



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN  
UNMIS

**UNMIS Media Monitoring Report, 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 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:**

- **AMIS-UN transition**
  - Sudan must approve deployment of UN forces - Egypt
  - Egypt, Libya leaders reject UN Darfur force
  - NATO-led force in Darfur would be 'recipe for disaster'
  - UK urges Sudan, AU to back UN force for Darfur
  - 40 political parties and unions oppose international intervention in Darfur
- **UN: Coverage on the regular press briefing:**
  - UN says SPLA to redeploy from eastern Sudan from 20th March
  - UN in efforts for start of talks on the east
  - LRA still a threat in Equatoria
  - Situation in Darfur still tense
  - UN: Voluntary Works Act a hindrance to operations of agencies
- **UN**
  - Sudan protests to Security Council
- **GoNU**
  - Authorities quell down on conflict between police and SPLM official
  - Sudan summons US envoy on alleged press statement
- **GoSS/Southern Sudan**
  - Rebecca de Mabior says US, European visit "successful"

## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

### **AMIS-UN transition**

#### **Sudan must approve deployment of UN forces - Egypt**

(*AP/ST* – 1<sup>st</sup> Mar. **Cairo**) Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Aboul Gheit said Wednesday that the Sudanese government must approve the deployment of a U.N. peacekeeping force in the conflict-wracked Darfur region before it can happen.

In a meeting with the British envoy to Darfur, Alan Goulty, he said Africa must keep the main responsibility of restore peace in the region, according to a Foreign Ministry statement.

Aboul Gheit added that those involved in the conflict must reach a peace agreement before international forces are deployed, the statement said.

Solving Darfur's problems must be based on "a political settlement accepted by all sides and backed by wide popular support within the framework of a unified Sudan," the statement quoted Aboul Gheit as saying.

On Tuesday, the top U.N. envoy in Sudan, Jan Pronk, said Sudan began a campaign to keep African Union troops in Darfur and prevent a U.N. force from taking over.

The U.N. Security Council has authorized the start of planning for a takeover, and U.S. Ambassador John Bolton tried unsuccessfully to get the council to authorize the new U.N. force.

Sudan warned last month that United Nations peacekeepers could be at risk if they deployed in Darfur, saying it would be difficult to provide them with protection.

#### **Egypt, Libya leaders reject UN Darfur force**

(*AFP/ST* – 28<sup>th</sup> Mar. **Misrat, Libya**) Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Libyan leader Moamer Kadhafi rejected the replacement of an African Union force in the Sudanese region of Darfur by UN peacekeepers, the Egyptian ambassador to Libya said.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Libyan leader Moamer Kadhafi rejected the replacement of an African Union force in the Sudanese region of Darfur by UN peacekeepers, the Egyptian ambassador to Libya said.

The two leaders "stressed the importance of the African force's presence in Darfur without any outside intervention," Mohammad Rafaat al-Tahtawi told reporters after talks in the Libyan town of Misrata.

The meeting came ahead of a session of the AU Peace and Security Council in Addis Ababa on March 10 which is expected to discuss proposals to transfer responsibility for the Darfur force to the United Nations.

The AU has said it has no funds to operate beyond March and is considering a handover of its Darfur mission to the United Nations.

The UN Security Council in February approved contingency planning for UN peacekeepers to take over from the AU force but, despite strong pressure from Western governments, Khartoum has so far remained implacably hostile to the deployment of UN troops there.

This weekend, President Omar al-Beshir warned Darfur would become a "graveyard" for any foreign military contingent entering the region against Khartoum's will.

### **NATO-led force in Darfur would be 'recipe for disaster'**

(AFP/ST – 28<sup>th</sup> Feb. **United Nations**) United Nations special envoy Jan Pronk warned here Tuesday that sending a NATO-led force to protect civilians in Sudan's troubled Darfur region would be "a recipe for disaster".

Pronk, the UN special representative in Sudan, also spoke of rising anti-UN feelings in Khartoum as authorities there fiercely oppose plans to replace an ineffective African Union force in Darfur by a mobile, more robust UN contingent.

Noting that while Khartoum did not oppose the use of NATO logistical capabilities to support a Darfur operation, it was dead against deploying a NATO-led force on its soil.

A NATO-led force "would be a recipe for disaster ... People would really start a Jihad (holy war) against it," Pronk said.

"The (Khartoum) government is taking a very strong position against the transition (to the UN) and that is new," he noted. "There is fear in Khartoum that the transition will be a conspiracy which will bring Sudan into the same situation as Iraq."

"The climate in Khartoum against the UN is heating up very strongly. There are threats, warnings," Pronk said. "They speak of recolonization, invasion, imperialism, (a) conspiracy against the Arab-Islamic world."

Pronk also cautioned that the African Union Peace and Security Council might also be reconsidering its January decision in principle to replace the African Union force, known as AMIS, by a robust UN force as demanded by UN chief Kofi Annan.

"We do not know whether the African Union will reconfirm its decision (at its March 10 meeting). That is not certain any more," Pronk said.

The Sudan government, on the other hand, says the AU either has to continue in its operations in Darfur or withdraw and leave the SAF to replace it there.

The government has described SRSF Pronk's statement that deployment of NATO forces in Darfur would be a recipe for disaster as positive. The government says however that his statements on possibilities of an *el-Qaeda* infiltration should UN forces be deployed to Darfur are unfounded.

### **UK urges Sudan, AU to back UN force for Darfur**

(AFP/ST – 1<sup>st</sup> Mar. **United Nations**) Britain's UN envoy Emyr Jones Parry urged Khartoum and the African Union (AU) not to reject a plan to replace the African Union force in Sudan's troubled Darfur with a robust, Western-backed UN force.

The AU Peace and Security Council is to meet in Addis Ababa on March 10 to discuss proposals to transfer responsibility for the Darfur force to the United Nations.

"We would like to see the AU take a decision imminently to actually say we carried the burden, we carried it with dignity and that at this stage the best plan would be for the United Nations to take over that operation," Jones Parry said.

Tuesday, Jan Pronk, the UN special representative in Sudan, said here that Khartoum and the AU seemed to be having second thoughts about the transfer.

Pronk also said that the AU Peace and Security Council might be reconsidering its January decision in principle to replace the African Union force known as AMIS by a robust UN force as demanded by UN chief Kofi Annan.

"The AU is certainly sending mixed signals at the moment but the previous report (in January) was unequivocal that this should be handed over (to the UN)," Jones Parry told reporters here.

"The best thing the African Union and the government of Sudan can do in the next week or so is to agree the handover so that the whole resources of the UN can be mobilized to actually improve the situation in Darfur which has deteriorated recently" both in security and humanitarian terms, he added.

#### **40 political parties and unions oppose international intervention in Darfur**

(*AIRai AlAam* – 2<sup>nd</sup> Mar. **Khartoum**) Participants to a meeting of no less than 40 political parties and workers' unions held at the Bar Association Club yesterday were unanimous in their opposition to foreign intervention in Darfur.

The participants condemned what they see as attempts at recolonizing the Sudan in order to satisfy some foreign agenda.

#### **UN: Coverage on the regular press briefing:**

##### **UN says SPLA to redeploy from eastern Sudan from 20th March**

(*AlSahafa* – 2<sup>nd</sup> Mar. **Khartoum**) The UN says the SAF has met all its obligations by withdrawing from southern Sudan in line with the timetable set out in the Security Arrangements.

UNMIS PDSRSG Taye Zerihoun told a press briefing yesterday that the redeployment plan for the SPLA from eastern Sudan has been rescheduled starting from the 20<sup>th</sup> of March according to an agreement reached at the CJMC meeting last Tuesday.

Mr. Zerihoun said the UN hopes that talks on the east will start before the SPLA withdraws from Hamesh Khoreib in order that the situation may not get tense there.

He also revealed that UNMIS military now has 80% of the personnel to be deployed in its mission area and expects full deployment to be achieved in the south by early next month.

The PDSRSG also disclosed that the Ceasefire Political Committee met for the first time yesterday in a procedural session and was briefed on the head of the Ceasefire Joint Military

Committee. He said the CPC will focus its discussions in its meeting next month on 7 points but did not elaborate.

### **UN in efforts for start of talks on the east**

(*AlRai AlAam* – 2<sup>nd</sup> Mar. **Khartoum**) The UN has disclosed it has had talks with the Eastern Front and the Eritrean government in a bid to eliminate the obstacles to the start of talks on eastern Sudan and on what assistance the UN can provide to that end.

UNMIS PDSRSG Taye Zerihoun pointed out that there is a peace agreement for the north and the south and a political process for Darfur but no similar process for eastern Sudan.

### **LRA still a threat in Equatoria**

(*AlAyaam* – 2<sup>nd</sup> Mar. **Khartoum**) UNMIS PDSRSG Taye Zerihoun says the LRA is still a security threat in the Equatoria region citing 9 cases last week alone attributable to the LRA.

He pointed out that clashes between the Uganda army and the LRA still continue about 50 kilometres south of Juba.

The PSRSG further pointed out that demining operations have stopped at 40 Miles south of Juba due to the security situation while demining of the Malakal-Nasser road has also stopped in Mundiri.

### **Situation in Darfur still tense**

(*AlAyaam* – 2<sup>nd</sup> Mar. **Khartoum**) The UN says the situation is still tense in Darfur and clashes still occur in the Sheiriya area causing 6,000 people to flee and a number of villages burnt.

Taye Zerihoun, UNMIS PDSRSG, said that the UN is still keen to support the AU in order that it may continue performing its duties but pointed out that donors have refused to provide the AU with funds.

Asked what will transpire should the AU decide to hand over to the UN and should the government still reject, the PDSRSG said that in that case, the Security Council will decide what to do but added that the deployment of international troops to Darfur hinges on the consent of the AU and the Sudan government.

He also pointed out that international troops will not deploy to the area should there be a risk to the forces and only the government can decide to bring a conducive atmosphere for such deployment.

### **UN: Voluntary Works Act a hindrance to operations of agencies**

(*AlRai AlAam* – 2<sup>nd</sup> Mar. **Khartoum**) UNMIS regards the Voluntary and Humanitarian Works Act recently endorsed by the National Assembly as a hindrance to the work of humanitarian agencies and restricts freedom.

Says Taye Zerihoun, PDSRSG, the Act restricts operations and puts obstacles to donor support and does not lay down measures for legal redress for the government's decisions.

He pointed out that civil society organisations have informed the mission of their intentions to challenge the Act.

## **UN**

(*AlAyaam* – 2<sup>nd</sup> Mar. **Khartoum**) The Security Council has threatened to take measures against some people in Sudan, including state officials and leaders of rebel movements listed among perpetrators of crimes in Darfur punishable by International Law.

A report by the UN Panel of Experts on Darfur has recommended measures against both Minnawi and AbdulWahid in addition to others from the government side for perpetrating war crimes in Darfur.

The report blames the rebel leaders for failure in leadership to put an end to the solution in Darfur and for following a line that only obstructs the peace process in Darfur and blames government for failure to disarm the militia groups in Darfur.

The report further says that the Security Council shall form a committee to monitor civilian protection and that this committee shall directly report on a daily basis to the Security Council. The Security Council, goes on the report, shall also decide on withdrawing the military presence in some areas following reports that government is continuing helicopter raids in these areas.

The committee will also monitor government helicopter flights and only allow civil aviation flights to land in areas where it is present.

### **Sudan protests to Security Council**

(*AlRai AlAam* – 2<sup>nd</sup> Mar. **Khartoum**) In a strongly-phrased protest to the Security Council, the Sudan government has blamed the Security Council for leaking to the press internal documents on the report of the UN Panel of Experts on Darfur.

In a letter to the President of the Security Council, foreign minister Akol demanded an explanation to this which he says negatively affects the credibility of the Security Council and its future interactions on suchlike sensitive issues with states.

Ambassador Omar Bashir, Sudan's representative to the Security Council, said that the letter of protest from the foreign minister pointed out that the Sudan has fully cooperated with the Security Council on this issue.

## **GoNU**

### **Authorities quell down on conflict between police and SPLM official**

(*AlSahafa* – 1<sup>st</sup> Mar. **Khartoum**) Authorities managed to bring to control a conflict that broke out between SPLM officials and a regular police patrol in the Ma'moura suburbs of Khartoum.

The house of SPLA official Yassir Ja'far who is also a commander of the JIUs was surrounded by 8 police vehicles yesterday as they demanded that one of his bodyguards whom the police claim was drunk be handed over to them.

The SPLA official said that his attempts to use his constitutional immunities came to naught and one of his men had to call Police headquarters to intervene. He said police headquarters quickly responded and came to their rescue and the siege was called off.

Commander Yassir however decried the lack of respect for his immunity and pointed out that the members of the JIUs are well-organised and any problem that may arise with them could easily be resolved through their respective units and in accord with the coordination that has to be set up between the parties.

On his part, a high rank police officer described the event as a “normal occurrence” and confirmed the commitment of the police to guarantee security in all parts of the capital.

Attempts to get further details from the police did not succeed but the police have promised a statement on the issue.

### **Sudan summons US envoy on alleged press statement**

(*ST* – 1<sup>st</sup> Mar. **Khartoum**) The Sudanese Foreign Ministry summoned the American Charge d’Affaires Cameron Hume and inquired about what had been attributed to him in Alwan newspaper published on Wednesday.

Ambassador Jamal Mohamed Ibrahim, the spokesperson for the Foreign Ministry, said in a press statement that the Foreign Ministry informed the charge d’Affaires that despite the fact that the Ministry considers only the official stands, still what was reported by the newspaper drew the Ministry’s attention and that the Ministry considered it necessary to know the real version of the utterances attributed by the daily to the Charge d’Affaires.

The American Chargé d’Affaires, Cameron Hume, assumed charge of the U.S. Embassy in Khartoum on October 18th, 2005.

He added that the American Charge d’Affaires denied what was attributed to him by the newspaper saying the newspaper story contained numerous inaccuracies, expressing at the same time his respect for Islam and for Muslims.

The Embassy of the U.S.A. has in the meantime issued a press release affirming that the US Government and the Charge d’Affaires hold the religion of Islam in high esteem as one of the world’s great religions.

The embassy said the article published by Alwan newspaper contained numerous inaccuracies with regards to the comments made by the United States Charge d’Affaires at a private function.

### **GoSS/Southern Sudan**

#### **Rebecca de Mabior says US, European visit "successful"**

(*ST* – 1<sup>st</sup> Mar. **Juba**) The minister of transportation and roads in the Government of Southern Sudan, Mrs Rebecca Nyandeng de Mabior, arrived in Juba this afternoon following an official visit to the USA and some European countries.

In a statement to the state-run SUNA soon after her return, she said that her visit was successful and achieved its goals. She said the visit included the USA, UK, Germany and the Netherlands.

Rebecca said that her visit was aimed at educating the US and European public about the peace process and to urge donors to commit to the pledges made during the Oslo conference on supporting the peace process in Sudan. She said that her visit to the USA came in response to an invitation made by the US government to explain the implantation of the peace process to the US people since the Darfur issue had become the concern of every nation.

In addition to that, Rebecca de Mabior talked to the people of USA and its government about Darfur and the eastern Sudan issues. She affirmed the of cooperation of all the parties cooperating to arrive to a quick solution for these issues so that the Sudanese citizens would experience the Comprehensive Peace Agreement which was signed in Naivasha.

Rebecca Nyandeng de Mabior said she lauded the US and European officials for their participation in developing the south and solving the Ugandan Lord's Resistance Army issue.