



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN  
UNMIS

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**(By Public Information Office)**

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## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

### **UN**

#### **UN Sudan, Haiti peacekeeping operations embezzlement scandal**

(*Sudan Vision* – 1<sup>st</sup> Feb. **Khartoum**) \$194 million (20%) has been misappropriated from the budget of UN Peace keeping operations and \$65.1 Million from the funds allocated for operations in Haiti and Sudan.

Some high-level officials may be involved in the embezzlement scam and corruption in the purchase department of the UN Peacekeeping Division, according to a high-level official in the UN General-Secretariat. The UN Deputy Secretary-General for Financial and Humanitarian Affairs, Christian Beringham, revealed that there is corruption, forgery and embezzlement of millions of Dollars in form of material and equipment purchase for the UN Peace keeping operations. Two hundred (200) different reports are being studied for misuse of funds. “I have no idea of the magnitude of the corruption but there is a clear evidence of corrupt transactions.” Beringham is quoted to have said in a report published by Al-Sharq Al-awsat Newspaper of January 25th, 2006. US Ambassador in the UN, John Bolton, commented that this is a very annoying matter and showed the sad report of mismanagement, which we are trying to deal with through the UN Reforms. Meanwhile, Beringham also affirmed that the UN Internal Audit Office is investigating crimes in relation to contracts of the Peacekeeping Operations taken as far back as five years. Sources in the UN General-Secretariat revealed that investigations by the US Federal Authorities have started criminal investigations and accordingly eight UN high-level officials have been suspended on suspicion of violations of UN laws and regulations. Beringham explained that the suspension is due to administrative reasons and not part of the punishment measures. It is worth mentioning that there are 85,000 personnel in the UN Peacekeeping Division composed of military and police forces, in addition to civilians working in many parts of the world. The Peacekeeping Operations purchases represent 85% of the total purchases of the UN. Further, Beringham stressed that there is a solid evidence of misuse of funds and corruption in the purchase section of the Peacekeeping Operation Division, which led to financial loss, mismanagement and planning. This new scandal is serious blow to the UN and Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, following the Iraqi Oil for Food Scandal, which had devalued badly the reputation of the Organization and Kofi Annan. ‘Sudan Vision’ had tried but could not reach UNMIS Official Spokesperson, Ms Radhia Achouri, for comments. What is also worth mentioning here is that UNMIS budget for the 18 months, which ends in March 2006, is approximately 1,500 million Dollars.

#### **Salva Kiir in talks on CPA with Jan Pronk**

(*AlRai AlAam* – 1<sup>st</sup> Feb. **Khartoum**) SRSJ Jan Pronk has traveled to Juba for talks with GoSS President and Vice-president of the GoNU, Salva Kiir Mayardit, on the issues the latter raised in a recent press briefing in Khartoum.

John Luk, the GoSS’ minister for Culture, Youth and Sports and member of the Petroleum Commission, told SUNA that the talks covered the implementation of the CPA and focused mainly on the issues upon which the Parties seem to have different views notably the GoSS’ share of the petroleum revenue, the boundaries of southern Sudan and Abyei.

### **Government of National Unity**

## **President Bashir cites peace in Darfur as the main challenge**

(*AlRai AlAam* – 1<sup>st</sup> Feb. **Khartoum**) President Bashir has renewed his government's commitments to guarantee the freedom to carry out opposition activities provided that the political forces in the opposition remain committed to responsible opposition.

Addressing a group of former members of the DUP who defected to the National Congress party, the president went on to condemn the campaigns by the “enemies of Islam” and especially those from the west veiled under the slogan of the fight against terrorism and cited as an example a recent publication from Denmark.

He said that the realization of peace in Darfur remains the prime challenge at the moment but added that the ‘Salvation’ regime has succeeded to a large extent in implementing its strategic plans. Among these, he mentioned the signing of the CPA, the Cairo Agreement and the establishment of the different constitutional institutions.

## **Sudan turns down request by Danish defense minister to visit**

(*Sudan TV/BBC Monitoring* – 30<sup>th</sup> Jan. **Khartoum**) Sudan has rejected the Danish defence minister's request to visit the country in protest against the cartoons published in a Danish newspaper which insulted the prophet, peace be upon him, and because the Danish government has not apologized for this act nor has it done anything about this insult to Islam.

The defence minister, Maj-Gen Abd-al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn, said Sudan had refused to allow the Danish defence minister to visit the country and was demanding that they [the Danes] officially apologize.

He said: Our stand emanates from that fact that we reject any discrimination against Islam or any other religion.

It is worth mentioning that Sudan does not have an embassy in Denmark nor does Denmark have an embassy in Sudan.

## **Joint political committee calls on commissions to set to work**

(*AlRai AlAam* – 1<sup>st</sup> Feb. **Khartoum**) The joint NCP-SPLM political committee will be making contacts with the commissions and especial committees established as per the CPA in a bid to spur them into action so they could set to work.

Meanwhile, the President of the Republic held talks yesterday with First Vice-President Salva Kiir. Tilara Deng, the State Minister for the Presidency, described these talks as cordial and said the two leaders discussed most of the issues tabled.

The state minister accused members of the commissions formed, including the Assessment Commission, of not living up to their obligations as set forth in their respective timetables. He pointed out that such a trend will only harm implementation of the CPA.

## **Sudan Foreign Minister, US envoy hold talks**

(*ST* – 31<sup>st</sup> Jan. **New York**) Sudanese Foreign Minister, Lam Akol Ajawin, briefed the Permanent U.S. Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador John Bolton, on Darfur peace talks and the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA).

The meeting touched at the situations in Darfur as well as the efforts being exerted to achieve peace. The Sudanese minister stressed on the importance of the support of the international community.

The United States will chair the UN Security Council presidency in February. The deployment of an international peacekeeping force in Sudan's Darfur region will be discussed by the council during this period.

### **Sudan's SPLM accuses pro-Arab party of advocating old vision**

(*Khartoum Monitor* – 31<sup>st</sup> Jan. **Khartoum**) Secretary General of Northern Sector in the SPLM, Ramadan Abdallah has labelled the Just Peace Forum as an enemy of peace which advocates "the old vision of Sudan."

Abdallah, who was addressing SPLM supporters at Khartoum North, who rallied as part of the SPLM's continuing celebrations of the CPA's first anniversary, said the SPLM is for all the Sudanese people regardless of race, colour, religion or language and that the SPLM had fought for a long time in order to restore the consumed rights of the Sudanese people.

Abdallah explained that the CPA has made an opportunity for the all Sudanese to live together but that some elements, both in and out of the government, want to block this. He called on the SPLM masses to back their leaders and to "stand firm behind the principles of the movement against the so-called 'Just Peace Forum' and its newspaper, 'Al-Intibaha', (Arabic for 'The Re-awakening')."

It is worth noting that the 'Just Peace Forum' is a right-wing pro-Arab separatist group headed by Al-Tayyib Mustafa, a cousin of President Al Bashir.

The group recently began publishing its daily newspaper, (Al-Intibaha), which propagates the termination of 'foreign presence' in the country, as well as the separation between north and south.

### **Sudanese companies ordered to stop dealing with Danish companies**

(*SUNA/BBC* – 31<sup>st</sup> Jan. **Khartoum**) President of the Republic and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces FM Umar al-Bashir Tuesday [31 January] instructed the minister of defence to reject a request to visit Sudan by the Danish minister of defence over publication of cartoons disrespectful to the Prophet Mohammed (peace be upon him) [PBUH] by a Danish newspaper, as well as the stance of the Danish government.

President Al-Bashir affirmed that Sudan would not allow any official from Denmark to visit its territories before an official apology by the Danish government to the Islamic world over the insult against Prophet Mohammed (PBUH).

This came when the president was addressing a reception organized by the National Congress Party to receive number of partisan leaders who joined the ranks of the National Congress.

Meanwhile, Minister of Defence Gen Abd-al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn, said Sudan rejected a request by his Danish counterpart to visit Khartoum because of the insults by a Danish newspaper against the honourable Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

The minister explained that Sudan categorically rejects all sorts of disrespect to Islam and all the divine religions.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on its part, urged the Sudanese companies to immediately cease dealings and financial transactions with Danish companies and commodities in protest for this insult against the prophet and Islam.

It is to be noted that there is no diplomatic representation between Khartoum and Copenhagen.

### **Sudan, Somalia sign cooperation agreement**

(*AlRai AlAam* – 31<sup>st</sup> Jan. **Khartoum**) Sudan and Somalia yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding in joint cooperation in all fields.

State minister at the Ministry of Foreign affairs, Al-Simani al-Wasilah, said that the agreement was aimed at bolstering cooperation between the two countries, especially after the reconciliation between the Somali tribes.

For his part, Somali Foreign Minister Abdullahi Shaykh Isma'il said that the memorandum of understanding affirmed the depth of relations that links the two countries.

He also lauded Sudan's stances towards Somalia ,as well as its support in all fields.

### **South Sudan official urges state ministers to avoid corruption**

(*SRS/BBC* – 31<sup>st</sup> Jan. **Khartoum**) The Speaker of the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly, James Wani Igga, has called on the people of southern Sudan to unite in order to benefit from the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

Wani who is currently touring the 10 states of southern Sudan was speaking in Yambio, the Western Equatoria State headquarters on Sunday [29 January].

The speaker emphasized the need for dialogue among the ethnic communities in southern Sudan so as to diffuse the tribal clashes which - he says - could hinder the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

Wani encouraged the government of Western Equatoria State, to be inclusive and to use their resources to the benefit of everyone in the state.

He also urged the state ministers to avoid corruption and nepotism in their ministries so that everybody enjoys the resources available in the state.

### **Congo, Sudan to sign deal allowing refugees to go home**

(*AP/ST* – 30<sup>th</sup> Jan. **Kinshasa**) Congo and Sudan were to sign a U.N.-brokered agreement Monday allowing the repatriation of 20,000 refugees from both African nations, including some Congolese who fled their country decades ago, U.N. officials said.

About 13,000 southern Sudanese are in Congo while 6,800 Congolese have fled north to Sudan, said Jens Hesemann, a spokesman for the U.N.'s refugee agency in Congo. Some of the Congolese left during violence in the wake of the country's 1960 independence from

Belgium and only now wish to return, showing a "strong desire to live the last days of their lives at home," he said.

There is no firm deadline for the refugees' repatriation, he said.

Congo is trying to move beyond its latest crisis, a 1998-2002 war. A long-running southern Sudan rebellion ended last year although that country's western Darfur region is roiled by armed conflict.

About 220,000 Congolese refugees and 130,000 Sudanese refugees remain outside their home countries, according to United Nations. Violence has displaced untold others from their homes but if they have not crossed an international border, they aren't counted as refugees under international treaties.

## **Abuja talks**

### **Armed groups demand 90% share of power in Darfur**

(*AlSahafa* – 1<sup>st</sup> Feb. **Abuja**) The rebel delegation to the talks in Abuja have demanded a 90% stake in power in Darfur for them and their allies. The government team has agreed that the armed groups participate in power sharing in Darfur but say no quotas should be set for such participation.

The two teams are also in a tug of war over camp safety with the rebels demanding that the *Janjaweed* and perpetrators of war crimes in Darfur be sieved out of the government police team charged with the protection of the IDP camps in Darfur.

The government team on the other side says that the local administration be given a bigger role in the protection of these IDP camps in coordination with the government and AU police. Government says that the rebel forces closing in on the camps should also withdraw to pre 8<sup>th</sup> April 2004 positions and that a joint mechanism be formed between the government and AU police to curb crimes inside these camps. The government team also recommends that the AU CivPol be increased in number to up to 1,560 and that they intensify intelligence operations inside these IDP camps alongside the police to monitor crime, arms and drugs trafficking.

Another proposal also recommended that the forces of both sides withdraw far from relief routes and from the vicinity of IDP camps to distances specified by the AU.

### **Sudan says Darfur rebels are not serious to reach peace**

(*ST* – 31<sup>st</sup> Jan. **Abuja**) The spokesperson of the Sudanese government delegation to Darfur peace talks, Amin Hassan Omar, has accused the rebel groups of being evasive and not serious about reaching a peace in Darfur.

Also, he said in addition to the rebel negotiating team is incompetent to conduct the peace process. In an interview with the official news agency SUNA, Amin pointed out that a problem faces the negotiations that the three rebel factions were in a state of constant shift.

Last week, the UN special representative in Sudan, Jan Pronk, was for the first time very critical to the position of the rebels groups in the peace talks with the Sudanese government.

He said some names would come and negotiate under one faction and then they move and come to negotiate under the name of another faction. He stressed that the unstable formation of the negotiating groups directly affects the negotiation process.

He further said that the allegation that those groups have one negotiating stand was unfounded because those groups spent hours everyday on internal negotiations amongst themselves and then that this usually ended up with competition on tabling new demands that would impede the talks.

Pronk voiced concern about the rebels groups, which still have not made the choice between fighting and talking, especially the Sudanese Liberation Army (SLA) headed by Minni Minawi,.

Amin pointed out that there was a great gap between the rebel negotiators in Abuja and the field military commanders, saying the negotiators have come mostly from European countries adding that it could be the factor of language or education that made them more capable of conducting the talks. Therefore they find themselves in a position of pressure from the field groups a matter that placed the negotiation in a shifting status because those who have the decisions do not show up at the negotiating table.

The spokesman pointed out that there was another problem facing the negotiation which was the manner in which the African mediator run the negotiations adding that there was no active role for the mediators who confined themselves to only recording and taking note and had played no positive pressing role in the negotiation in the direction that would lead to yielding results.

Amin had demanded in his interview with SUNA a revision of the negotiation methodology making it more active for the mediators in addition to reinvigorating the role of the supervisors particularly those who have influence on the rebel movement in addition to empowering the negotiators on the part of the movement against any pressures outside the negotiating table.

### **Sudanese government, Darfur rebels agree to set up force to monitor cease-fire**

(*AlMashaheer weeb site* – 30<sup>th</sup> Jan. **Khartoum**) AU mediators have succeeded in convincing the [Sudanese] government and Darfur rebels (the Justice and Equality Movement and Sudan Liberation Army) to form a combined force to oversee the cease-fire in the troubled region.

The head of the mediators ambassador Sam Ibok said that activating negotiations on security arrangements came following deterioration of security in Darfur and UN and AU concerns of a total collapse of the cease-fire in the region.

Ibok said the two sides agreed on Sunday [29 January] to establish a joint military unit to assist in the flow of humanitarian aid and protect workers in this field in addition to monitoring the cease-fire.

Ibok said that the joint military unit will also include the UN and the AU peacekeeping forces and its HQs will be in Al-Fashir town, Northern Darfur State. Ibok added that the establishment of the force was contained in the N'djamena agreement, which was signed in November 2004.

### **AU condemns rebel attacks in Sudan's troubled Darfur region**

(SMC – 30<sup>th</sup> Jan. **Khartoum**) The African Union [AU] issued a statement this morning condemning an ambush laid by members of the rebel Sudan Liberation Movement against members of the police reservists who were on a mission from Al-Fashir to Kabkabiyah to deliver the monthly salary for the police force in the region.

Members of the aggressing rebel forces, who were on board six Toyota land cruisers and armed with [Russian-made] Doshka machine-guns, laid ambush for the police officers at Taura hills and killed 22 members of the police force, including police Lieutenant Ibrahim Abu-Ibrahim.

The AU statement further said that about 18 police officers were also wounded during the attack. [Passage omitted].

## **Darfur**

### **Sudan: Darfur rebels said attacking civilian buses**

(SMC – 30<sup>th</sup> Jan. **Khartoum**) The Sudan Liberation Movement [SLM] has started a looting spree in northern Darfur. The rebels attacked a bus that was heading towards Umm Ushayrah from Al-Fashir.

Witnesses told SMC [Sudanese Media Centre] that the SLM attackers started looting the passengers' belongings before killing the driver. They also removed petrol from the bus and set it ablaze, the witness added.

Witnesses also told SMC that there was another incident in which the SLM attacked a bus that was carrying 45 passengers travelling to Al-Fashir from Malut. Four army officials in the bus reportedly repelled the attack from the five rebels. Four of the rebels were armed with Kalashnikovs and one had an RPG.

The witness added that the ensuing gunfire led to the death of four rebels, while one managed to escape. The witness also said one passenger was killed and another two injured.

The wounded were taken to Al-Fashir Hospital for treatment.

### **Dinka, Zaghawa sign an MoU**

(AlAyaam – 1<sup>st</sup> Feb. **S. Darfur**) The Acting Governor for South Darfur, Dr. Farah Moustafa, has disclosed that the Zaghawa (the oum Kamalti clan) and the Dinka (of Bileil camp) signed a Memorandum of Understanding yesterday to put an end on tribal clashes between them.

The acting governor also adds that authorities in the area have managed to arrest 4 armed men on different charges and says that the situation around Nyala is now calm but there is a buildup of armed groups around Mershing, 75 kilometers north of Nyala.

Informed sources in Bileil camp say however that no Memorandum of Understanding has been signed as stated by the acting governor the source points out that what in fact happened is that state authorities received a pledge from leaders of both parties to keep the peace. He pointed out that the issue is not that easy to resolve but the acting governor has called the leaders of the Zaghawa and the Dinka for a meeting with him today.

## **Eastern Front**



## **Delegation of Eastern Front departs for Asmara**

(*AlAyaam* – 1<sup>st</sup> Feb. **Khartoum**) A delegation of the Eastern Front travels today to Asmara where they will be joined by other members of the Eastern Front and will from there travel to Libya on Friday for talks with the Sudan government on eastern Sudan.

Prominent figure, Amina Dhirar, says she will be leading the 15-man delegation to Asmara and will join up with the leader of the Eastern Front, Musa Mohamed Ahmed, and his delegation coming from Europe. She confirmed that the Eastern Front is fully prepared for the talks.

## **GoSS/ Southern Sudan**

### **Sudanese first vice-president to chair meeting of southern government in Juba**

(*SMC/BBC* – 30<sup>th</sup> Jan. **Khartoum**) The first vice-president, who is also the president of the southern Sudan government, Lt-Gen Salva Kiir Mayardit, left for Juba town today.

In a statement to SMC, [Sudanese Media Centre], the state minister in the Office of the President, Tilara Deng, said that - while in Juba - the first vice-president would chair the meeting of the southern Sudan cabinet, which is expected to discuss issues regarding development in southern Sudan, assess the performance of the government as well as organizing social services in the region.

### **SPLM to get new leadership body**

(*AlAyaam* – 1<sup>st</sup> Feb. **Khartoum**) A high rank source within the SPLM says that SPLM ministers, parliamentarians and others have unanimously agreed to form a leadership body with the three basic functions of completing the establishment of SPLM institutions nationwide, establishing strong coordination links between all components of the SPLM in order to help lay down policies and chart courses of action which all will adhere to and to monitor the implementation of the CPA and identify the flaws on the basis of specific information.

The source says Pagan Amoum is strongly tipped for the post of Secretary-General of this body in the pipeline based on his strong links with all political forces in the country.

The proposal for this body has been tabled before SPLM chairman Salva Kiir Mayardit for approval.

### **Ugandan rebels attack district in south Sudan, killing one person**

(*SRS* – 31<sup>st</sup> Jan. **Yambio**) [Presenter] One person was killed and 17 others were abducted when suspected Ugandan rebels of the Lords Resistance Army [LRA] attacked an area between Maridi and Iba counties last week. Among the abductees were two children aged between eight and 10.

Our colleague Gibson Wande is in Yambio and has this report.

[Gibson Wande] Speaking to Sudan Radio Service in Yambio county the commissioner for Iba county miss Mary Sungu said that the issue of LRA in the two counties is hindering implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. Miss Sungu urges the government

of Southern Sudan to flash the LRA out of the region so that people can realize the peace that was signed by the late Dr John Garang de Mabior.

[Presenter] Meanwhile, the commissioner of Maridi county, Samuel Rizig, says that the presence of the LRA in Maridi and Iba counties should be handled as a national issue. He says the two counties do not have the military capacity to deal with the Ugandan rebels.

He appealed to the government of Southern Sudan to ensure stability in the region so that people can enjoy the prevalence of peace.

### **Head of Anglican Church to visit South Sudan**

(SRS/ST – 31<sup>st</sup> Jan. **Nairobi**) The Archbishop of Canterbury, doctor rowan Williams is expected to visit Sudan at the end of February, the independent Sudan Radio Service (SRS) reported.

This was revealed by the archbishop of the Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS), Joseph Marona, when he met the minister of gender, social welfare and religious affairs in the government of southern Sudan, Mary Kiden last week.

He said the archbishop of Canterbury will visit Juba and Maridi. This will be his first visit to Sudan since he was enthroned as the head of the world Anglican Communion in 2003.

Speaking in the same meeting, the chairman of the ECS Justice, Peace and Reconciliation committee, bishop Daniel Deng, informed the minister that the ECS has been conducting a series of civic education workshops to explain and disseminate the comprehensive peace agreement.

He therefore appealed to the government of southern Sudan to support the work of the church in disseminating the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

### **Other developments**

#### **Iceland's premier backs Slovene president's Darfur initiative**

(Slovene TV/BBC Monitoring – 29<sup>th</sup> Jan. **Ljubljana, Slovenia**) President Janez Drnovsek has received a letter from Iceland's prime minister [Halldor Asgrimsson], congratulating him for his endeavours.

"The Darfur situation is really tragic and I admire your endeavours to stress how serious the situation is," Halldor Asgrimsson wrote. The prime minister congratulated Drnovsek for a successful meeting with UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and for his initiative receiving global attention.

Asgrimsson agrees with Drnovsek that measures are necessary. Several thousands civilians are suffering and Darfur must remain the key tasks, Asgrimsson believes.