



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN  
UNMIS

**UNMIS Media Monitoring Report, 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2006**  
**(By Public Information Office)**

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## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

### **UN**

#### **Peace on track but security in South Sudan still fragile - UN envoy**

(*Reuters, the local press, UN/ST – 21<sup>st</sup> Mar. United Nations*) The Comprehensive Peace Agreement ending the long-running civil war in south Sudan was on track, U.N. envoy Jan Pronk told the Security Council on Tuesday. But he cautioned that the security there was still fragile and troops from UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) should not be redeployed to other areas.

“There were security incidents, but we have been able to contain all of them and to avoid escalation,” he told reporters after the Council meeting, in which he had pointed to tensions resulting from a lagging implementation of the peace agreement and new threats such as the Uganda-based Lord’s Resistance army.

“My warning to the Security Council was, ‘Please do not cannibalize our existing force in the South, 10,000, by taking away troops on the basis of your perception that everything is okay,’ because that is not the case,” he said.

In order to consolidate the peace in the south, he called for a substantial increase in resources devoted to Demobilization, Disarmament and Reintegration (DDR) and other post-conflict activities.

“The reconstruction and development deficit in the south is the greatest challenge to peace. If not addressed, people will ask what difference peace has made for them,” he said, adding “After the war, there are plenty of weapons for those who want to grab the scant resources to survive.”

Sudan’s government reached a peace deal with southern rebels in January 2005, and the Security Council approved a peacekeeping mission for the south two months later. It has been slowly deploying ever since and is now up to 80 percent of full strength, Pronk said.

But SPLA units have yet to be disbanded, weapons remain in abundant supply, and violent clashes between rival armed groups are on the rise as a result, he said.

Yet peacekeepers cannot step in because the security mechanism envisioned by the peace deal has not begun functioning and the government has imposed restrictions on U.N. troop movements in the affected areas, he said.

The SRSG described the situation in eastern Sudan as calm as the Sudan government and the rebel forces in the region have committed not to attack each other. He warned however that the same could not be said of the situation in Darfur which remains bad.

#### **UN envoy says Darfur needs peace, large peacekeeping force**

(*ST, the local press – 21<sup>st</sup> Mar. United Nations*) The United Nation’s top envoy to Sudan, Jan Pronk, today called for a swift peace agreement and a peacekeeping force large enough to cover the region and strong enough to deter any attack.

Maintaining that no progress has been made since his last visit to UN Headquarters, Special Representative Jan Pronk told the Security Council: “I feel no joy in adding the towns of Sharia and Graida to Aro Sharow, Tama, Abu Sorouj, Tawila, Labado, Hamada and Khora Abache, which all stand witness to cruel atrocities, terror, killings and rapes.”

The Government had not disarmed the militias, he said. On the contrary, African Union commanders on the ground openly spoke about continued support to militia by forces allied to the Government, in a civil conflict that also involves rebel groups and has killed some 180,000 people, displacing over 2 million others.

“The ceasefire does not function; the Joint Committee does not meet. The sanctions foreseen with the establishment of the Security Council Panel of Experts exist only in theory,” he said, adding that demands laid down in Council resolutions have been brushed aside.

He called for a United Nations strategy that focuses on two objectives: peace and protection. “Peace between the warring parties and protection of unarmed civilians, particularly against movements that do not bother sitting at the table to talk peace.”

To that end, beside a robust peacekeeping force which is still being negotiated with possible contributing countries, he called for the swift conclusion of an agreement in Abuja on power sharing followed by an all-inclusive dialogue on Darfur between all stakeholders, including civil society.

He also called for a new ceasefire agreement that could hold, saying a so-called humanitarian ceasefire, guaranteeing humanitarian assistance and relief workers’ access to victims, was not sufficient. A comprehensive ceasefire should guarantee that the victims themselves are protected and that no new victims are made, he said.

“We must mend our own shortcomings and provide a future UN operation in Darfur with a robust mandate and a strong force not just to preserve lives but to ensure that all Darfurians can choose to live wherever they want to and their children can look forward to a future that their parents were denied,” he stated.

### **UN partly suspends South Sudan refugee repatriation**

(*ST, AlAyaam* – 21<sup>st</sup> Mar. **Geneva**) Following recent armed attacks in south Sudan, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has decided to suspend the repatriation of Sudanese refugees from the Central African Republic (CAR), Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) to the Yei, Yambio, Kajo Keji areas of South Sudan starting today and to Tambura from Wednesday.

UN refugee agency staff working in these locations in Central and Western Equatoria have been relocated or are in the process of being relocated to other areas in south Sudan for two weeks.

This decision was taken following heavy fighting in Yambio on Saturday night near the compound of a non-governmental organization (NGO). The Sudanese People Liberation Army (SPLA) intervened and scattered the armed groups. Even though UNHCR staff were not directly targeted in Yambio, in view of the extremely volatile situation we have decided to relocate our two staff.

Other humanitarian agencies working in Yambio have also relocated their staff to Juba, the capital of south Sudan, or to Rumbek. Although calm has been restored in Yambio, the situation remains tense.

"We are sending three people on mission today from Geneva to assess the security situation in the repatriation areas of South Sudan, and to evaluate the measures needed to ensure the security and safety of our staff", UNHCR spokesperson said.

UNHCR director for the Sudan operation, Jean-Marie Fakhouri, arrived in Juba yesterday and will travel in the region over the next days.

The weekend incident in Yambio follows an attack on the UNHCR compound in Yei last week. Last Wednesday, two armed intruders entered our Yei compound, killed one guard working for us and wounded another. One international staff member was also shot, and although his health has improved he is still in critical but stable condition in a Nairobi hospital. The guard, who was also evacuated to Kenya, is now out of danger.

There are still some 350,000 Sudanese refugees from south Sudan in neighbouring countries and some four million more are displaced within Sudan as a result of the 21-year civil war that ended with a peace accord 14 months ago.

## **GoNU**

### **Dr. Nafei accuses el-Mahdi and Turabi of trying to bring down the regime**

(*AlRai AlAam* – 22<sup>nd</sup> Mar. **Khartoum**) Dr. Nafei Ali Nafei, the Assistant to the President of the Republic, lashed out on Dr. Turabi and Sadiq el-Mahdi both of whom he accused of allying to pull down the government.

He called on them to do that through the ballot box and not through seeking wooing foreign sympathy.

On the recent disclosure by Dr. Turabi that some key government officials were involved in the failed plot to assassinate Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Addis Ababa some years back, Dr. Nafei said that Dr. Turabi was looking for a battle that will bring him back to the limelight but is using tools that have been used before.

Nafei challenged Turabi to list down the names of the officers he claimed were executed.

### **Police cracks down on illegal arms**

(*AlRai AlAam* – 22<sup>nd</sup> Mar. **Khartoum**) The Ministry of the Interior is set to launch a plan aimed at collecting illegal arms in Khartoum.

Addressing a police graduation ceremony yesterday, the chief of police in Khartoum State says the crackdown on illegal arms, illegal courts and outlaws shall continue until Khartoum is totally free of these.

### **Partners in GoNU trade accusations**

(*AlRai AlAam* – 22<sup>nd</sup> Mar. **Khartoum**) A forum on the manner in which the partners in the GoNU handle hot national issues turned out yesterday into an arena for trading accusations between the stakeholders.

SPLM's Deng Alor, also minister for Cabinet Affairs, accused the National Congress Party of making decisions without consulting the other partners in government. He cited as an example the declaration of *jihad* against international forces in Darfur without consulting with the others on an issue of national interest as Darfur.

He pointed out that the SPLA could never consent to a declaration of *jihad*. He said

On the other hand, Alor said that government's rejection of the ABC report was based on her greed for oil and nothing else.

Dr. Mustafa Osman, an advisor to President Bashir, defended the National Congress Party and said that oil had nothing to do with rejection of the ABC report. He said the National Congress Party will not accept the ABC report currently tabled for discussion before the Presidency of the Republic but conceded that the NCP would accept any agreement reached on the issue by the Misseiriya and the Dinka.

Osman challenged the SPLM to list down the clauses of the CPA that are yet to be implemented. He said the National Congress Party was ready for an open debate on the issue of implementation of the CPA and pointed out that the SPLM itself should show the same levels of transparency in the GoSS as it demands from the north.

## **CPA**

### **“Peace Forces” confirm they are part of the SAF**

(*Akhbar Alyaum* – 22<sup>nd</sup> Mar. **Khartoum**) The Peace Forces has been incorporated as part of an SSDF faction into the SAF since 1987.

A spokesperson for the Peace Forces said their forces will not withdraw from the areas under their control in West and North Bahr-el-Ghazal.

He further said they have no knowledge of the reported execution by the SPLA of four PDF soldiers in the Upper Nile and Bahr-el-Ghazal region and have not clashed with the SPLA or the SSDF.

This follows recent reports by Paulino's forces citing the Peace Forces as responsible for some incidents of insecurity in Kalakla, south of Khartoum, last week. The SSDF had been accused of these incidents but said the accusations were calculated to strike a blow on the CPA.

### **Head of Northern Sudan DDR Commission maintains the SPLA did execute 4 PDF soldiers in Upper Nile**

(*AlRai AlAam* – 22<sup>nd</sup> Mar. **Khartoum**) The Northern Sudan DDR Commission insists that the SPLA did execute 4 PDF soldiers in Upper Nile.

Salaf-el-deen Saleh, the head of the commission, said they are prepared to give evidence to support their charges.

## **Darfur/ Abuja talks/Chad**

### **Chad launches offensive against rebels near Sudan border**

(Reuters/ST – 21<sup>st</sup> Mar. N'Djamena) Government troops in Chad have launched a military offensive against rebels in the east as President Idriss Deby seeks to reassert his control over the country ahead of a presidential election in May.

Government sources in N'Djamena said on Tuesday the army had since Monday attacked a command post held by the SCUD rebel group in the mountains of Hadjer Marfain, south of Adre, not far from the border with Sudan.

"We've gone on the offensive since yesterday morning and we've dislodged the rebels," said one of the government sources, who asked not to be named.

The source gave no casualty report, but said the Chadian army had destroyed several rebel vehicles in the fighting in the dry savannah and desert of eastern Chad.

SCUD, a rebel group largely made up of deserters from Deby's own army, confirmed there had been an attack on one of its bases but said its fighters repulsed it, inflicting heavy casualties.

"We are controlling our position," SCUD rebel leader Yaya Dillo Djerou told Reuters by satellite phone.

Rebel sources said government forces were using armoured vehicles and artillery and the four-wheel-drive jeeps mounted with cannon which are often used for desert warfare in Chad.

Deby, who has faced increasing rebel attacks and incursions from the east, was directing the army offensive.

Denouncing a spillover into his own country of the conflict in Sudan's Darfur region, he has accused the Sudanese government of backing efforts to topple him, a charge denied by Khartoum.

The army push against the rebels came one week after Chad's government announced it had foiled a coup plot against Deby. His 16-year rule has been weakened since last year by a wave of desertions by officers, taking men and equipment with them.

Chad's government said on Monday it had arrested 100 officers and soldiers implicated in the latest plot.

Analysts said it appeared Deby wanted to hit the rebels with an early strike before they tried to disrupt preparations for a May 3 presidential election in which he will seek re-election.

Only one other candidate has announced he is running in the polls so far and Deby is widely expected to win.

"There is a reason for the rebels to make a move and for the government to try to prevent that," Suliman Baldo, International Crisis Group's Africa Program Director, told Reuters.

He said the government push against SCUD was not surprising, as its members included recent high-level military defectors who could persuade others in the armed forces to desert.

"The SCUD are insiders, some of their leadership are from the innermost circle of power. There is an element of personal rancour at play as well," Baldo said.

Another rebel group, the RDL, which attacked Adre in east Chad in December and announced the formation of an anti-Deby alliance, said it was not involved in the latest fighting.

"This fight is a family problem between Deby and his family," RDL spokesman Abdullahi Abdel Karim told Reuters.

Those deserting Deby have included members of his own Zaghawa ethnic group, some of whom accuse him of not doing enough to help fellow Zaghawa kinsmen in Darfur who have been attacked by Arab militias.

The rebels have given Deby an ultimatum to either start negotiations on democratic change or face overthrow.

Deby is a former army commander who seized power in a 1990 revolt he led from the east — the usual pattern of regime change in the country since its 1960 independence from France.

"These rebel groups are trying to replicate that model ... launch rapid, surprise attacks towards N'Djamena, coupled with uprisings, takeovers of garrisons," Baldo said.

### **AU sends observers on Chad-Sudan border**

(*ST* – 21<sup>st</sup> Mar. **Addis Ababa**) The African Union Peace and Security Council endorsed Tuesday plans to deploy military observers on the border separating Chad and Sudan as provided under a peace agreement signed by leaders of the two countries in Tripoli, Libya in February.

It was not immediately clear, however, how this will be affected by fighting that erupted in the region Monday between Chadian troops and Chadian rebels in eastern Chad, along the Sudan border.

Since October, scores of defectors from the Chadian army have joined a number of Chadian rebel groups based in the area bordering Sudan's western region of Darfur, the site of an uprising by Sudanese groups, some with tribal ties to many Chadians.

Sudan has accused Chad of harboring Darfur rebels, while Chad has said Sudan backs Chadian insurgents.

Under the Tripoli agreement, the leaders of Sudan and Chad agreed to deny refuge to each other's rebel groups. The deal, however, has yet to resolve the chaos on the ground.

### **AU mediators hold consultations on humanitarian ceasefire in Darfur**

(*ST* – 21<sup>st</sup> Mar. **Abuja**) The African Union mediation, presented the Enhanced Humanitarian Ceasefire Agreement (ECHA) to the Sudanese parties on 12 March, 2006, with a clear message that the existing momentum and constructive atmosphere should be translated into early conclusion of the discussions, and adoption of the Draft Agreement within days.

“The AU Mediation also underlined the positive impact, which the EHCA would have both on the ground in Darfur and on the on-going negotiations, which have now entered their final phase, bearing in mind that the African Union Peace and Security Council recently set 30 April 2006 as the deadline for conclusion of the Talks”, said Nourredine Menzi, the AU spokesperson.

The Sudan Liberation Movement/Army, the Government of the Sudan and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) have since submitted their written responses to the Draft Agreement.

The Mediation had prepared with the aim to immediately bring to a stop the deteriorating security situation on the ground in Darfur, protect the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) camps and create conducive conditions for the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the needy population.

After the bilateral consultations, the AU Mediation will convene a Plenary to formally submit the Document to the Sudanese Parties for final consideration and decision.

Several Special Envoys representing the International Partners have recently returned to Abuja, venue of the negotiations, including those of the UK, France and the European Union, while the League of Arab States is also being represented in Abuja at Ambassadorial level.