

UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN
UNMIS**UNMIS Media Monitoring Report, 03 January, 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**
 - UN disapproves proposal to put Hamshkoreib under control of the Eastern Front

- **Government of National Unity**
 - Sudanese senior official arrives in Cairo to settle refugees' issue

- **Darfur**
 - Darfur armed groups undertake participation in African summit in Tripoli
 - Editorial: Foreign presence in Sudan

- **LRA**

- **Sudan, Chad relations**

- Ethiopian premier to mediate between Sudan, Chad
- Chadian Government provides Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM/A) with logistical support

- **East:**

- Sudanese rebel leader said to return home from exile in Eritrea

- **Other Developments**

- Egyptian MPs demand truth about Sudanese refugees' protest
- Foreign minister defends Egypt decision to disperse Sudanese refugees as wise
- Sudanese refugees begin returning from Egypt
- Egypt declares new statistics on detainees and injuries among Sudanese refugees

HIGHLIGHTS:

UN

UN disapproves proposal to put Hamshkoreib under control of the Eastern Front

(*AlRai AlAam* – 3rd Jan 06, Khartoum) The UN refused the proposal of putting Hamshkoreib area under control of the Eastern front after SPLA withdraws the area. At the same time, the UN renewed its support given to Libyan mediation, which is seeking to settle the Eastern Sudan crisis. The Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General, Mr. Jan Pronk, affirmed that – following his visit to Kassala yesterday – the UN will exert ceaseless efforts to have peace achieved in Eastern Sudan, wishing that Libya mediation will be able to push further parties concerned to reach for an agreement.

Government of National Unity

Sudanese senior official arrived in Cairo to settle refugees' issue

(*Al Ayam* – 3rd Jan 06, Khartoum) Our newspaper came to know from some sources in Cairo that Col. Salah Abdullah, the General Manager of the Sudanese National Intelligence & Security Department has arrived in Cairo to discuss the refugees' issue with the counter Egyptian authorities, and to enable ease refugees homecoming.

The escalations, following the killing of 27 Sudanese refugees in Cairo, are still continuing. In this connection, the Egyptian Consulate in Juba, based on the advise given by the GoSS, has been closed as precautionary measure in light of the increasing local campaign against the methods adopted by the Egyptian police to deal with the latest incidents in Cairo. Because, amongst the names of those killed in Cairo were some Southerners, the GoSS is afraid that people concerned may attack the Egyptian Consulate in Juba.

Darfur:

Darfur armed groups undertake participation in African summit in Tripoli

(*AlRai AlAam* – 3rd Jan 06, Khartoum) Some sources in Abuja anticipated that Head of Sudan Liberation Movement and a High –Level Delegation of Justice and Equality Movement will take part in Tripoli Summit.

Editorial: Foreign presence in Sudan

(*Al Ayam* – 3rd Jan 06, Khartoum) African Security & Peace Council will - during its next meeting - discuss extension of the period of the African Forces operations in Darfur, which is proposed to expire by the end of current month. Despite the fact that we very much keen in having overall foreign forces out of the Sudan immediately, however, there is no progress that has been achieved in re Abuja Talks so far that may convince the international community that this region (Darfur) has been placed on peace and stability track.

On the contrary, Mr. Kofi Anan, UN Secretary-General, described yesterday the situation in Darfur as being the worst in the world of today and that the humanitarian catastrophe there is still huge.

We believe that the only way out of this mess should be through Abuja Talks.

LRA

Sudan, Chad relations

Ethiopian premier to mediate between Sudan, Chad

(BBC Monitoring, 2 Jan, Sudanese Media Center, Khartoum) The Ethiopian prime-minister, Meles Zenawi, has announced that he will be making efforts for the sake of finding a peaceful solution to the current tension between Sudan and Chad. He stressed that conflict would not bring about positive results.

The Chadian foreign minister, Mr Ahmat Allam, handed over a message to Zenawi from the Chadian president, Idriss Deby, the day before yesterday.

Following his meeting with Zenawi, Allam told the press that Ethiopia was determined to find a peaceful solution to the current border tensions between his country and Sudan.

He further said that his mission to Addis Ababa was to ask the government and people of Ethiopia, as friends of Chad and Sudan, to find a solution to the tensions.

Chadian Government provides Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM/A) with logistical support

(Sudan Vision, 3 Jan, Khartoum) Informed sources in Chad said that the Chadian government has recently allocated in Jafit Military Airport lying in the east of Chad, close to the Sudanese-Chadian borders, logistical support for Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM/A).

The same sources, based in the Chadian Capital, N'djamena, affirmed that the Chadian government has imported weapons; military equipment and vehicles from Europe and Asia, with certificates of importation made in the name of the Chadian government. The imported items have been provided to SALM/A, Arcoi faction.

Meanwhile, Western diplomatic sources said that the Chadian government has suffered frustration due to failure of its diplomatic attempts aimed at instigating African leaders against the Sudan.

East:

Sudanese rebel leader said to return home from exile in Eritrea

(BBC Monitoring, Sudanese Media Center, 2 Jan, Khartoum) Al-Watan [newspaper] has learnt that the return of the leader of the armed Free Lions Movement, Mabruk Mubarak Sulayman, to Sudan is imminent following the stability the country is witnessing and the efforts to implement the peace agreement.

The chief of the Al-Rashayidah tribe in Sudan, who also represents the opposition Free Lions Movement's military wing inside Eritrean territory, Hamid Hamid al-Nuqayshi, revealed that the mediation committee led by Al-Rashayidah leaders to seek the return of their people to Sudan had succeeded after a series of continuous lengthy meetings and an accord reached on the return of the leader of the armed organization.

However, Chief Al-Nuqayshi did not wish to comment on whether the return of Mabruk was conditional or not.

Other Developments

Egyptian MPs demand truth about Sudanese refugees' protest

(BBC Monitoring, Cairo, 2 Jan) The Egyptian People's Assembly started Monday [2 January] discussing the circumstances surrounding the break-up of a sit-in by Sudanese refugees in downtown Cairo early on Friday.

MPs demanded the truth to be revealed, and wanted to be apprised of the reasons why a decision had to be taken to evacuate the refugees, with a large number of women and children losing their lives in the process.

The MPs called for keeping the parliament posted on the outcome of investigations launched in this regard, in order to reassure the Egyptian, Sudanese and world public opinion about the soundness of the decision and its implementation.

Lawmakers defended the decision which, they said, had to be taken after much effort to peacefully end the sit-in.

Foreign minister defends Egypt decision to disperse Sudanese refugees as wise

(BBC Monitoring, MENA, 2 January, Cairo) Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmad Abu-al-Ghayt affirmed on Monday [2 January] that Egypt dealt with the issue of Sudanese refugees at Mustafa Mahmud Square in Muhandisin with wisdom and patience, in its capacity as a host country of the regional office of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR).

During a meeting with diplomatic editors, the foreign minister said Egypt's decision to intervene to break up the protest was adopted after repeated breaches by the sitters-in of Egyptian laws adopted in conformity with the 1950 Geneva Convention governing the status of refugees, in addition to the difficult humanitarian conditions the refugees, who included children and women, had been enduring in the square.

Abu-al-Ghayt pointed out to the failure of efforts to convince the strikers to end the protest peacefully through mediation by prominent Sudanese figures from south and north Sudan.

Abu-al-Ghayt said Egypt's diplomatic mission in Geneva sent an official memorandum to the UNHCR to be circulated to all missions there to express Egypt's astonishment at the UN agency's hasty issuance of a statement on the dispersing of refugees without waiting for the completion of investigations.

Abu-al-Ghayt pointed out that the director of the UNHCR office in Cairo had indicated that the statements by the UNHCR commissioner in Geneva did not include any accusations against Egypt.

The foreign minister said he also sent messages to United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan, Arab League Secretary-General Amr Musa, Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu and European Union international policy and security chief Javier Solana, expounding the circumstances surrounding the break-up of the protest by the Sudanese refugees at Mustafa Mahmud Square.

The foreign minister said similar messages were also sent to the foreign ministers of Sudan and Belgium in this respect.

Abu-al-Ghayt lamented the incident, saying the whole matter had started when a large number of Sudanese refugees gathered at the square early in September outside the UNHCR office in Cairo. He said the United Nations had indicated that the terms of asylum seekers did not apply to the Sudanese refugees, especially as some of them were illegal immigrants.

Abu-al-Ghayt pointed out that the refugees had asked for resettlement in the United States or Canada or Australia, adding they refused to live in Egypt and demanded reopening of all closed files of Sudanese refugees.

The foreign minister said the Sudanese authorities showed an interest in the issue, with the Sudanese embassy in Cairo reviewing the outcome of a meeting organized with the sitters-in by Vice President Ali Uthman Taha during his recent visit to Egypt.

He said the Sudanese vice-president issued directives encouraging the refugees to return to Sudan and forming a committee to receive them and assess their conditions.

Sudanese refugees begin returning from Egypt

(BBC Monitoring, Al-Mashahir Newspaper, 2 Jan, Khartoum) The Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday announced that a number of Sudanese refugees who had been evacuated from Cairo after a sit-in which lasted a number of months began returning to the country yesterday on a plane provided by the Egyptian government.

A statement issued from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that 100 of those refugees will arrive at Khartoum Airport tonight aboard an Egyptian plane.

The statement said that the Sudanese government "continued to monitor the unfortunate developments of the operation to end the sit-in, and expresses its deep regret at the lives lost during the operation due to the violence used and the stampede which took place. It affirms once again that Sudan's doors are open to those who want to return home."

The statement said that the concerned parties had formed a special committee to welcome those returning and to give them all the facilities required to ensure that they return to their families.

The statement appealed to the refugees who are still in Egypt to respond to the calls made by the Sudanese government and return to their country, especially when instructions have been sent to the Sudanese embassy in Cairo to facilitate their return and to safeguard their own and country's dignity.

Egypt declares new statistics on detainees and injuries among Sudanese refugees

(AlRai AlAam – 3rd Jan 06, Khartoum-Reuters, Cairo) Government of Egypt stated that it had arrested 730 Sudanese refugees from amongst the protestors took place on Friday in Cairo. In addition, it said number of casualties reached 100 cases (26 dead and 73 injured).