



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN
UNMIS

UNMIS Media Monitoring Report, 14th February, 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**
 - OCHA BRIEFING: UN declares Hamishkoreib a disaster zone
 - OCHA BRIEFING: UN says Government of Khartoum has earmarked 11,000 plots to IDPs
 - Annan, Bush discuss Darfur

- **CPA**
 - Salva discloses that agreement has been reached on formation of a petroleum accounts committee
 - SPLM MP discloses oil corruption
 - Sudan oil body to hear White Nile-Total row - official

- **GoNU**
 - President Bashir travels to Rumbek
 - Garang helicopter crash not due to plot - minister
 - National Assembly unanimously drops Voluntary Works Act
 - SPLM, Khartoum Governor ready to resolve IDP problems
 - Hamas leader woos Sudan
 - Nuer traditional leaders to protest to UN over Jonglei attacks
 - Government of National Unity accuses politicians of instigating Cairo sit-ins by Sudanese refugees
 - 200 Southern students detained at University of Juba

- **Darfur/ Abuja talks**
 - Britain may consider new UN sanctions, if Darfur talks still staled
 - Dr. Majzoub el-Khalifa says outcome of next meeting will be final and binding

- **Other developments**
 - Governor accepts resignation of Khartoum State TV chief

HIGHLIGHTS:

UN

OCHA BRIEFING: UN declares Hamishkoreib a disaster zone

(*Rai el-Shab* – 14th Feb. **Khartoum**) The UN has expressed concerns over the deterioration in the humanitarian conditions of the IDPs and refugees in eastern Sudan and along the Sudan's borders with Chad. It urged the Sudan government to declare Hamishkoreib a disaster area to enable the international community to provide emergency humanitarian assistance.

OCHA's Mike McDonough accused the government of obstructing the flow of humanitarian assistance to the needy in eastern Sudan. In a press conference yesterday, he revealed that the authorities barred UN agencies from entering Kassala to provide humanitarian assistance to the needy and this forced the UN to carry out air drops.

He also said that malnutrition rates have taken a considerable rise among children in Hamishkoreib compared to the situation in Darfur and there are no health and education services.

McDonough also revealed that the WFP will resume humanitarian operations in Darfur within days following a two-week break caused by the crash of a UN aircraft in Bargo, North Darfur

He said there are a number of challenges to humanitarian operations due to the tensions in the security situation caused by attacks on IDP camps.

On the other hand, McDonough said that there are 37 cases of infection by meningitis in Kassala of which 11 people died. 24 other cases were reported in Wad el-Hileu.

OCHA BRIEFING: UN says Government of Khartoum has earmarked 11,000 plots to IDPs

(*Akhbar Alyaum* – 14th Feb. **Khartoum**) The UN has revealed that the Government of the State of Khartoum has allocated 11,000 residential plots at the Sundus area south of Khartoum for IDPs residing around the squatter areas in Khartoum.

Mike McDonough of OCHA told a press briefing at UNMIS yesterday said that relocation of these IDPs to that place will be carried out through a plan that will prevent a recurrence of what happened in Soba.

He further said that OCHA will be holding a meeting with the Government of the State of Khartoum to discuss how to provide services to that area ahead of the relocation.

McDonough says an OCHA team will be visiting the site to get acquainted to the area.

Annan, Bush discuss Darfur

(*AlSahafa/Agencies* – 14th Feb. **Washington**) UN Secretary-General Annan says he has received the consent of President George W. Bush to work together and coordinate on the issue of Darfur.

Annan who held talks with Bush yesterday, underlined the need for other states of Europe and Asia to intervene to protect IDPs and refugees from raids and guarantee the flow of relief.

On his part, President Bush described the talks between them as successful and said they focused also on the Darfur issue. He said he also briefed Annan on his meeting last Sunday with Mrs. Garang and that the talks covered Darfur and the implementation of the CPA.

CPA

Salva discloses that agreement has been reached on formation of a petroleum accounts committee

(*AlRai AlAam* – 14th Feb. **Khartoum**) Vice-president Salva Kiir Mayardit says President Bashir, himself and Vice-president Taha, in a meeting also attended by the governors of the states of South Kordofan, Unity and Upper Nile, have agreed that the boundaries of these three states be maintained as is until the Boundary Commission sets to work in the next few days to delineate the 1956 north-south boundary.

Speaking to the press at Juba Airport on his return from Khartoum yesterday, the Vice-president said that delineation of the boundary will help in determining the oil wells, in the census and in determining the areas where the forces of the Parties are to redeploy to.

Kiir also disclosed that the president and his deputies have agreed to establish a committee for the south's share of the oil revenue and monitoring of the oil revenue that will soon set to work.

SPLM MP discloses oil corruption

(*Khartoum Monitor* – 14th Feb. **Khartoum**) MP Oliver Mori Benjamin (SPLM ticket) reported yesterday that the quantity of oil pumped out of southern Sudan has not been disclosed while an oil reservoir has been constructed in northern Sudan to store oil which would then be pumped to Port Sudan as northern wealth.

He said that out of the 350 staff in all petroleum companies in Sudan who are being trained in petroleum-related fields, there are no southern Sudanese while the training costs are charged against the money accruing from southern Sudanese oil.

The government, he said, alleges that it has handed over \$700 million from the oil revenue quotas for southern Sudan to the “rulers of southern Sudan”. He disclosed however that the SPLM has never received that amount and that the Finance Minister has not disclosed who the money was handed to or to which institute. He said this could even mean the Coordination Council for Southern Sudan, now defunct, which was a creation of the National Congress party and will only mean that the money is funnelled back into the National Congress.

“The finance ministry should make a public statement detailing the amount of money it transacted to the SPLM-led government so that it can account for that,” he said.

“Who is it that authorised Awad el-Jaz (Minister of energy and Mining) to form a secretariat for the Petroleum Commission for which, according to the CPA, he has no mandate?” he wondered.

Sudan oil body to hear White Nile-Total row - official

(*Dow Jones/ST* – 13th Feb. **Dubai**) The Sudanese oil dispute between French major Total SA (TOT) and U.K. minnow White Nile Ltd. (WNL.LN) will go before a new Sudanese authority tasked with charting the African state's oil policy, a senior oil official said Monday.

Angelina Teny, state minister for energy and mining, said the dispute over rights to a huge tract of southern Sudan would be heard by the joint north-south committee, formed in the wake of the peace agreement signed last year that ended decades of civil war.

The National Petroleum Commission, of which Teny is a member, will also approve new oil contracts and formulate other policies, including environmental and social issues, she told a development conference in Dubai.

"It will settle any dispute," she said.

The NPC, which has met twice to set by-laws and internal regulations, hopes to start actively formulating policy within a month, she said, without specifying when the commission would adjudicate on the White Nile/Total case.

White Nile says it has started shooting seismic data in Block Ba, a 65,000- square-kilometer tract of southern Sudan that forms part of the huge Block B claimed by Total.

Total and the central government in Khartoum say that, as an oil contract signed before the Jan 2005 comprehensive peace agreement, the French deal doesn't fall within the remits of the NPC, saying it is meant to adjudicate on new contracts.

Teny said Sudan is currently producing 500,000 b/d, but the country will boost output to 650,000 b/d "soon" this year.

Sudan hopes to reach 1 million b/d output by the end of this year, the president has said.

GoNU

President Bashir travels to Rumbek

(*AlRai AlAam/SUNA* – 14th Feb. **Rumbek**) President Bashir travels to Rumbek today where he will address a rally and lay foundations for the offices of the National Congress

Garang helicopter crash not due to plot - minister

(*ST* – 13th Feb. **Doha**) The helicopter crash that killed former southern Sudanese rebel leader John Garang was not due to a plot, the country's foreign minister said Monday, citing the results of an ongoing inquiry.

"The investigations are still subject to secrecy, but the commission of inquiry has completely ruled out the hypothesis of a plot to kill John Garang," said Foreign Minister Lam Akol during a visit to Qatar.

He said the results of inquiry into the July 30 crash on the Sudan-Uganda border would be made public at the end of February.

The historical leader of Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), Garang died only days after moving to Khartoum to assume his new position as first vice president and was the emblematic figure of the January peace deal that ended 21 years of north-south civil war.

There was no indication of foul play in the crash that killed a total of 14 people. But many southerners had accused President Omar al-Beshir of engineering an assassination, citing the many air crashes that have killed leading regime figures over the years.

National Assembly unanimously drops Voluntary Works Act

(*AlAyaam* – 14th Feb. **Parliament**) The National Assembly unanimously rejected yesterday the Voluntary and Humanitarian Works Act (2005) following the recommendations of the parliamentary committee on humanitarian affairs.

Both Ghazi Salhuldeen who heads the National Congress' parliamentary bloc and Yassir Erman of the SPLM bloc said the decision to drop the Act was unanimous.

The Council of Ministers is drafting an alternative which, it is hoped, will incorporate all the observations on the previous act.

SPLM, Khartoum Governor ready to resolve IDP problems

(*Sudan Vision* – 14th Feb. **Khartoum**) The SPLM has affirmed its readiness to cooperate with the Governor of Khartoum to resolve all issues relating to the displaced in the State.

Chairman of SPLM Parliamentary Group Yassir Arman yesterday demanded at a press conference bringing to a fair trial 132 defendants accused involved in the Soba incidents in Khartoum in addition to releasing those who are not implicated.

Arman said SPLM would continue contacts with the Minister of Justice and the Attorney General as regards this case. Arman said they have agreed with the Governor of Khartoum to establish a joint forum for discussing issues relating to the displaced with the parties concerned in order to arrive at a common plan for addressing the displacement issues in the state. These according to him include voluntary return and formulating an agreed on policy that looks after the displaced. Arman described his meeting with the governor of Khartoum as was productive affirming SPLM concern about the displaced issues since they relate to Sudan's unity respect of other right and cultural and religious diversity.

Hamas leader woos Sudan

(*ST* – 13th Feb. **Cairo**) Hamas leader Khaled Meshaal held talks with Sudanese officials Monday as part of a tour of Muslim countries aimed at mustering support for his Palestinian movement following its electoral victory.

He said "Our relations with Sudan, whether it be its leadership, government or people, have always been strong... and will further grow now that we have obtained political legitimacy through the polls."

He described as "fruitful" his meetings with first vice-president Salva Kiir and vice-president Ali Osman Taha and said his delegation had asked for Khartoum's support.

He said "We are also here to benefit from the ruling experience of the National Congress."

He was referring to the Islamist party of President Omar al-Beshir, who seized power in a 1989 military coup.

Meshaal also said Hamas and Sudanese officials had discussed the March 28-29 Arab summit, which was to be held in Khartoum and he hoped would confirm wide Arab support for his Islamist movement.

Meshaal and his delegation had embarked on a tour of several Arab and Muslim countries - including Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Iran - in a bid to muster support as Western powers stepped up the pressure on the radical group and threatened to slash aid to the Palestinians.

The United States and the European Union had listed Hamas as a terrorist organisation and argued that it should renounce violence and recognise Israel if it wanted to form the next government.

Sudan also had been considered by Washington as a state sponsor of terrorism since it hosted al-Qaeda supremo Osama bin Laden in the nineties.

Meshaal confirmed on Sunday on arrival in Khartoum that he had accepted a controversial invitation to hold talks in Moscow, but didn't provide a date.

Nuer traditional leaders to protest to UN over Jonglei attacks

(*ST* – 13th Feb. **Khartoum**) Political and local leaders, Sultans and chieftains in northern Upper Nile State are expected to hand on Wednesday 15 February a memo of protest to the UN representative in Khartoum to denounce attacks on people of Neur tribe in Jungle area.

Some seven people were killed in Jonglei State in southern Sudan in clashes between South Sudan Defence Force (SSDF) armed militias and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), despite a peace deal to end Africa's longest civil war there.

The official spokesperson for the SSDF Brig Gen Mohamed Chol gave the details of Jonglei State incidents. He said that SPLA forces led by Peter Paul Kong had carried out a widespread attack on the forces of the SSDF and civilians in an attempt disarm them which resulted in the death of many citizens.

Speaking to the press yesterday, Chol said the attack had occurred on Friday 3 February and further accused the SPLA of taking women and children hostage.

Chief of the SSDF, Maj Gen Gordon Kong, asked why the UN had remained quiet about repeated attacks by SPLM forces in the south and called on it, as one of peace's guardians, to reveal the truths and ensure that some sides were serious about the continuation of the peace process.

The United Nations has been slow to deploy around 10,000 soldiers to monitor a ceasefire in the south between former foes the southern Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and the northern Islamist government.

Government of National Unity accuses politicians of instigating Cairo sit-ins by Sudanese refugees

(*AlAyaam* – 13th Feb. **Khartoum**) Umma party leader Sadiq el-Mahdi says he will take the Ministry of Interior to court over allegations that he was involved in instigating Sudanese refugees in Cairo to stage the ill-fated sit-in before the UN offices there.

El-Mahdi told reporters at a press briefing yesterday that he will take State Minister for the Interior, Alieu Ayang, over his allegations.

In an earlier press conference, the said state minister accused some Sudanese politicians including Sadiq el-Mahdi of instigating the sit-ins. He accused el-Mahdi of handing out cash to the refugees so that they would stage the sit-in. The state minister further pointed out that the UNHCR in Cairo confirms that the number of people involved in the sit-in before it's Cairo offices swelled following el-Mahdi's visit to the site.

The Umma party leader says however that he has witnesses who could prove that he had advised the Egyptian government to resolve the problem without bloodshed but Cairo paid no heed.

He blamed the sad incident on the Parties to the CPA who, he says, have failed to convince the citizens.

The Egyptian government has meanwhile refused to meet demands for damage compensations but said it will pay the amount of 1,000 US\$ to the victims and meet the cost of burial of 5 out of the 30-something killed as a result of the clashes while the others have to be taken to Sudan for burial. It denies primary responsibility over the event.

200 Southern students detained at University of Juba

(*ST* – 13th Feb. **Khartoum**) The Sudanese police arrested 200 Sudanese students at the University of Juba after clashes on Saturday. The students claimed the university relocate to Juba; London based Amnesty International said in a press release.

On Saturday, 11 February 2006, at mid day, armed police and security forces arrived in 15 cars at Juba University in Bahri, Khartoum at the request of university officials. Without warning, they began beating, with batons, a group of students that were gathered peacefully in front of the Administration building.

During the ensuing scuffle, students set fire to five vehicles (most of which belonged to the school administration), burned three cafeterias, and part of the school library.

A large number of young men and women were arrested.

Those who were not arrested fled into the surrounding areas of Bahri. Police followed and over the next few hours rounded up people they assumed to be students taking part in the protest and took them to Um Deriyo Station, in North Bahri, Khartoum.

The total number arrested was 200 — 149 women and 51 men. After an appeal by a representative of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), the young women were released at 5 pm the same day without charges.

Representatives of the UN mission in Sudan (UNMIS) are being denied access to all those detained.

According to a credible source, the detainees have been taken at night to unofficial National Security detention sites known as "ghost houses", where they have been tortured. The detainees have reportedly also been deprived of food and denied access to legal counsel and their families.

Reasons given for the continuing detention of the remaining 51 male students include destruction of public property, arson, public disturbance, and crimes against the state — which potentially carries the death penalty. They have not yet been brought before a judge to have the lawfulness of their detention reviewed.

In the late 1980s the Sudanese government moved Juba University to the north of Sudan, due to the insecurities brought about by the war in the south. Since January 2006 students of Juba University, mainly southerners, have been promised that the university would be relocated to back to Juba, in south Sudan, where it was originally based. It is now based on the land of an institute that belongs to the University of Sudan.

Delays in the relocation to Juba have been explained by the lack of facilities and buildings in Juba, although some buildings do exist.

On Thursday, students sent a letter to university administrators with several requests — including that the university halt the building of new facilities in Khartoum and build them instead in Juba.

Students believed that building new facilities in Khartoum indicated they would not be relocated to Juba.

On Saturday morning they gathered in front of the Administration Building waiting for a response to their letter. They were told the administration had no power to address their demands, and after three hours university officials called the police to disperse the until then peaceful crowd.

Darfur/ Abuja talks

Britain may consider new UN sanctions, if Darfur talks still staled

(*Reuters/ST* – 14th Feb. **Abuja**) British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw warned parties involved in Sudan's Darfur peace talks that they were making too little progress and Britain would consider pursuing new U.N. sanctions if no headway was made.

"Progress in the talks has been far too slow," Straw told delegates on a visit to the talks in the Nigerian capital, adding that neither side had done enough to observe a ceasefire in the western Sudanese region.

The AU, which has about 7,000 peacekeepers in Darfur, says it hopes a peace deal will be reached soon but has signalled that its patience with the Abuja negotiators is limited.

Civil war has raged in Darfur since February 2003, causing tens of thousands of deaths and displacing millions of people from their homes.

It began when rebels, complaining of marginalisation, rose up against the government, which responded by using troops and Arab militia in a campaign described as genocide by the United States.

The AU said in a statement on Tuesday that substantial progress had been made in talks about wealth sharing, some progress was noted on security while intensive discussions were under way on power sharing, the most problematic area.

Straw warned of possible sanctions against individuals responsible for gross human rights violations or for blocking the peace process.

He said Britain would add names to a list of people from both sides already before the U.N. Security Council's Sanctions Committee for consideration.

"Nor do we rule out additional U.N. sanctions against either the government of Sudan or the (rebel) movements if they fail to make progress," Straw said.

Britain believes that, while the Sudanese government bears responsibility for the security of its citizens there, it is the rebels who have been most guilty of recent attacks.

"Our patience is not unlimited," Straw said, adding that if no agreement is reached soon, Britain and other countries will start looking at alternatives.

"You may well find that such alternatives leave some of the parties here and the absent leaders with a smaller role to play," he said, referring to the rebel commanders who were not present at the talks.

Straw also announced that Britain will give a further 1 million pounds (\$1.74 million) to the African Union for its work in supporting the peace process.

Dr. Majzoub el-Khalifa says outcome of next meeting will be final and binding

(*AlRai AlAam* – 14th Feb. **Abuja**) UK special envoy Alan Goulty held talks yesterday with the delegations to the Abuja talks. The talks that come ahead of foreign minister Jack Straw's visit to Abuja.

A President Bashir aide, Majzoub el-Khalifa, who heads the GoNU delegation to the Abuja talks said that talks with the UK envoy focused on UK's efforts to bolster the peace process. He said they resolved to make of this round of peace talks a final one and that the outcome of the talks shall be final and binding to the parties and especially those on security arrangements.

El-Khalifa pointed out that the international community, and especially Britain with its knowledge of the Sudan and the local administration, must send clear signals to all parties and assist in portraying the truth in the civil service and local administration.

On the talks, el-Khalifa says there still remain some outstanding issues but negotiations are ongoing to tackle these.

Other developments

Governor accepts resignation of Khartoum State TV chief

(*AlRai AlAam* – 14th Feb. **Khartoum**) Khartoum government AbdelHaleem el-Muta'afi has accepted the resignation of the head of Khartoum Television, Imad-el-deen Ibrahim.

Sources say the resignation comes to avoid an escalation of the criticisms launched against Khartoum Television following a program broadcast over the television showing the recent caricatures published by Danish newspapers on Prophet Mohamed.

The television chief ha earlier apologised.