



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN
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UNMIS Media Monitoring Report, 29th May 2006
(By Public Information Office)

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UN/ AU-UN Transition

Last batch of Chinese peacekeepers arrives in Sudan

(*Xinhua/ST* – 27th May. **Khartoum**) The third and last batch of 130 Chinese peacekeepers arrived in Sudan on Saturday, completing deployment of a total of 430 Chinese peacekeeping troops to the country.

The Chinese peacekeepers landed in el-Obeid, central Sudan and immediately reported for duty at the logistics base of the UN peacekeeping mission in Sudan.

They were to stay in al-Obeid for Saturday night and then travel the next day to Wau in southern Sudan, where the barracks of the Chinese peacekeepers are based.

The second batch of 135 Chinese peacekeepers arrived in al-Obeid on Friday following the arrival of another 135 Chinese peacekeepers 10 days earlier. All of these 270 Chinese peacekeepers had already been stationed in Wau.

CPA

Abyei community sets ultimatum

(*SRS/Khartoum Monitor* - 29th May. **Khartoum**) The head of the Abyei Civil Society (ACS) in Khartoum Dr. Carlo Ayuel has stated that they have given the National Congress Party and the SPLM a last chance to implement the Abyei Protocol.

Ayuel told the *Khartoum Monitor* and the *Sudan Radio Service* yesterday that the two parties have done nothing on the issue since the CPA was inked last year and have threatened to take the two sides to court should they fail to do anything on the issue and to call for an intervention from the international community on the issue.

He said a memorandum to that end has been presented to the two parties last Saturday and that they will follow it up to the end.

Ayuel further pointed out that they will soon send a copy of that memorandum to the UNMIS and other relevant agencies.

Misseiriya representatives present memorandum to the Presidency on the ABC report

(*Rai AlShaab* – 29th May. **Khartoum**) A group of heads of the Misseiriya tribe handed of West Kordofan handed to the Presidency of the Republic a memorandum yesterday rejecting the ABC Panel of Experts' report

The Misseiriya confirmed commitments to the CPA but said that the Panel of Experts drew its report on the boundary from SPLM youths who lack knowledge of the history of the region and relations between the tribes in the region.

Signatories to the memorandum staged a demonstration in front of the Friendship Hall yesterday where the NCP and the SPLM leadership offices were holding a keynote meeting and said that there are historic facts that prove that the Misseiriya chief of the time received and hosted his Dinka Ngok counterpart who was weary of war with the Nuer further south.

Dutch Minister hails NCP-SPLM meeting on peace implementation

(*ST* – 28th May. **Khartoum**) Dutch Development Cooperation Minister, Agnes van Ardenne, described the first meeting between the National Congress and Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement (SPLM) as an advanced step in the peace process and re-building of mutual confidence between the two parties.

The minister in a press statement said that the meeting was considered a historic event, especially that the two parties will discuss issues of mutual concern and the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA).

She pointed out that the address of the First Vice - President, Salva Kiir, included significant points which should be done in the coming stage.

The Dutch minister pointing out that President's address came as complementary to the points which were reflected in Salva Kiir's address.

She urged the two parties to speed up the steps for the implementation CPA, stressing that the Netherlands was committed to its pledge of Oslo Donors Conference.

After her meeting with the Sudanese president, the Dutch minister said that she discussed with al-Bashir progress of the implementation of the CPA and the initiative of the national unity government to realize peace in east Sudan and the contacts that were made with Eritrea in this regard.

The Dutch minister appreciated the efforts of the president of the republic and the national unity government to realize comprehensive peace and stability in Sudan. She added that her talks with President Al-Bashir included the role of the UN in Darfur.

Meeting of CPA partners shrouded in secrecy

(*AlAyaam* – 29th May. **Khartoum**) The Presidency of the Republic ordered a clampdown and used security personnel to bar members of the press out of yesterday's session of a meeting between members of the leadership offices of the partners to the CPA.

Reports leaking out say however that the two sides have agreed to form committees to study the issues of Abyei, progress and obstacles to the implementation of the CPA their partnership in government and on the security, economic and political domains.

The talks were supposed to have concluded yesterday but differences between the views of the two parties regarding a number of key issues caused an extension. The talks will now

close later in the evening and the results of its outcome announced by the President and Vice-President of the Republic at a press conference at 21:00 this evening.

NCP, SPLM form joint committee on Blue Nile State

(*AlAyaam* – 29th May. **Damazeen**) The Governor of Blue Nile State has issued a decree establishing a joint political committee made up of representatives of the NCP and the SPLM to assess progress on implementation of the CPA and help resolve the conflict between the two parties over the implementation of the parts of the CPA concerning Blue Nile State.

The committee made up of 8 representatives of each side will discuss means to eliminate obstacles to implementation and evaluate progress so far.

Sudanese president praises media's "positive criticism"

(*ST* – 28th May. **Khartoum**) President Omar al-Bashir, has praised Saturday the Sudanese press for what he described as drawing the attention of the political leadership in the country to diverse national issues.

"We have benefited from the positive criticism over the press, and we are tolerant of opposing viewpoints," President Bashir affirmed.

Al-Bashir made the remarks during his keynote address before the first joint meeting of the National Congress Party leadership bureau and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement political bureau held at Friendship Hall in Khartoum.

The president said the joint meeting coincides with the signing of the Darfur Peace Agreement and the initiation of the peace process in eastern Sudan. He attributed the success to what he termed "the great role of the Government of National Unity".

Al-Bashir made 10-point objectives to be pursued during the three-day joint discussions, including consolidation of the democratic process, adherence to the principles enshrined in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, promotion of dialogue with other political parties, encouragement of voluntary North-South unity, observance of good governance, maintenance of national security and unification of Sudan's external political discourse in order to preserve "our national sovereignty".

He said that the national unity government has played a great role for the achievement of these successes. He recalled the role of late peace makers Dr John Garang and Al-Zubeir Mohamed Salih, affirming that the memory of these peace makers will motivate the joint work for the interest of the whole people of Sudan.

President Al-Bashir hoped that the meeting of the NC and SPLM will witness consultation on the best formula to participation and political cooperation between them. He reminded with the fact that the former visit of the SPLM to Khartoum before signing the peace agreement and during the negotiations in Abuja represented a landmark event in the march of joint cooperation and consultation between the two leading parties as well as a strong boost to the mutual confidence.

SPLM supporters beat up the Secretary-General of the government of South Kordofan

(*AllIntibaha* – 29th May. **Kadugli**) The Governor of South Kordofan recently issued a decree relieving the government's Secretary-General of his duties.

SPLM followers then went to the Secretary-General's office and beat up the relieved Secretary-General. It was not clear why but sources believe he was beaten up only because he was a member of the National Congress Party while others believe he was beaten up because he did not receive the Minister of Animal Resources (Daniel Kodi Angelo – SPLM ticket) during his last visit to the state.

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DPA/ Darfur

Minnawi's visit to North Darfur called off

(*Khartoum Monitor* – 29th May. **Khartoum**) The government of North Darfur state has announced the postponement till further notice of the arrival in el-Fashir of Mini Minnawi, leader of the SLM faction that signed the DPA.

On the other hand, reports from the area say that a number of field commanders from the AbdulWahid faction of the SLM arrive el-Fashir yesterday to join in signing the agreement.

African Union Peace & Security Council to talk on DPA

(*AlAyaam* – 29th May. **Khartoum**) The African Union Peace & Security Council sits in Addis next Thursday to discuss, among other things, the latest developments in the implementation of the DPA.

Meanwhile a team led by ambassador Sam Ibok of the AU continues consultations with the government on the implementation of the agreement.

AU speaker Nouraldeem Mazni says that the delegation will spend some time here carrying out consultations and the preparations for the donors meeting on Darfur to be held in Holland.

Joint group for DPA

(*AlAyaam* – 29th May. **Khartoum**) The National Congress Party and the SLM faction lead by Minnawi have agreed to form joint political and military committees to make the necessary arrangements for implementation of the DPA.

Majzoub el-Khalifa who led the government delegation to Abuja said that the 2 sides will meet in Addis Ababa on the 31st for further discussions.

Sudan proposes Libyan role in Darfur peace implementation

(*ST* – 28th May. **Tripoli**) Sudanese president proposed, in a letter sent to the Libyan leader to form a tripartite commission (Sudan, SLM- Minawi and Libya) to oversee the implementation of Darfur Peace Agreement.

The Libyan Leader received on Sunday the Sudanese Presidential Advisor, Majzoub al-Khalifa, who handed him a message from President Omar Al Bashir.

In his letter, the Sudanese president proposed to set up a committee from Libya, Sudan and the Liberation Movement to supervise this agreement.

The meeting was joined by the leader of the main faction of Sudan Liberation Movement, Minni Minnawi, who promised to execute the agreement signed in Abuja. He also called on the Libyan Leader to supervise the peace agreement in Darfur.

Press Reports in Khartoum say al-Khalifa also asked Gadhafi to persuade the reluctant rebel groups specially AbdulWahid al-Nur to join the peace deal.

The AU Peace and Security Council threatened to demand the United Nations Security Council to take action against the two rebel groups if they did not meet the new May 31 deadline. The action shall include a travel ban, asset freeze and weapons embargo.

Militia raid AU camp

(*AlRai AlAam* – 29th May. **el-Fasher**) A militia group recently launched an attack on an AU base in Mistereiha, West Darfur.

An AU source reports that the militias used RPGs and 4 AU personnel were injured – one of them seriously.

Sudan releases Chadian rebel leader

(*ST* – 28th May. **Paris**) Sudanese authorities released a Chadian rebel leader detained for his opposition to the participation of the Chadian rebels in Darfur conflict beside Sudanese army and militias against Darfur rebels.

A French language press release issued Sunday by the rebel Alliance Nationale de la Résistance (ANR) announced that Mahamet Sileck is finally freed by the Sudanese National Security.

Sileck was detained without charge since October last year in Dabak prison, Khartoum. He has a refugee status in France.

Sileck release comes after a campaign in favour of his liberation in which many French MPs are involved. The French Foreign Ministry since last March disclosed that Paris had engaged a series of contacts with the Sudanese authorities about him.

Amnesty International also organised a campaign for his release during last April.

His whereabouts are still unknown. Asked by Sudan Tribune Chadian opposition sources didn't disclose his location. But they reiterated he is a secure place.

His arrest is reportedly linked to a disagreement within the ANR, and with elements of the Sudanese government, over the role of the ANR in Darfur. While his Military Chief Commander at that time Mahamat Nour was closely working with the Sudanese army and its militia in Darfur, Sileck was travelling abroad to France and western Africa for meetings with other opposition figures.

The ANR was founded in 1994/95 by a former Chadian army chief of staff, Colonel Mahamat Garfa. In 2003, Garfa, after signing a peace agreement with the Chadian authorities, rejoined the government along with some ANR members.

Many ANR members disagreed with the peace agreement, and Mahamat Abbo Sileck, who previously was the international spokesman for the ANR operating largely in Europe, took over the group's political leadership.

He was elected as the President in 2004, but Mahamat Nour, the deputy and military commander based in Chad and Darfur, was reportedly dissatisfied with Sileck's leadership. Sileck's control over the ANR was therefore disputed.

In late October 2005, shortly after Sileck was arrested, Mahamat Nour formed the Rassemblement pour la Démocratie et la Liberté (RDL), composed overwhelmingly of

former ANR members. It is widely reported that the RDL, shortly after its creation, received a significant increase in military assistance from the Sudanese government.

In late December, following the high profile attack on Adre, Mahamat Nour formed a new umbrella movement composed of seven other Chadian armed opposition groups opposed to President Idriss Déby, called the Front uni pour le Changement Démocratique au Tchad (FUC). The RDL remained the key player within this group. The FUC launched a coup attempt on 13 April 2006 from eastern Chad on the Chadian capital, N'Djamena.

Southern Sudan

South Sudan gift to LRA Kony bothers Uganda

(*ST* – 28th May. **Khartoum**) Ugandan government expressed anger over the 20,000 US-dollar (36m-shilling) gift the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army recently gave Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) chief Joseph Kony as a goodwill gesture.

Kampala fears that Kony could use the money to rearm, plan and launch more atrocities against Ugandans, the Ugandan Reporter reported Saturday.

The Monitor disclosed that Museveni was the first to raise the protest during a meeting he held with the SPLM/A leader and Sudan First Vice-President Salva Kiir in Kampala on 13 May.

But Henry Okello Oryem, a nominated minister and former minister of state for international relations, downplayed Uganda's protest.

"As far as we are concerned these people [rebel LRA] are like on a holiday," he said. "Our view was that before they are given the money, there should have been deeper discussions... the LRA should have given an irreversible commitment that they are ready for the talks.

"The SPLA gave an explanation which we felt was genuine...that Southern Sudan needs peace so to give Kony money was in good faith."

Machar said at the meeting that the money was from Kiir to facilitate Kony buy food and not arms. If Kony does not follow the gentleman's agreement he reached with Machar, he can use the 20,000 dollars in his pocket to buy 40 sub-machine guns on the black market, enough to energize his shrinking rag-tag band of fighters. In some bush markets in Southern Sudan, for 100 dollars apiece, he can buy 200 used SMGs, the Ugandan newspaper said.

However, a Geneva-based international negotiator is angry about the leakage of the details of the meeting to the media saying it was going to reduce Kony's confidence in the process towards peace talks. The negotiator claims that Kony did not know he was being secretly filmed and that the pictures would be splashed in the media all over the world.

The other problem is that of the International Criminal Court which in September last year indicted Kony and four other top LRA commanders for crimes against humanity. The Hague-based court is unhappy that Uganda is negotiating an amnesty for the LRA leaders when the indictment is on.

The Museveni government has given Kony up to the end of July to make peace in return for possible immunity from prosecution.

Unofficially, Ugandan officials argue that even international court proceedings can be put aside to enable a national peace process to take place. As the diplomatic efforts continue, Uganda is involved in negotiations with several players in the Great Lakes on how to rout the LRA now encamped in Garamba National Park in the northeast of the DR Congo.

During his swearing-in ceremony on 12 May, Mr Museveni called on regional powers to join hands to resolve the Kony rebellion. "Some of these issues are not as difficult to resolve as they appear," the president said. "The region, working with Burundi political parties, successfully resolved the issue of Burundi that had been paraded around as unsolvable. IGAD [Inter-Governmental Agency on Development] contributed decisively to the solution of the problem of Southern Sudan. The region had, earlier on, singly solved the problem of Idi Amin and stopped the genocide in Rwanda."

The Chief of Defence Forces, Gen Aronda Nyakairima, and the Chief of Military Intelligence, Col Leo Kyanda, on Friday returned from the DR Congo after a bilateral meeting over Kony.

As Aronda and Kyanda were talking in Kinshasa, another regional meeting was simultaneously going on in Kigali where dissidents operating out of DR Congo, including Kony, were on the agenda. The Kigali meeting was expected to end by close of the weekend.

Another security meeting was being planned in the Sudan in which Kony has been invited. Earlier reports indicated that this last one had already taken place in Juba, Southern Sudan on Thursday but the director-general external security, Mr Maku'Iga Angalefo, said he doubted that such a meeting took place.

But these meetings are not a surprise to many observers of the northern Uganda conflict and the Great Lakes generally.

Eastern Sudan

Beja Congress insists on an international role in the talks on eastern Sudan

(*AlAyaam* – 29th May. **Khartoum**) The Beja Congress insists that impending talks with the government should be in the presence of international observers.

In a statement issued yesterday, the Beja Congress said international observers were necessary for the talks because of "experiences which have seen the regime renege on past agreements".

The eastern Sudanese group pointed out that "empty" phrases used in the recent agreement on procedural arrangements signed with the government in Asmara last Thursday are open to misinterpretation by the government. The eastern rebel group cited the phrase "*agreement would be reached on international observer through consultations between the two sides*" as stipulated in the DPA as one example of such "empty" phrases.