



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN  
UNMIS

**UNMIS Media Monitoring Report, 7<sup>th</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**
  - Pressure groups call for jihad against UN in Darfur
  - Sudan seeks UN clarification on Darfur troop takeover
  - NATO rules out troop presence in Darfur
  - Arab League resolves to support AU's efforts for Darfur
- **UN**
  - Annan vows more protection for NGOs in Darfur
  - Australian police to join UN peacekeepers in Sudan
- **CPA**
  - Kassala police chief says the security situation in Hamesh Khoreib near exploding
- **GoNU**
  - Preparations to restructure the police force
- **Darfur/ Abuja talks**
  - Salva Kiir contacts Minnawi
  - 14 stores in blaze in el-Fasher market
- **GoSS/Southern Sudan**
  - GoSS expels foreigners with alleged AlQaeda links to Kampala
  - Security situation in Western Equatoria is stable - official
  - Nine shot dead by armed men in South Sudan's Jonglei State
- **Human Rights**
  - Sudan continues to curtail fundamental freedoms - UN
  - Sudan unable to try Darfur suspects - UN

## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

### **AMIS-UN transition**

#### **Pressure groups call for *jihad* against UN in Darfur**

(*Khartoum Monitor* – 7<sup>th</sup> Mar. **Khartoum**) The Council for the Defence of Religion and the State has directed a strong warning to the international community against sending international forces to Darfur.

The Council held a press conference yesterday also warning the AU Peace and Security Council against allowing the transition and pointed out that this is against the interest of the people of Sudan. The Council further pointed out that all the people of Sudan reject UNSC resolutions 1590, 1591 and 1593 and regard them as instruments to undermine state sovereignty in Sudan.

The Sudanese Women Union also joined the anti-transition march and expressed fears for a repeat of the atrocities which happened in Iraw.

The Sudanese Students' Union called, on its part, for the expulsion of SRSNG Pronk for "overstretching" his tasks and the US Charge d'Affaires for insulting the Prophet of Islam.

The Dean of the Sudan Bar Association described the three resolutions as violations to International Law and the UN Charter while the Chairman of the National Youth Union said that Sudanese youth are ready to launch *jihad* in defence of the faith and the homeland.

#### **Sudan seeks UN clarification on Darfur troop takeover**

(*AP/ST* – 6<sup>th</sup> Mar. **Khartoum**) Sudan on Monday asked the U.N. mission in Khartoum to clarify its position on the idea of replacing African Union forces in Darfur with international troops, an issue the government said was having a negative effect on the peace process.

Acting Foreign Minister Ali Ahmed Karti met with U.N. representative Jan Pronk to inquire about the U.N. stance regarding "moves being made by some foreign powers with the view to impose the choice of bring international forces to replace the African Union forces in Darfur," according to a ministry statement.

Karti didn't name the "foreign powers" but was likely referring to the U.S., where the Senate on Thursday passed a resolution urging President George W. Bush to advocate sending North Atlantic Treaty Organization troops to support the 7, 000-member A.U. peacekeeping force and for NATO to enforce a no-fly zone over the Darfur region.

Sudan has rejected the idea of non-African forces helping to restore peace in Darfur, where a three-year rebellion has resulted in the deaths of an estimated 180,000 people, mainly of hunger and disease, and the displacement of some 2 million others.

The A.U. mandate expires March 31. A ministerial meeting Friday is to address the possibility of handing over peacekeeping to the U.N.

The A.U.'s Peace and Security Council has recommended that the A.U. peacekeeping force be transferred to the U.N., partly because funds are running out for the A.U. mission. But the A.U. Summit in January declined to endorse the proposal.

Karti complained to Pronk that the foreign discussions were "having negative impact on the peace process on Darfur and cast doubts on the credibility of the U.N. and its independence in dealing with the question of Darfur.

"These attempts send negative signals to the Darfur rebel movements, pushing them to adopt yet more intransigent stands during the peace talks currently held in Abuja, Nigeria," said the ministry statement, as quoted by the official Sudan news agency.

### **NATO rules out troop presence in Darfur**

(*AlAyaam* – 6<sup>th</sup> Mar. **Innsbruck, Austria**) NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer ruled out on Monday sending troops from the western military alliance to Sudan's strife-torn Darfur province.

De Hoop Scheffer said he believed that NATO could help in the region during the transition phase from an African Union operation to one led by the United Nations but only with a clear UN mandate.

"Then we can discuss a NATO role, which I do see in the enabling sphere and not the boots of troops on the ground," he told reporters on the sidelines of a meeting of EU defence ministers in Innsbruck, Austria.

### **Arab League resolves to support AU's efforts for Darfur**

(*AlAyaam* – 7<sup>th</sup> Mar. **Khartoum**) The Ministerial Council of the Arab League that concluded its meetings in Cairo last Sunday has confirmed its support for the role of the AU in resolving the Darfur crisis and especially its role in mediating the negotiations and in monitoring implementation of the N'Djamena Ceasefire Agreement.

The ministerial meeting called on all parties to the conflict to respect their obligations as set forth in the said agreement.

The meeting also urged member-states of the Arab League to give financial and technical support necessary for the AU to carry out its operations in Darfur. It called also for a higher level representation in the talks and without preconditions.

The ministerial meeting also urged the UN and the Security Council to give the Sudan more time and increase support to the AAU forces in Darfur. The meeting also echoed rejections for an international presence in Darfur and says no sanctions should be imposed on the Sudan nor threats of such sanctions made.

## **UN**

### **Annan vows more protection for NGOs in Darfur**

(*AlAyaam* – 7<sup>th</sup> Mar. **Khartoum**) UN Secretary-General Koffi Annan held talks recently with representatives of INGOs operating in Darfur on the deterioration of the security situation in the Darfur region.

He expressed appreciation for the brave work they are carrying out in the area and said the UN was committed to seek more protection for them

Following an emergency meeting, the spokesperson for the Secretary-General told the press at UN Headquarters that the Secretary-General expressed concern over continued acts of violence and the continued threats to the lives of relief workers.

Representatives of the INGOs underlined the need to increase the presence of peacekeepers in the region.

### **Australian police to join UN peacekeepers in Sudan**

(*AP/ST* – 6<sup>th</sup> Mar. **Sydney, Australia**) Ten Australian federal policemen headed Monday to Sudan to join a U.N. peacekeeping mission in the country's south.

Police Commissioner Mick Keelty said the officers would help monitor a peace agreement that ended 21 years of civil war between Sudan's north and south.

The officers would not be sent to Sudan's Darfur region, which has been wracked by ethnic tension and fighting between African rebels and Arab militias loyal to the government. Keelty said the 10-strong team would be replaced every six months, over an 18-month period.

The U.N. Mission in Sudan was set up to monitor and support the implementation of the peace agreement that ended a 21-year civil war between the Sudan People's Liberation Movement and the Khartoum government in January 2005.

## **CPA**

### **Kassala police chief says the security situation in Hamesh Khoreib near exploding**

(*Akhbar Alyaum* – 7<sup>th</sup> Mar. **Khartoum**) The chief of police in Kassala reports that the security situation in most parts of the state is relatively calm but Hamesh Khoreib is close to exploding.

Mjr. Gen. Khamis Myan Dut attributes the worsening security situation in the Hamesh Khoreib region to lack of response from the armed groups in the region to withdraw as per the CPA. He pointed out that the insistence of the Beja Congress to move into Hamesh Khoreib after SPLA withdrawal from the area only makes matters worse.

The police chief says more police forces will be sent to beef up security in the area as the UN and the other forces prepare to withdraw from the area by 20<sup>th</sup> March.

## **GoNU**

### **Preparations to restructure the police force**

(*AlSahafa* – 7<sup>th</sup> Mar. **Khartoum**) The Ministry of the Interior has disclosed that a draft is being prepared that will regulate the relation between the federal police and the GoSS police and that preparations are underway to restructure the directorates of the police force. The minister was addressing yesterday the opening session of a meeting of police chiefs from around the country held in Khartoum.

On the other hand, the chief of police Mahjoub Hassan Saad has confirmed that the police force is capable of carrying out its duties and taking precautions to confront all international resolutions. He reveals that the Ministry of the Interior will be sending police forces to Darfur from time to time to beef up security and safeguard stability. He pointed out that the police shall have an increasingly important role as it preserves national security and takes over the void left by the SAF and national security.

## **Darfur/ Abuja talks**

### **Salva Kiir contacts Minnawi**

(*AIRai AlAam* – 7<sup>th</sup> Mar. **Khartoum, Abuja**) SLM's Minnawi says he had a telephone contact with Vice-president Salva Kiir earlier and asked the V-p who also heads the SPLM to clarify the SPLM position over the Abuja talks and the conflict in Darfur.

Minnawi also criticised foreign minister Dr. Lam Akol and pointed out that Dr. Akol held separate talks with AbdulWahid during the former's last visit to Abuja.

On the talks, Minnawi said that the ball is now in the government court as they have made a number of concessions and it is now government's turn to concede.

On the other hand, the spokesperson for the SPLM's northern sector, Waleed Hamid, agreed that the SPLM team in Abuja held the same views as the National Congress Party and does not represent the views of the government of national unity. He underlined the need to review the current position.

He pointed out that there is a joint committee of the SPLM and the NCP plotting a new course for their position in the talks and these views will be tabled before the negotiating parties by Vice-president Salva Kiir during his impending visit to Abuja.

### **14 stores in blaze in el-Fasher market**

(*AIRai AlAam* – 7<sup>th</sup> Mar. **Khartoum**) 14 stores in the el-Fasher livestock market went down in blazes yesterday damaging lots of property.

Sources say investigations are ongoing to determine the cause of the blaze and evaluate the damage.

## **GoSS/Southern Sudan**

### **GoSS expels foreigners with alleged *AlQaeda* links to Kampala**

(*AlSahafa* – 7<sup>th</sup> Mar. **Khartoum**) Intelligence sources from southern Sudan have revealed that SPLA intelligence has arrested a number of foreign who came into Yei through the Kaya border post bordering Uganda.

The sources say 3 of those arrested were Indians suspected to be spying on the SPLA and the others were a number of Somalis with alleged links to *el-Qaeda*, according to security reports.

All were returned back to Kampala following investigations with them.

Meanwhile the GoSS police has warned of legal flaws in the porous border posts and the lack of government police in these posts.

### **Security situation in Western Equatoria is stable - official**

(*SRS/ST* – 6<sup>th</sup> Mar. **Nairobi**) The Deputy Governor of Western Equatoria, Joseph Ngere Pachiko, says that the security situation in his state has improved.

But he further added that there is still tension in the area due to occasional attacks by armed men suspected to be Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels and Chadian pastoralists commonly known as Ambororo.

Ngere told Sudan Radio Service (SRS) in an interview last week that SPLA soldiers, as well as joint integrated units, are now providing security in Western Equatoria.

"We have asked the SPLA, JIU forces to deploy in Western Equatoria at the moment. As we are talking today, we have deployed joint integrated forces at Nebapayi, Nangere. We have discussed and they contacted DR Congo. They brought forces two days ago at Nebapayi", said Joseph Ngere.

He said that the problems in the area should not be seen as Western Equatoria's problems alone, but as problems that could affect the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Sudan.

### **Nine shot dead by armed men in South Sudan's Jonglei State**

(*SRS/ST* – 6<sup>th</sup> Mar. **Yuai**) Nine people were shot dead and eight others wounded, when a group of armed civilians, suspected to be cattle raiders, attacked the Yuai area of Jonglei State last week.

Speaking to Sudan Radio Service (SRS) on phone from Yuai last Friday, the area's Member of Parliament, Gatkuoth Dak, said the attack took place at a watering point. Mister Dak said SPLA soldiers are now pursuing the attackers.

Meanwhile, at the end of a reconciliatory meeting in Yuai last week, Vice-President of Southern Sudan Government, Riek Machar, said that Jonglei State authorities suspected to have forcefully disarmed civilians in the area a month ago — without the knowledge of the government — will be investigated and brought before the law.

Last week Machar took the remains of former White Army founder, Colonel Wutnyang Gatkek, who died in the recent conflict in Yuai, to be given a burial in his home village in Fangak

## **Eastern Sudan**

### **Human Rights**

#### **Sudan continues to curtail fundamental freedoms - UN**

(*AFP/ST* – 6<sup>th</sup> Mar. **Khartoum**) The Sudanese security services continue to resort to arbitrary detention and torture against opponents and critics, jeopardising basic freedoms, a UN human rights rapporteur said Monday.

"Fundamental freedoms of expression and association continue to be curtailed by the National Intelligence Security Service and Military Intelligence," said rapporteur Sima Samar as she wrapped up a 10-day visit ahead of a report to the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva later this month.

"Human rights defenders, students, political opposition parties, internally displaced persons and tribal leaders continue to be targeted for their activities in violation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and the new Interim National Constitution which contains a bill of rights."

Simar was referring to a January 2005 peace deal between the Khartoum regime and southern rebels that paved the way for a new power-sharing constitution with clauses protecting human rights.

She noted that the new charter provided for "reform of the National Security Service and the establishment of an independent human rights commission both of which are key for the protection of human rights in the Sudan."

The UN rapporteur said she had received "credible reports that the security apparatus continue to arbitrarily arrest and detain and that detainees are subjected to torture and ill-treatment and denied pre-trial and fair trial guarantees".

"These violations of the international human rights law are documented in Khartoum, Darfur, eastern Sudan and Northern Kordofan," she added, referring to the capital and the three main areas outside the south where the government has faced armed rebellions.

Simar said she had been disappointed to see that despite last year's peace agreement, the Sudanese people "see little or no change in their everyday lives."

The human rights situation in the south "remains fragile" while the rights to education, health, housing and development "are almost inexistent".

"Outside the towns insecurity continues with numerous armed groups moving freely, in addition to the existence of landmines."

She said the security situation in the western Darfur region had "unfortunately deteriorated" since her last visit in October.

"Human rights abuses continue to be perpetrated by all parties in Darfur," she said, noting that she had received reports of "attacks on villages this year which were carried out by armed militia and government forces".

"Disturbingly, in many cases the perpetrators of human rights violations in Darfur are described as men in uniform who should provide security to the population," she said.

### **Sudan unable to try Darfur suspects - UN**

(Reuters/ST – 6<sup>th</sup> Mar. **Khartoum**) Sudan's special court for Darfur is not able to try Sudanese officials responsible for war crimes and authorities continue to abuse freedom of expression, a top U.N. rights official said on Monday.

Sima Samar, the U.N. special rapporteur on Sudan, also said after a 10-day visit to Sudan that intelligence services continue to carry out arbitrary arrests, detention and torture with impunity.

"Freedom of expression and association unfortunately continue to be abused by the national intelligence services or military intelligence," she told reporters in Khartoum.

She added arrests and torture have been documented in Khartoum, North Kordofan, and also in the remote Darfur region and the east, where emergency law is still in place.

Samar said security services should reform to comply with a new constitution adopted last year after a peace deal ended more than two decades of civil war in Sudan's south.

That deal created a new coalition government and enshrined basic freedoms and democratic transformation. But its implementation has been slow.

Sudan says it will not allow ICC investigators to work in Darfur, and set up special Darfur courts which it says were a substitute for the ICC.

But Samar said the courts had not yet tried anyone with command responsibility for crimes in Darfur. She had only been given a list of 15 officers from the police and army who had been tried for crimes between 1991 and 2003, before the Darfur conflict even began.

"We did ask for information and they didn't provide much information so that means that maybe they are not able to bring anybody to justice," she said.