfur would be presented to the Security Council.

"It's much more a bump in the road than the end of the road for us in terms of contingency planning," Dujarric said.

Security Council diplomats agreed but said an on-site visit would have made the planning more accurate. Annabi, a Tunisian, was supposed to have a second meeting with Bashir but the United Nations said this did not take place.

Earlier this month Sudan denied permission for Jan Egeland, the outspoken U.N. emergency relief coordinator, to go to Darfur.

Salim Ahmed Salim, the African Union's chief mediator at the Abuja talks between the government and two rebels groups, told the Security Council on Tuesday he expected a cease-fire deal by April 30 but acknowledged that none of the sides had offered major concessions.

Still, there has been hesitation among African Union officials about placing their 7,000 troops in Darfur under U.N. command, with North African Arab nations supporting Sudan.

**CPA**

## **President Bashir calls on the SPLM to change its manner towards the National Congress Party**

(*AlSahafa* – 20<sup>th</sup> Apr. **Port Sudan**) President Bashir has urged the SPLM to change its manner towards its National Congress Party partners in the GoNU.

The President who was addressing a mass rally in Port Sudan yesterday said the SPLM must act like a partner and not an enemy to the NCP. He pointed out that some members of the SPLM still have in them the spirit of war.

“We have kept quiet for long but will hold on until they [*those SPLM elements he described*] transcend this stage,” adds the president.

On the other hand, the President in Port Sudan yesterday inaugurated 4 battle-ships of the Sudan Navy and promised development for eastern Sudan and called on the rebels in eastern Sudan to heed to reason and put down their guns.

## **SPLM to withdraw from Hamesh Khoreib next Thursday**

(*AlSahafa* – 20<sup>th</sup> Apr. **Khartoum**) Sources report that prominent SPLA officers have travelled yesterday to Kassala and will head for Hamesh Khoreib tomorrow to oversee the withdrawal and redeployment of the SPLA from Hamesh Khoreib.

Informed sources say that the SPLA forces will arrive Kassala next Thursday and will be in Medeni on Friday from where they travel straight to Kosti as they head south.

Meanwhile the Office of the Spokesperson of the SAF confirms that according to arrangements agreed upon by both parties, the SPLA will start redeploying from the east early next week and had been delayed for logistic purposes.

It is worth noting that there is a SAF and Eastern Front military build-up surrounding Hamesh Khoreib and only waiting for the SPLA withdrawal to scramble for the town.

## **GoNU**

### **Bashir heralds good news to be heard from Abuja**

(*AlSahafa* – 20<sup>th</sup> Apr. **Port Sudan**) Speaking to political activists and representatives of trade unions in Port Sudan yesterday, President Bashir said good news will soon be heard from Abuja.

He said that Vice-President Taha is in Abuja and will come back with peace the way he did in Naivasha.

### **President Bashir issues decree restoring the 1956 boundaries of the Darfur region**

(*AlAyaam* – 20<sup>th</sup> Apr. **Khartoum**) The President of the Republic issued yesterday a decree restoring the 1956 boundaries of the Darfur region.

The Darfur caucus at the National Assembly welcomed the President’s decision to restore to North Darfur the disputed Karab el-Toum region and say this decision puts to rest the long-running [*since 1996*] conflict with the Northern State over the area.



## **Darfur/ Abuja talks/ Chad**

### **Clashes displace tens of thousands in Darfur's Jebel Marra**

(IRIN – 19<sup>th</sup> Apr. Nairobi) At least 30,000 people have been displaced by recent fighting in the mountain ranges of Jebel Marra in central Darfur, according to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which has recently regained access to parts of the region following a spate of violence that led to its evacuation.

"During a recent needs assessment, we found 64,000 people - about half of them recently displaced and living with the resident population - putting a strain on local resources," Paul Conneally, ICRC communication coordinator in Sudan, said on Tuesday. "These represent only some of the victims of the armed clashes that have been occurring in the Jebel Marra since the start of the year."

The latest clashes started when Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) rebels attacked the government-controlled town of Rokoro on 24 December 2005, then Golo on 23 January. The attacks violated a ceasefire agreement and led to counterattacks by the Sudanese military and allied militias.

As the clashes continued, humanitarian agencies were forced to pull out of the area in January. Although some assessments have been carried out since then, no aid organisation has been able to resume activities inside the Jebel Marra area. Many other areas, particularly in the north-central region, remain inaccessible to aid workers.

Throughout March, Conneally told IRIN, there had been "regular and heavy fighting, particularly involving Arab militias". Recently, fighting again flared up around the villages of Pidon and Diya. The ICRC assessment found that people living in villages in southwestern Jebel Marra, including Kelling, Sorong and Dursa, had been cut off from any assistance for months.

However, it noted that because of a relatively good harvest in 2005 in what is regarded as one of the most fertile areas of Darfur, and thanks to the distributions carried out until mid-January 2006, the current food situation remained acceptable.

Still, many of the displaced urgently needed non-food items such as blankets, sheeting and cooking sets - particularly with the rainy season fast approaching. Already, some of them had moved deeper into the mountains and there were fears that the rain would make it harder to reach such areas. Currently, aid workers were walking or using donkeys and camels to scale the tough mountainous terrain.

"It is extremely frustrating to be present in the region but not be able to access the population in need," Conneally said. "The problem really is the ongoing fighting and insecurity. There is too much sporadic fighting going on for people to return."

Another source in the region said that in the whole Jebel Marra area - which is considered an SLA stronghold - there was "a return to outright hostilities with significant re-displacement".

"People have lost their houses, their belongings and their crops," he said. "Based on the number of villages that have been attacked, the total number of displaced could be as high as 80,000 to 100,000."

## **Chad asked to prove Sudan role in rebel attacks**

(Reuters – 19<sup>th</sup> Apr. N'Djamena) The international community is seeking solid proof from Chad to back its accusations that neighbouring Sudan is behind rebel attempts to overthrow President Idriss Deby, diplomats said on Wednesday.

Insurgents fighting to end Deby's rule over the landlocked central African oil producer launched a lightning assault on the capital last week, racing across the desert in pick-up trucks from the eastern border region with Sudan.

Deby has accused Sudan of attacking his country in a drive to export what he called Khartoum's fundamentalist system to sub-Saharan Africa. His government says it has abundant proof of Sudan's involvement. Khartoum denies the charges.

"While Chad is making accusations, the Sudanese are defending themselves," said African Union Commission Chairman Alpha Oumar Konaré, one of the continent's top diplomats.

"So there is a need for a mission to establish the facts and, using them, make a condemnation," he told a news conference in Congo's capital Kinshasa. An AU mission is expected in Chad in the coming days.

Former colonial power France, which has more than 1,000 soldiers in Chad, says Deby was democratically elected and that its forces are defending "legitimacy and legality", although it says they have not been involved in any fighting.

French planes have flown reconnaissance missions across the vast country in what officials say are efforts to get to the bottom of Chad's accusations of Sudanese involvement.

But international condemnation of Sudan, particularly over the crisis in its Darfur region, has been far from unanimous.

Russia and China blocked U.N. sanctions on Monday against four Sudanese, including an air force general and a pro-Khartoum militia leader, held responsible for abuses there. The United States said it would force a public vote on the issue.

Chad says it has ample proof — ranging from circumstantial to "irrefutable" — that Sudan's government equipped and armed the insurgents who launched the dawn assault on the capital last week following a series of attacks further east.

"There were Sudanese officials among the prisoners we took who had been directing the fighting," Information Minister Hourmadji Moussa Doumgor said.

"The rebels arrived with 60 vehicles, with heavy weapons, fuel, logistics, all of it from Sudan. Do you think they could have done that without Sudanese support?" he said.

Foreign diplomats said many of those captured during the fighting appeared not to speak Chadian dialects, while residents said the insurgents had to ask the way to the presidential palace when they arrived and ended up attacking parliament.

"They spent ages attacking the biggest and emptiest building in N'Djamena," said one diplomat. "No one was in parliament but they were shooting at it as if Deby was inside."

Among the weapons seized and shown to journalists in N'Djamena after the fighting were Chinese-made equipment and munitions in Sudanese sugar sacks.

China, which has abstained from voting on every U.N. Security Council resolution critical of the Sudanese government over Darfur, is Sudan's biggest foreign investor — mostly in oil — and has provided considerable military loans.

"There is no doubt that the rebels are backed by Khartoum, you only have to look at the weapons which are all Chinese-made. There are several big Chinese weapons factories in Khartoum," said one independent analyst, who asked not to be named.

### **Libya gives \$4.5m to WFP to help feed Darfur**

(AP/ST – 19<sup>th</sup> Apr. **Khartoum**) Libya has given \$4.5 million to a U.N. agency to help feed the people of Darfur, western Sudan.

Famine and disease have caused deaths of many of the tens of thousands who have perished since the Darfur conflict erupted in 2003. Several million others have either fled into neighboring Chad or been displaced inside Sudan.

Libya's donation, made Tuesday, is its first to the World Food Programme. It covers increases since last year in the cost of jet fuel needed to airlift food during May to November rainy season.

Since August 2004, Libya has facilitated WFP efforts to aid to the Sudanese by allowing it to transport supplies from its Mediterranean port Benghazi overland through the Sahara Desert.

The assistance "comes at a time when there is donor fatigue in many parts of the world and our operations face severe funding shortages," Bradley Guerrant, WFP deputy regional director for Sudan said in an e-mail sent to The AP.

The WFP requires \$746 million for its emergency operation in Sudan in 2006.

### **France, Sudan accused of backing opposing sides in Chad's war**

(AP/ST – 19<sup>th</sup> Apr. **Kou Kou Angara, Chad**) The possible role of outsiders in Chad's war came under a spotlight Wednesday, with the United States expressing concern over reports Sudan was backing the rebels, and the rebels saying they would have toppled President Idriss Deby by now if it weren't for the French.

Both the rebels and Deby say intelligence from France was crucial in helping government troops repulse the rebels on April 13. The government said at least 350 people died, while the rebel group says far fewer were killed, including only 20 of its own men.

"If not for the intervention of French troops, we would today be in a position to control the country," Raoul Laona Gong, external affairs director for the rebel group known by the French acronym FUCD, said in an interview in Paris Wednesday.

Deby, in an interview published Wednesday in the French daily Le Figaro, praised France for providing critical intelligence, and said his government was rearming.

France's Defense Ministry has said its forces had fired a warning shot toward rebels who carried out the siege on N'djamena on April 12. France then raised its 1,200-strong deployment in Chad by 150.

Chad no longer receives military hardware from France, but French troops are stationed in the country and Chadian officers continue to be trained by France. France has supported Deby but also supported the president he toppled. France has a cooperation agreement with Chad but a special decision would be needed for French forces to enter combat.

The rebels sent a letter to the French Foreign Ministry on Tuesday seeking a meeting. Foreign Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy refused to meet with the rebel group.

"It's not expected that the minister will meet with representatives of movements that look to take power by force," ministry spokesman Jean-Baptiste Mattei said at a regular news briefing Wednesday.

Gong said the rebels' only support comes from Chad's people. But the American ambassador to Chad has expressed concerns about reports alleging that neighboring Sudan is backing the rebels. Deby has repeatedly accused Sudan of supporting the rebels, a charge Sudan denies.

"These reports that Sudan was indirectly or directly aiding the rebels are very troubling for us," U.S. Ambassador Marc Wall said during a tour of volatile eastern Chad, from where the rebels launched their April 13 raid.

At a briefing on Tuesday, U.N. diplomats said Security Council ambassadors were told that 125 new vehicles transported well-armed rebel fighters in new uniforms 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) from the Sudan-Chad border to N'Djamena for the April 13 attack. Council members want to know who supplied the vehicles, weapons and uniforms, the diplomats said, speaking on condition of anonymity because the meeting was closed.

Chad's parliament voted earlier this year to allow the release of more oil revenues to the government's general budget instead of channeling them to health, education and infrastructure. The World Bank, which had helped finance Chad's oil industry infrastructure, responded by freezing an escrow account with US\$125 million in oil royalties and cutting US\$124 million in financial aid.

Chad has threatened to close its oil pipeline if the World Bank doesn't reverse those moves by April 30. The consortium that produces Chad's oil has begun talks with the government on its threat to close the pipeline, a spokeswoman for Exxon Mobil, a member of the consortium, said Tuesday.

The government faced pressure on yet another front. About 80 percent of Chad's estimated 50,000 civil servants have since Monday been on an indefinite strike over pay.

The countrywide strike was called after talks failed April 7 when the government said it can't pay a 5 percent pay increase for all civil servants it agreed to in 2004, said Michel Barka, chairman of Union of Trade Unions of Chad.

Chad is among the poorest countries in the world, even though it began exporting oil in October 2003. Barka blamed rampant corruption for the government's budget problems.

Barka said because of the large number of casualties following the rebel strike on the capital, government doctors and nurses have continued to work on humanitarian grounds.

## **Southern Sudan/GoSS**

### **Paulino Matip takes office**

(*Juba Post* – 20<sup>th</sup> Apr. **Juba**) Lt. Gen. Paulino Matip has taken office as Deputy Commander in Chief of the SPLA under Lt. Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit.

Matip assumed the office in a ceremony attended by the President of the GoSS, the SPLA Chief of Staff and many other high-ranking SPLA officers.

### **Oil company helps civilians attack SPLA says GoSS MP**

(*Juba* – 20<sup>th</sup> Apr. **Juba**) Col. Bol Gatkuoth, an MP at the GoSS Legislative Assembly, has accused the PETRODAR oil company of providing trucks to transport a group of armed civilians to attack SPLA forces Jingmeer military post, in Upper Nile State.

In a written statement, the MP said that the Jingmeer SPLA military post was attacked on 15<sup>th</sup> April by insurgents “who received their military logistics from PETRODAR”.

He also said that the PDF was given the task of destabilizing the oil fields in north-eastern Upper Nile and cause disharmony in the community by giving ammunition and other military hardware to some people in Longchok and Nasir counties.

Gatkuoth called on the First Vice-President Salva Kiir to fulfil his promises to “deploy resources and the full force of the law” so that the citizens do not take the law in their own hands.

### **SPLA threatens mutiny over salaries**

(*Juba Post* – 20<sup>th</sup> Apr. **Juba**) The SPLA in Eastern Equatoria State have not received their salaries and have threatened mutiny if not paid.

Nartisio Loluke, an MP for Lopa County, said at a briefing with the Speaker of the South Sudan Legislative Assembly that during a ten day tour of the 8 counties of Eastern Equatoria found many problems facing the citizens amongst them the unpaid salaries of SPLA soldiers.

He pointed out that this threatens to cause insecurity.

### **Jonglei: highest number of child soldiers**

(*Juba Post* – 20<sup>th</sup> Apr. **Juba**) roughly 248 child soldiers, 45 of them girls, are still based in the camps of the armed forces and affiliated groups in Korfulus, Jonglei State.

The camps are considered to have the highest concentration of child ex-combatants in southern Sudan, a UNICEF report reveals.

The first large UN demobilisation campaign will begin in Korfulus next week and will start by trying to trace the origins of these children.

## **NGO registration still unclear**

(*Juba Post* – 20<sup>th</sup> Apr. **Juba**) NGO registration under the GoSS is yet to start and is currently awaiting provisional orders from the GoSS, says Stans Yatta, the director of the Sudan Relief Rehabilitation Commission. Yatta says the NGOs currently operating in southern Sudan are only using temporary permits and are not fully registered.

Chief Registrar Peter Gatkuoth who is also the GoSS Minister for Legal Affairs said that the ministry has authority over NGOs but share a joint administration with the SRRC.

## **Uganda says rebel LRA regrouping in Congo**

(*AP/ST* – 19<sup>th</sup> Apr. **United Nations**) Uganda's defence minister said Wednesday that rebels behind the country's 20-year insurgency are regrouping in neighbouring Congo. The defence minister appealed for international assistance to stop them before they invade.

The leader of the Lord's Resistance Army, which operated in northern Uganda and southern Sudan, fled across the border in February under pursuit from Ugandan troops. Defence Minister Amama Mbabazi said the rebels are now using a Congolese national park as a military base and have begun abducting new fighters.

"When they left southern Sudan they were really running for their dear lives, but in Garamba National Park they have had time to regroup, to rest and recruit afresh," Mbabazi told the U.N. Security Council.

He said the LRA might join "other negative forces in the Democratic Republic of Congo to attack Uganda."

Mbabazi called on the United Nations to order its peacekeeping missions in Sudan and Congo to help disarm the rebels and arrest group leader Joseph Kony and four of his top lieutenants. They have been indicted by the International Criminal Court for crimes against humanity and war crimes.

Mbabazi said Uganda was working toward an agreement with Congo that would allow Ugandan troops to hunt LRA rebels in their territory, similar to its arrangement with Sudan.

The Security Council passed a resolution in January that expressed concern about the LRA's "brutal insurgency," and asked Secretary-General Kofi Annan to suggest how governments in the region might stamp out rebel movements.

As one possible solution, Mbabazi suggested the U.N. empower one major country to take charge of the rebel problem. The model would be the mainly French force deployed to eastern Congo in 2003 to halt ethnic violence, or the Australian-led peacekeeping force sent to in East Timor in 1999.

The Lord's Resistance Army is made up of the remnants of a northern rebellion that began after Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, a southerner, took power in 1986. It holds no territory and is best known for kidnapping thousands of children and forcing them to become soldiers or sex slaves.

Since Ugandan troops launched an offensive in 2002, the rebels have been reduced from a force of 5,000 to an estimated 500 fighters - most of them in Congo, but with remnants scattered across northern Uganda, Mbabazi said.

The 20-year conflict has made about 2 million people homeless in what the U.N. undersecretary for humanitarian affairs, Jan Egeland, calls the world's most neglected humanitarian crisis. The displaced have been forced to live in massive government-controlled camps.

Uganda's Foreign Minister Sam Kutesa, however, took issue Wednesday with non-governmental organizations who have criticized conditions in the camps.

A report last month by the umbrella Civil Society Organizations for Peace in Northern Uganda noted the number of people killed weekly in northern Uganda is three times higher per capita than similar estimates for Iraq.

"There is no question that due to the threats from LRA activities the humanitarian situation facing IDPs (internally displaced people) in northern Uganda is unacceptable," Kutesa told the Council. "However it is equally unacceptable that certain international NGOs should seek to exploit the plight of IDPs for self-serving advocacy political and resource mobilization agendas."

Kutesa said Ugandan troops have tightened security around the camps, improving access for the residents to social services and reducing their dependence on handouts.

Kutesa also described progress toward establishing a proposed joint monitoring committee on northern Uganda, set up by Kampala with input from the U.N., NGOs, and other countries to address humanitarian concerns including resettlement of the displaced.

"The government hopes to finalize by August 2006 a comprehensive long-term peace recovery and development plan for northern Uganda," he said.

## **Eastern Sudan**

### **16 Ethiopian killed in raid by Sudanese herders**

(*ST* - 19<sup>th</sup> Apr. **Addis Ababa**) Up to 16 people in western Ethiopia were shot and killed in a weekend cattle raid by rival herders from neighbouring Sudan as a searing drought grips east Africa, relief workers said Wednesday.

Ethiopia's defence ministry confirmed the incident but said only two people were killed when hundreds of Nuer tribal warriors from Sudan attacked Ethiopian Nuer in a village in the western Gambella region early Sunday.

"About 450 Sudanese Nuer crossed the border into Jikaw on the 16th of April looted cattle from Ethiopians and shot two Ethiopian Nuer," ministry spokesman Dawit Assefa told AFP. "They took about 281 cattle and 31 goats."

Aid workers with knowledge of the area, however, contradicted the government account and said 16 people were killed and nine wounded in the attack, which they said happened on Saturday and displaced a large number of Ethiopian Nuer.

"Members of the Nuer tribe from Sudan... killed 16 Ethiopian Nuer among them women and children," a humanitarian official told AFP from the town of Gambella about 90 kilometers (55 miles) east of Jikaw.

"They shot them and seized their cattle," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of tribal rivalries in the area.

A second aid worker based in Addis Ababa gave the same casualty toll and said all the livestock in Jikaw had been stolen.

"All cattle from the village were stolen (and) the attack resulted in internal displacement of Ethiopian Nuers, mainly women and children," the second official told AFP.

"These clashes are seasonal, during a drought these things are happening," the official said.

Inter-clan tensions have long run high in the Gambella region, about 800 kilometers (500 miles) southwest of Addis Ababa, but have been exacerbated by the drought that is also blamed for similar deadly violence on the Kenyan-Ethiopian border.