



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN  
UNMIS

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**(By Public Information Office)**

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## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

### **UN**

#### **Second batch of Russian troops to join Sudan peace mission**

(*RIA, Novosti /ST* – 2<sup>nd</sup> May, **Moscow**) A new group of Russian peacekeepers will fly to Sudan May 3 to join a UN force, the Air Force said Tuesday.

The first group of Russian peacekeepers flew to the East African country April 20 to join the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) by the end of May.

"A second Il-76 aircraft will head for Sudan from Migalovo airport in the [central] Tver Region," the press service said. "It will deliver some 30 metric tons of special and technical equipment to Juba airport, as well as about 10 peacekeepers."

Maj. Gen. Viktor Ivanov, head of the Air Force Army Aviation Directorate, said earlier that the peacekeepers would not be involved in combat missions.

The press service said another two planes would deliver some 60 tons of technical cargo and some 20 people on May 5.

A 21-year bloody civil war ended in Sudan after the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between the Sudanese government and the former rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) in Nairobi on 9 January 2005.

On March 24, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 1663 extending the UNMIS mandate until September 26, 2006.

Before the first group of Russian peacekeepers was sent to Sudan, UNMIS included 14 Russian military observers and 19 civilian police officers.

#### **UN High Commissioner for Human Rights worried over situation in Darfur**

(*Khartoum Monitor* – 4<sup>th</sup> May, **Khartoum**) UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Louse Arbour, discussed with the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs here yesterday the situation in Darfur.

Arbour said she had been to Darfur for a couple of days and found the situation has not improved in many respects.

She announced that the space for humanitarian work has been reduced by local legislation that has restricted the ability of local and international NGOs to deliver humanitarian assistance.

"There is over-emphasis on state security as against humanitarian security as there is no protection to IDPs in particular," she said.

On his part, the Commissioner-General for Humanitarian Aid, Hassabu Mohamed AbdulRahman, stated that Arbour expressed reservation over laws applying to organisations and particularly those regarding funding.

He confirmed that the law is not an obstacle and is yet to be ratified.

“We would like to see real organisations and genuine voluntary work, not organisations used as a cover to enlist foreign funding that causes damage to national security,” he said.

He said the High Commissioner for human rights only focused on setbacks.

## **CPA**

### **Khartoum state legislative body defers ratification of constitution to next Sunday**

(*AlAyaam* – 4<sup>th</sup> May, **Khartoum**) The Khartoum State Legislative Assembly has deferred ratification of the draft constitution to next Sunday.

The Speaker of the Khartoum State legislative body said that the whole draft constitution will be reviewed and then passed in Sunday’s session.

## **GoNU**

### **Ministry of Interior calls for solutions to problems at the Merwe dam area**

(*AlAyaam* – 4<sup>th</sup> May, **Khartoum**) The Minister of the Interior has called for solutions to the problems of the people of Amri who are affected by the construction of the Merwe Dam within the next two months before the rains set in when about 48 square kilometres of the area is expected to submerge.

He told reporters yesterday that there is no time to waster on the issue and that those who will be evicted from their homes as a result of the construction have demands that have to be addressed.

### **Minister of the Interior says there are 48 armed groups operating in Khartoum**

(*AlRai AlAam* – 4<sup>th</sup> May, **Khartoum**) Speaking before parliament yesterday, the Minister of the Interior revealed that there are 48 fully equipped armed groups in different parts of Khartoum and that there is a shortage of police personnel.

The minister pointed out that there are 14,746 police and reserve police officers currently deployed to Darfur. He pointed out that the rebel movements in Darfur have violated the declaration of principles in 312 cases in the last 8 months.

He said there were 24 reconciliation conferences held for peaceful coexistence of the tribes in Darfur.

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

## **US Senate passes amendment for funding UN Darfur mission**

(*AP/ST* – 3<sup>rd</sup> May, **Washington**) The U.S. Senate on Wednesday passed an amendment sponsored by Sen. Robert Menendez that provides \$60 million to fund a United Nations peacekeeping mission in the Darfur region of Sudan.

The amendment, which was co-sponsored by Sen. Barack Obama, is part of a huge bill to fund military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and hurricane relief on the Gulf Coast. President Bush has promised to veto the bill if it exceeds \$94.5 billion. The bill is already close to \$109 billion.

Obama, D-Ill., said the amendment sends a message to other countries to join the United States in efforts to end the genocide in Darfur.

"This sends a signal to the U.N. that we are prepared to do our fair share," Obama said.

Menendez, a Democrat from New Jersey, had to fight most of Tuesday night to get the amendment funded. The measure was financed by a companion cut to funding for a huge U.S. embassy project in Baghdad.

Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan., one of the Senate's leading figures on Darfur, praised the amendment and said although he was concerned about the high cost of the bill, he would fight to make sure the Darfur amendment was not stripped in conference.

Meanwhile, Menendez's likely Republican opponent in this year's Senate race criticized him for using the people of Darfur for political gain. New Jersey state Sen. Tom Kean Jr. said Menendez actually has worked against the people of Darfur for accepting campaign contributions from gum arabic importers.

Gum arabic is produced in the Sudan and is a key ingredient in soft drinks, candy, pharmaceuticals and ink. Importer Services Corp., based in Jersey City, N.J., is the largest importer of gum arabic in the country and is a major campaign contributor to Menendez, Kean said.

"I challenge him to return the dirty money he collected from gum arabic importers," Kean said.

Menendez spokesman Matt Miller said Kean's comments were inappropriate.

"It is tasteless beyond belief that anyone would criticize Bob Menendez's bipartisan efforts to stop genocide to score cheap political points," Miller said.

Obama spokesman Tommy Vietor also took exception to Kean's comments.

"It's unclear to me how anyone could construe working to provide \$60 million for this peacekeeping mission as anything but a sincere effort to help people suffering in Darfur," Vietor said.

## **Rising tensions in Chad could hinder relief operations**

(*ST* – 3<sup>rd</sup> Mar, **N'Djamena**) Amid rising tensions and reported preparations for armed attacks in Chad, the United Nations World Food Programme warned today election day that food is

becoming a serious issue for some 70,000 people who have either fled the continuous armed incursions in the east of the country or are resident there.

A WFP-led food security assessment mission which has just returned from eastern Chad, bordering the troubled Sudanese region of Darfur, said that while the situation was not yet cause for alarm, the food stocks of some 50,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) were rapidly being depleted as they share their limited resources with around 20,000 people hosting them.

Malnutrition rates in the areas visited by the assessment team are currently within acceptable norms (Global Acute Malnutrition of between 5.5 and 8 percent, with Severe Acute Malnutrition below two percent for children under five).

"We need to work fast now to avoid any sudden deterioration in these people's nutritional status," said Stefano Porretti, WFP Chad Country Director. "We are aiming to launch seed protection activities in areas which can be cultivated, so that Chadians remain self-sufficient for as long as possible. No general food distributions are planned at the moment, but we are keeping a close eye on how the situation evolves."

Despite last month's clashes around the country between government and rebel forces and the consequent relocation of non-essential UN and NGO staff, WFP remains operational in Chad and completed April food distributions in 12 camps in the east of the country, home to about 210,000 refugees from Darfur. However, uncertain security threatens to make an already highly complex logistical operation even more difficult.

"Even under normal circumstances, WFP's operation in eastern Chad teeters on the brink," said Porretti, "We want to ensure that the world is aware of how dire the situation could become for those people both displaced Chadians and refugees from Darfur who depend on our assistance."

April and May are critical months to maintaining supplies of food, with WFP striving to pre-position enough food for six months in each of the 12 refugee camps in the east before the annual rains make road transport impossible. If truck convoys through Libya and Cameroon remain free to move, WFP is on target to get the food in place. But if insecurity forces delays, there will be serious consequences for deliveries.

Shortages during the rainy season can only be made up by expensive air-drops, something WFP is keen to avoid.

The closure of the border between Chad and Sudan following the rebel assault on the capital in April could also have a serious impact on WFP operations in West Darfur, where the agency is currently feeding a total of 500,000 people. Much of the food for the needy in West Darfur arrives from Libya via Chad, but the border closure has rendered this route unusable..

As the annual 'hunger season' begins to bite, it is certain that many of The displaced Chadians, as well as the communities hosting them, will run out of food and require emergency assistance.

WFP is creating a contingency stock for these people, but if the security situation deteriorates and Chadians are displaced in even greater numbers, it will increase the already severe pressure on both the financial resources available to meet their needs and on WFP's ability to deliver food to them.

WFP's US\$87 million emergency operation in eastern Chad is currently only 60 percent funded; further contributions are vital to ensure food deliveries to the camps following the rainy season until the end of the year. As Chad is a landlocked nation, food supplies take up to four months to arrive in-country following a donation.

Donors to WFP's emergency operation in eastern Chad include the United States (US\$21 million), European Commission (US\$5.2 million), France (US\$3.5 million), Netherlands (US\$3.4 million), Canada (US\$3.2 million), United Kingdom (US\$3.2 million), Japan (US\$1.3 million), Ireland (US\$830,000), Finland (US\$366,000), Switzerland (US\$342,000) and Spain (US\$181,000).

## **Southern Sudan**

### **Juba University ready to return home**

(*Juba Post* – 4<sup>th</sup> May, **Juba**) The University of Juba is ready to accommodate all the colleges, said Nancy Lino, the head of the committee delegated by the students' association from Khartoum.

A delegation of the association is in Juba for ten days for discussions with the GoSS to push for the return of the university to its original police.

According to Lino, the presence of the University in Juba is vital for development. The delegation had acquainted itself with the existing structures in the Juba campus and found that there are 8 halls in good condition and 15 buildings in need of limited maintenance.

The delegation was able to gain audience with the President of the GoSS, the Speaker of the GoSS Legislative Assembly, the GoSS Minister of Education and the Governor of Central Equatoria.

According to the association, the GoSS has promised to return the university "as soon as possible".

### **LRA suspect captured at the Bros Camp in Juba**

(*Juba Post* – 27<sup>th</sup> Apr., **Juba**) A suspected LRA agent was arrested on 26<sup>th</sup> April at the Bros Camp in Juba.

According to reliable sources that opted for anonymity, Archangelo Thomson's was arrested and his house searched a day after his arrest. The search, he said, uncovered seven weapons, ammunition and the sum of 100,000 SD.

The source said that Thomson's activities had been suspect for quite a while and were being monitored by the local residents of Gumbo and Rejaf. He was seen crossing Gumbo from Rejaf and communicating with some people over his Thouraya phone on the night the Lord's Resistance Army attacked Rejaf. The source further adds that Thomson is believed to have strong links to the SAF.

Thomson is said to have denied the charges against him and the SAF denies any link to Thomson.

## **Other Developments**

## **New press law soon out, says Secretary-General of the National Press & Publications Council**

(*Sudan Vision* – 4<sup>th</sup> May, **Khartoum**) A new press law is under discussion to replace the 2004 to accommodate the developments after the signing of the CPA and the Interim Constitution.

This was stated yesterday by the Secretary-General of the Press & Publications Council Dr. Hashim Al-Jaz in a forum on the occasion of World Press Day organised by the UNDP.

The chairman of the National Press & Publications Council Prof. Ali Shummu at the forum called for amendments and improvement of Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in order to incorporate the latest development.