



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN
UNMIS

UNMIS Media Monitoring Report, 21st May 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/ AU-UN Transition**

- UN Security Council to hold meeting in Khartoum next month - report
- Security Council delegation expected in Sudan on the 4th of June
- Annan urges swift action on Darfur crisis
- Government welcomes Al-Ibrahimi visit
- UN envoy visits Darfur to urge support for peace deal
- Communist Party of Sudan welcomes international forces
- State minister at the foreign ministry says Sudan will allow United Nations experts to visit only after an agreement is reached

➤ **GoNU**

- Sudanese ruling party plans to build up ties with SPLM

➤ **DPA/Darfur**

- Minnawi arrives in Muhajiriya
- SLM accuses government of violating the ceasefire agreement

➤ **Eastern Sudan**

- Talks on eastern Sudan start on the 30th of next month

➤ **Southern Sudan**

- Fire sparks explosions at Sudan arms dump

HIGHLIGHTS:

UN/ AU-UN Transition

UN Security Council to hold meeting in Khartoum next month - report

(ST) May 20, 2006 (NEW YORK) — UN Security Council Ambassadors will head to Sudan next June for a rare meeting outside New York aimed at pressing for an end to Sudan's three year Darfur crisis.

The Khartoum government and the biggest faction of the rebel Sudan Liberation Army (SLA), led by Minni Minawi, signed the agreement on May 5 but a rival SLA faction led by Abdelwahed Mohamed al-Nur rejected it.

Diplomatic sources told the London based Asharq al-Awsat, the UN Security session in Khartoum intends to hold a special session on the implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement and the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed in January 2005.

Members of the Security Council will hold also meetings with Sudanese official related to the Darfur peace deal.

This meeting will be the fifth time since 1952 that the council will hold a formal meeting outside UN headquarters in New York. The Security Council held an extraordinary session in Nairobi in November 2004 to press for an end to South Sudan's 21 years civil war.

Security Council delegation expected in Sudan on the 4th of June

(AlAyaam – 21st May. **Khartoum**) A Security Council political delegation is expected in Khartoum on the fourth of June this year to discuss issues pertaining to the deployment of international forces to Darfur and on the implementation of the DPA.

UNMIS Spokesperson Bahaa Elkoussy said that the delegation will be led by the UK representative to the UN and is on an African tour that takes it to Sudan, Ethiopia, Chad, Congo (Brazzaville) and the DR of Congo.

Elkoussy says that while in Sudan, the delegation will hold talks with government officials, AU representatives in el-Fasher, representatives of the international community and local leaders and will also tour the IDP camps.

On the other hand, Elkoussy said IDPs in the camps the SRSG visited in Darfur requested more aid and immediate protection of international forces.

He said that the SRSG assured the IDPs that the government in Sudan is obliged by the provisions of the DPA to present a plan for disarmament of the Janjaweed within 77 days from date of signing of the DPA.

Elkoussy further revealed that the SRSG held talks with the government in West Darfur and stressed the need for strong government commitment to the DPA and that, in his meeting with the local administration, agreement was reached for regular meetings between the two parties.

Annan urges swift action on Darfur crisis

(*Reuters/ST* – 19th May. **Paris**) U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said there was not a "second to lose" if the world was to save hundreds of thousands of people in Sudan's conflict-ravaged Darfur region from starvation and disease.

"The region is undergoing the worst humanitarian crisis gripping the planet," Annan said in an opinion piece in the French daily *Le Figaro* published on Friday.

"Without massive and immediate support relief organizations will not be able to continue their work, and hunger, malnutrition and sickness will claim hundreds of thousands of victims," he wrote.

Annan said an agreement signed on May 5 in Nigeria by the Sudanese government and the main rebel group in Darfur would help restore peace but tensions remained high and other rebel groups had failed to sign the peace process.

Sudan appeared on Thursday to ease its opposition to the arrival of a U.N. force, saying high-level talks with the United Nations were starting which would open a "new window" in relations.

Annan said in the meantime it was important that the 7,000-strong AU peacekeeping mission in Darfur be supported and fortified.

"For the moment, there is only one force on the ground capable of ensuring this protection, that is the African Union Mission in Sudan," Annan wrote.

"Our priority should be to consolidate this force to be able to enforce the peace accord and offer real security to refugees."

Government welcomes Al-Ibrahimi visit

(*Sudan Vision/SUNA* – 21st May. **Khartoum**) The government has welcomed the proposed visit here of Lakhdar Brahimi, Secretary-General Annan's special envoy.

Foreign ministry spokesman Ambassador Jamal Mohamed Ibrahim said in a press statement that the visit comes in the context of the consultations between the government and the UN and pertinent to the implementation of the Security Council resolutions on Darfur.

He added that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs instructed the Sudanese mission in New York to grant entry visas to the envoy and added that continuous consultations are underway over the available channels for cooperation between the government and UN organs and the international community at large for the implementation of the DPA and to contribute to the success of humanitarian operations, rehabilitation and repatriation of the IDPs and refugees.

Concerning reports on an impending meeting in Khartoum of the UN Security Council, the foreign ministry spokesperson said that the Sudan government is yet to receive an official communication on that matter.

UN envoy visits Darfur to urge support for peace deal

(AP/ST – 20th May. **Khartoum**) A special U.N. envoy to Sudan wrapped up a visit to Darfur to urge people there to support the new peace agreement as refugees demanded more protection against bands of marauders and additional food relief, the U.N. said Saturday.

Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Sudan Jan Pronk made his three-day visit as splinter rebel groups continue to withhold support for the Darfur Peace Agreement signed May 5 by the Sudanese government and the two main rebel factions.

Pronk was back in Khartoum Saturday after intensive discussions on the DPA with tribal and community leaders and refugees displaced by the conflict that has killed nearly 200,000 people and made homeless 2.5 million since 2003.

Some of the rebels who rejected the peace accord enjoy strong support in the refugee camps of Darfur, a vast, arid region in western Sudan.

The African Union has demanded that any rebel groups still holding out on the peace deal sign it by May 31. A splinter faction of the rebel Sudan Liberation Movement and the rebel Justice and Equality Movement have resisted pressure to join.

"To achieve peace and security for your people, regain your rights, get your fair share of power, receive compensation and attain reconstruction, you must accept and support the peace agreement," Pronk told displaced Darfurians in a makeshift camp in Mournei, according to a statement the U.N. mission in Sudan* e-mailed to The Associated Press.

People displaced by the conflict asked for protection by U.N. peacekeeping forces against Janjaweed attacks and for more food rations and other relief supplies. Pronk, in his meetings with the refugees, highlighted the Sudanese government's responsibility, noting the DPA stipulates that within 37 days of signing it the government must come up with a plan to disarm the Arab militia known as Janjaweed.

Meanwhile, Pronk said that the international community was preparing to boost the resources of the African Union's protection force deployed in Darfur. He emphasized, however, that the additional support would be a transitional measure ahead of the deployment of U.N. peacekeeping forces.

** See, attached separately, the full text of the Press Release which has also been quoted in a number of local dailies*

Communist Party of Sudan welcomes international forces

(*Khartoum Monitor* – 21st May. **Khartoum**) A spokesman for the Communist Party in Sudan declared yesterday his party's support to the deployment of international forces to Darfur and said it will help establish security and peace in the region.

Spokesman Yousif Hussein added that the Communist Party wants a genuine all-inclusive conference on Darfur in which all Sudanese parties will be represented.

State minister at the foreign ministry says Sudan will allow United Nations experts to visit only after an agreement is reached

(*AlRai AlAam* – 21st May. **Agencies**) The Sudan government says it has neither rejected nor allowed a UN team of experts dispatched by the Security Council to enter the country ahead of the deployment of international forces to Darfur.

Speaking to Al-Jazeera television, state minister for foreign affairs, Elsammani Elwaseela, said that the Sudan will only allow the team of experts into the country after an agreement is reached with the UN on the issue.

GoNU

Sudanese ruling party plans to build up ties with SPLM

(*ST* – 20th May. **Khartoum**) The ruling National Congress draws plans to strengthen partnership in South Sudan with the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), to better implement provisions of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

The National Congress Southern Sudan sector, is currently focused on implementation of a number of plans and programmes that seek to strengthen partnership between the National Congress (NC) party and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and to create yet more conducive climate for the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA).

The head of the section, Dr Rick Gae Kok, who chaired the meeting of the sector at the headquarters of the National Congress on Saturday, has directed formation of three committees that would seek to boost the media discourse, and explaining the strategic vision of the National Congress Party towards challenges facing the south during the coming period.

The sector has meanwhile stressed the importance of achieving a consensus on the invariable national issues and of avoiding agitation and defamation.

The sector has meanwhile called on the International Community to meet the pledges made towards the backing the peace agreement implementation in the Sudan in line with the commitment of the donors.

The meeting also touched on the ongoing arrangements for holding the joint meeting of the National Congress' Leadership Council and the Politburo of the SPLM.

It stressed the importance of boosting the spirit of cooperation and coordination for removal of all causes of tension and misunderstanding, stressing the importance of dialogue for settling all national questions.

DPA/Darfur

Minnawi arrives in Muhajiriya

(*AlAyaam* – 21st May. **Khartoum**) SLM leader Manni Minnawi arrived in Muhajiriya following a 3-day visit to Holland, the US and Libya where he briefed SLM supporters on the DPA.

The SLM has also embarked on the campaign trail selling the DPA to the people.

SLM accuses government of violating the ceasefire agreement

(*AlRai AlAam* – 21st May. **Khartoum**) key figures in the SLM have expressed concerns over what they described as the continued violations of the ceasefire agreement by the Sudan government by troop movement.

The Sudan government however denies having moved a single vehicle or soldier since the DPA was inked.

Eastern Sudan

Talks on eastern Sudan start on the 30th of next month

(*AlSahafa* – 21st May. **Port Sudan**) The Secretary-General of the Eastern Front says he has received notification from the Eritrea government that talks between the armed groups of eastern Sudan and the Sudan government will take off on the 30th of June this year.

Secretary-General Mabrouk Mubarak expressed optimism that this impending round of talks will enable the parties reach acceptable solutions.

Southern Sudan

Fire sparks explosions at Sudan arms dump

(*Reuters/ST* – 19th May. **Juba**) A fire at a munitions dump sparked a wave of explosions outside the southern Sudanese capital of Juba on Friday, injuring several people and rattling nerves in the region that suffered two decades of civil war.

The fire caused intermittent explosions for about 90 minutes from 4 p.m. (1300 GMT) and sent a plume of smoke into the air on the edge of Juba, where the government of southern Sudan is based, witnesses and U.N. staff said.

A spokesman for the former rebel Southern People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) went on local radio to reassure residents it was not an attack but a fire.

The region suffered 20 years of civil war until a 2005 peace agreement, and inhabitants remain jittery.

"You could see a cloud of smoke and the explosions were coming from the south-west edge of Juba," an eyewitness said.

Some U.N. staff in the area said a Russian U.N. staff member and three civilians were injured in the blasts.

Yashpal Singh, a senior U.N. security official in Sudan, said he had heard two Sudan Armed Forces members were hurt.

"It was an ammunition dump in a garrison that caught fire accidentally. There was an explosion," he told Reuters.