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UNMIS Media Monitoring Report, 31st May 2006
(By Public Information Office)

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HIGHLIGHTS:

UN/ AU-UN Transition

UN could organize Darfur troops in 4 months - Annan

(*Reuters/ST* – 30th May. UN) U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan on Tuesday estimated it would take about four months for the United Nations to organize a peacekeeping force in Darfur once the U.N. Security Council gives the green light.

Sudan has yet to decide whether to allow U.N. troops into Darfur, but will let a U.N. military team visit the region to investigate a U.N. role. That visit is expected next week.

"The planning is fairly advanced. We have the framework plan and when we go on to the ground, we will fill in the holes that we have," Annan told reporters.

"We have made preliminary contacts with governments about potential troop contributions," Annan said. "The speed with which we deploy will depend on how quickly the governments give us these troops."

"So we will be looking at a couple of months. By a couple of months, I mean four months or so," he said.

The 15-nation U.N. Security Council will travel to Sudan next week in an effort to convince the government in Khartoum that U.N. peacekeepers are needed urgently and assure Sudan the final choice is theirs.

The 10-day trip begins on June 5 and includes Khartoum, southern Sudan, refugee camps in Darfur and Chad and African Union headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The trip ends in Kinshasa, capital of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

British Ambassador Emyr Jones Parry, who is leading the tour along with French Ambassador Jean-Marc de la Sabliere, said he was working on the presumption Khartoum would agree to a U.N. force.

"The signals are slightly confused but the latest contacts I have had suggest there has been agreement to the transition," he told reporters earlier. "Our working assumption is that there will be a transition to a United Nations operation but we will do that with the consent of the Government of Sudan."

Annan seemed to agree. "I think the Council's visit should also further facilitate matters, not only with reference to the assessment mission, but the actual deployment of the mission."

The main bulwark against atrocities in Darfur are the 7,000 under-funded, poorly equipped African Union troops, many of whom would become part of the U.N. operation. Since 2003,

more than 2 million people have been driven from their homes, tens of thousands have died and rape and pillaging is common.

In southern Sudan, where the U.N. already has a peacekeeping force, Jones Parry said the mission wanted information on Joseph Kony, leader of the Lord's Resistance Army, a Ugandan sect that has kidnapped, raped and forced into service thousands of children for two decades.

He said he wanted to ask Kony "questions about his funding and how he manages without much hindrance to move as freely as he does."

Reuters last week obtained an exclusive video that showed Kony taking \$20,000 in cash from the No. 2 of the ex-rebel Southern People's Liberation Movement.

The cooperation of the SPLM, a sworn enemy of Kony in the past, had been viewed as key to helping hunt him down. He had been supported by Khartoum during its three-decade civil war with the SPLM in the south.

In the Congo, de la Sabliere said the Security Council, which has visited the country seven times, wanted to encourage that elections be held as scheduled on July 30.

The largest U.N. peacekeeping mission of 17,000 troops and civilians is in the Congo at a cost of \$1 billion a year.

United Nations assessment team to set to work in Khartoum on Saturday

(*AlAyaam* – 31st May. **Khartoum**) A joint assessment team from the United Nations and the AU is expected in Khartoum next Saturday to work out requirements of a possible transition of the AMIS to a United Nations operation, sources say.

The sources say that the impending visit of the assessment mission comes in the context of an agreement reached between United Nations Special Envoy Lakhdar Brahimi and Sudan government officials that allows for such a joint team to hold consultations with the government in Sudan to identify the requirements for the said transition and in support for the implementation of the DPA.

The team, adds the sources, will first start talks with relevant government officials in Khartoum before travelling to Darfur to assess the needs and will then return to Khartoum for another round of talks with the government before returning to report to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the AU Commission.

UN halts Sudanese refugees repatriation from Uganda

(*ST* – 30th May. **Kampala**) The United Nations refugee agency has halted the repatriation of Sudanese refugees from Moyo District in northern Uganda over safety reasons.

This move follows reports that Liri, Nyepo and Limolo payams (sub-counties) in the refugees' Kajo Keji home land are riddled with explosives.

Southern Sudan's government forces and NGOs have intensified the search and destruction of the explosives before the relocation of the aliens can commence. The UNHCR, the American Relief Committee and local government authorities have settled about 2,463 returnees in Kangapo I and II payams that have been declared secure.

UNHCR plans to resettle all the 2,880 refugees who registered to pioneer the homecoming. Currently, Moyo District hosts 33,332 Sudanese refugees living in 27 clusters.

According to the Ugandan Daily Monitor, the voluntary repatriation exercise, which started on 2 May, would now be switched to Arua District with effect from 6 June. The refugees in the district would be relocated to Yei County in southern Sudan. The last batch of 282 refugees from Palorinya settlement camp in Moyo District, left aboard seven trucks at 8.41 a.m. on Saturday 27 May.

But at Onigo, about 3.2 kms to Moyo town, one of the trucks in the convoy which was carrying bicycles and furniture for the refugees crashed. The driver of the vehicle was reportedly trying to avoid hitting a woman who had abruptly emerged from the bushy surrounding and he lost control. The woman threw a bundle of firewood that she was carrying and ran into the nearby thicket. The driver, Mr Abubakar Adraiga, sustained serious injuries in the chest and cuts on the head. He was rushed to Moyo Hospital and was admitted.

There was jubilation and heroic songs were sang as the long motorcade of the refugees entered the UNHCR transit base at Kajo Keji at 10.47 a.m. Maj-Gen Clement Wani Konga, the governor of Central Equatorial State, received the returnees amid very tight security provided by mean-looking Sudan People's Liberation Army troops.

"I thank the government of Uganda for offering dignified host to our citizens since 1955 and especially so in the last 22 years of our civil wars," Konga said.

"We are also grateful to UNHCR for facilitating this marvellous return." Konga directed his finance minister and Ms Oliver Mile, the commissioner of Kajo Keg County, to stop visa charges for Africans entering south Sudan.

Early this year, Sudan announced hiked immigration fares under which in-comers would pay 35 dollars (about 70,000 shillings for a three-months single entry or 70 dollars (about 140,000 shillings) for multiple entry three-six months visa respectively.

"The taxes must stop immediately," the governors ordered.

UN warns of Darfur catastrophe

(AP/ST – 30th May. **Brussels**) The United Nations humanitarian chief warned Tuesday of a catastrophic situation developing in Darfur unless international donors act soon to bolster a beleaguered African peacekeeping force in the Sudanese province.

"We either get good news in the next few weeks, or we have catastrophic news later," Jan Egeland told The Associated Press in a telephone interview.

He said a major international conference would be held in June somewhere in Europe to try to boost humanitarian aid and assistance for the peacekeepers.

Egeland was in Brussels to meet top officials at NATO and the European Union. He said military powers should provide more resources to improve transport, communications, logistics, training and planning for the African peacekeepers.

However, he warned against deploying a Western military force, as some politicians in the United States have suggested.

"We have to be careful to calibrate the humanitarian and security response so it doesn't provoke a reaction," Egeland said. "I'd like to see the African Union and the U.N. play the lead role there, NATO and other organizations can complement and very usefully complement our efforts."

NATO and the EU have provided airlift, training and other back up for the peacekeepers and have offered more help to bolster the AU troops before they are due to hand over to a U.N. force in September.

Egeland said the Africans need more trucks and helicopters to move swiftly around the vast region. He said African nations also needed to provide more and better-trained troops and said the African Union should urgently bolster the force's mandate so it could better protect the local population.

"The African Union force has to be strengthened, it's them that we have to empower," Egeland insisted. "What can be provided by military organizations, by member states of the U.N. and NATO is very welcome."

He painted a grim picture of the situation on the ground despite the peace agreement which raised hopes of an end to Darfur's woes.

"I'm every morning bracing myself for more bad news coming out of Darfur," Egeland said. After reading the latest report from the region, "my hair was standing on my head," he said. "I got shivers reading that report, every single day there is an attack on humanitarian workers or civilians."

Egeland recently told the U.N. Security Council that the number of displaced people in South Darfur had tripled in the last four months to between 100,000-120,000. He complained local officials have blocked fuel deliveries and the movement of aid workers has been severely restricted.

In addition, areas of eastern Chad that border Darfur have been engulfed in turmoil, Egeland said. Aid groups have been forced to cut back staff and relief work because of insecurity and funding shortfalls.

Egeland said his talks at NATO and the EU were also look at the wider use of the military to help in humanitarian situations. He said military units had proven very helpful during the Asian tsunami, last year's earthquake in Kashmir and the latest deadly quake in Indonesia.

He said an international conference would be held later this year bringing together military and humanitarian organizations to look at how to coordinate aid responses.

CPA

State minister for finance, Lual Deng, says GoSS has received full share of oil revenue

(*AlRai AlAam* – 31st May. **Khartoum**) Dr. Lual Deng, the state minister at the Federal Ministry of Finance – SPLM ticket, has confirmed that the GoSS has received its full share of the oil revenue plus an additional 2% for the oil producing Unity and South Kordofan states.

Lual who was referring to the questions raised on the issue during the recent keynote meeting of key figures of the NCP and the SPLM in Khartoum said that these were misunderstandings on the issue and not an expression of lack of trust. He pointed out that the GoSS' share in the oil revenue as stated above has all been deposited in the respective accounts at the Bank of Sudan.

Energy minister sidetracks question on militias in oil producing regions

(*AlAyaam* – 31st May. **Parliament**) A question raised in parliament by Deputy Speaker Atim Garang to energy minister Awadh Ahmed el-Jaz over reports that the said minister had militias loyal to him providing security in the oil installations went unanswered yesterday.

The energy minister had just finished presenting his ministry's report for the year 2005 and plans for 2006 during which he said studies are underway to build refineries in the oil-producing regions to cut down costs.

The minister also came under fire from the head of the SPLM parliamentary bloc Yassir Erman who said the minister's report did not mention what the oil industry has contributed towards development in eastern Sudan despite the fact that the bulk of oil exports passes through the east.

GoNU

Sudan's Kiir holds triumphant Khartoum rally

(*ST* – 30th May. **Khartoum**) The leader of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) Salva Kiir on Tuesday held his first political rally in Khartoum since taking up the post of first vice-president, vowing to bring peace to the violence-wracked nation.

The event, attended in a festive atmosphere by around 20,000 supporters from north and south, came after Kiir and the leadership of his SPLM held their first high-level talks with the ruling National Congress Party (NCP).

"It is our duty to cling to peace because it brings about development and stability," Kiir told the mixed crowd of northerners and southerners. "The SPLM will continue to achieve its objectives of a new Sudan where justice prevails."

Kiir said the historic rally marked the SPLM's entry on the national political scene.

"Our meeting today is the beginning of the political action of the SPLM in the north," he said in Arabic to cries of "Victory to the SPLM!"

"The SPLM is not southern Sudanese; it is for all of Sudan. Anybody who says the SPLM is a southern movement is a liar. It started in the south out of necessity, but like when you kiss a lady, you have to start somewhere."

Many Sudanese were surprised to see the SPLM leader cracking jokes as he has a reputation for being a dour military leader, unlike his jovial predecessor John Garang who died in a helicopter crash last year.

"I promise you to continue in the steps of John Garang, I will steer the ship to safety and I want you all to help me."

Kiir vowed to build on peace in the south to end rebellions in the western region of Darfur and in the east of the country.

"A comprehensive peace should not be confined to south Sudan, it should also include west and east," he said, promising to do what he could to get recalcitrant rebel factions to sign a peace deal before a Wednesday deadline.

Kiir also promised to get the millions of people displaced by the fighting in the south to return home, with money from Sudan's burgeoning oil output paying for development after years of neglect.

"We are resolved to solve all problems before the end of the year, so that in 2007 we will devote our efforts to development," he said.

Civil society contests new law governing voluntary work

(*AlAyaam* – 31st May. **Khartoum**) A group of lawyers representing civil society organisations has filed a case in court against the National Assembly for endorsing the voluntary works act that regulates the activities of voluntary organisations.

The suit requests the Constitutional Court to freeze the said act until the issue is sorted out.

DPA/ Darfur

Darfur rebel JEM seeks Slovenian mediation

(*Sudan Taribune* - 31st May. **Ljubljana**) The Slovenian president held talks here with the chief negotiator for the Darfur rebel Justice and Equality Movement, Ahmed Tugod Lissan, and a former governor of Darfur Ahmed Diraiqe.

Darfur's Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) needs to "stay in the game", in the Darfur peace process, President Janez Drnovsek told the press after meeting JEM representatives in Ljubljana on Tuesday.

According to the Slovenian president, it is difficult to say whether there will be any breakthrough tomorrow, as JEM maintains that it will not sign the proposed peace agreement to end the bloody three-year conflict.

"We will try to find a formula to prevent an increase in tensions," Drnovsek also said after the meeting, which is to resume on Wednesday.

Unhappy that the accord failed to meet their demands, for greater compensation for victims of the war, more political posts for the SLA and greater involvement in disarming the Janjaweed, the JEM and the one of the two SLM factions refused to sign it.

The deadline set by the African Union for the two holdout rebel groups to sign the deal runs out at midnight today.

The president held talks with the chief JEM negotiator, Ahmed Tugod Lissan, member of the JEM leadership Abdullahi Osman El-Tom, and Ahmed Diraige, the chairman of the Federal Democratic Alliance and former Darfurgovernor.

In Drnovsek's view, the only way for the JEM to sign the peace deal is for the group to say what reservations they have about the agreement. "The JEM leadership will have to make a decision in Slovenia," he stressed.

Diraige shared Drnovsek's view, labeling JEM's participation in the peace process as crucial. Although Diraige as a representative of an all-Sudanese party is not directly involved in the Darfur peace process, he was pleased to have had an opportunity to talk to the JEM.

Speaking at a joint press conference with Drnovsek, Diraige expressed hope that the African mediators will extend the deadline for the signing of the peace accord, and find an acceptable solution which will not lead to increased tensions.

He used the opportunity to thank Slovenia for its support and help for the people in Darfur, and praised Drnovsek for his efforts.

Meanwhile, asked why representatives of the SLM al-Nur faction have not arrived for talks as announced, Drnovsek said that they were initially very interested in coming; yet, he has not heard anything from them since Monday.

The daily Dnevnik said yesterday that the absence of the SLM was a result of pressure from Great Britain and the US. The paper says that the special EU representative for Sudan, Marcel Le Roi, would also be present at the talks.

Drnovsek moreover explained that beside the JEM and the SLM, representatives of the Sudanese government were also invited to today's talks, however, they did not respond to the invitation.

The president's office said earlier today that the head of the JEM Ibrahim Khalil was expected to arrive in Slovenia on Wednesday.

Slovenian president showed interest since last year in the Darfur crisis. He visited a number of EU countries, the US and the United Nations. He proposed a humanitarian initiative to help Darfur people. In a parallel way he tried to launch a political initiative to sponsor peace talks in his country.

On 10 February President Drnovsek said that logistical and political aspects of peace talks were beginning worked out, "with the UN asked to help with transport".

Drnovsek initiative was seen as hindering African and international efforts to end Darfur crisis. At the end of February 2006 the AU urged "the Government of Slovenia and other international partners to refrain from encouraging the Parties in Abuja to engage in "Forum Shopping", and stressed the need to avoid sending mixed and often confusing signals to the Sudanese Parties negotiating in Abuja."

Darfur rebels reject peace accord as deadline looms

(Reuters/ST – 31st May. Khartoum) Talks intensified on Wednesday to convince two Darfur rebel factions to sign a peace deal to end a three-year-old conflict in Sudan's violent west where tens of thousands have been killed.

"The day will end at midnight so we still have time and we still wish to see others joining the peace process," said Nouredine Mezni, AU spokesman in Khartoum.

Abdelwahid Mohamed al-Nur, the other SLA faction leader, is in the Kenyan capital Nairobi but on Tuesday his faction said he would not sign unless changes or additions were made, which both the AU and the Sudan government reject.

And the rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) is being prodded by the Slovenian President Janez Drnovsek in Ljubljana. JEM leader Khalil Ibrahim also says he wants radical changes before signing.

The two factions say they want more political posts, better compensation for the victims of the conflict and a say in disarming the government-armed Arab militia, who are responsible for much of the violence on the ground.

While Minnawi's faction has the most firepower in Darfur, Nur is from the region's largest Fur tribe, and analysts fear he may cause a split on ethnic lines if he does not sign up.

Mezni said the AU Peace and Security Council would decide what action, if any, to take against those who did not sign. The council will meet in the coming days although no date has been set.

The Sudanese Organization Against Torture (SOAT) said police had opened fire on Darfuris in the Otash camp in South Darfur on Monday, killing one and wounding three. In nearby Kalma, police beat and arrested dozens of demonstrators*.

** See the full text of the SOAT report in separate attachment*

SLM-AbdulWahid pullout from AU mediation

(AlAyaam – 31st May. Khartoum) SLM-AbdulWahid has announced it is pulling out of AU mediated talks on Darfur and has called on AU Chief Mediator Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim to declare his efforts a failure and leave the United Nations to take over the political and security aspects of the peace process in the Darfur region.

The faction's Strategic Advisor says the SLM will no longer accept an AU role whether or not the deadline set for them to come on board the DPA is extended. He said they no longer regard the AU as an impartial mediator seeking to resolve the crisis.

He wondered why the AU insists on the DPA despite the widespread rejection from the people of Darfur.

The advisor said that they now have their sight on Slovenia and that AbdulWahid himself will head a delegation of the faction to Slovenia within the next 72 hours.

AU hopeful Darfur rebels will sign peace deal

(*ST* – 30th May. **Khartoum**) Hours before the expiry of a May 31 deadline by the African Union to Darfur rebel groups still holding out of a peace deal, the pan-African body said Tuesday it was hopeful the insurgents would beat the ultimatum.

"Until the May 31 deadline expires, we are hopeful that the parties that have not signed will sign the Abuja peace agreement," AU Peace and Security Commissioner Said Djinnit said.

The groups have refused to sign the peace agreement aimed at ending three years of civil conflict in the western region of Sudan which has left some 300,000 people dead and 2.4 million homeless, arguing that the deal fails to fully address their concerns.

Sudanese First Vice President Silva Kiir, himself a former southern rebel who heads the Sudan People's Liberation Movement, said that he had spoken to the head of the SLM splinter movement to try to convince him to sign up.

"We have already reached a peace agreement for Darfur and we are waiting to convince those who have not joined the agreement to sign," he told a crowd of supporters in Khartoum.

"I have telephoned Abdelwahid al-Nur to convince him to do so, and I will talk to him again," he said. "I'm going to approach all those who have not signed the agreement and I will seek assistance from the United Nations."

An SLM field commander in Darfur, Moussa Morneh, hinted there was a possibility of the SLM coming on board.

"Maybe we will sign but until now we did not yet receive the message from the chairman (Nur) for signing tomorrow," he told AFP by satellite telephone.

Nur himself, currently in Nairobi, was uncontactable.

Djinnit said that if they fail to append their signatures on the Darfur Peace Agreement, the bloc's Peace and Security council would meet to discuss measures to take against them.

"We hope that they will exemplify a historic responsibility and to realise that the agreement is a good basis to achieve peace in Darfur," Djinnit said.

"If not, the Peace and Security Council will meet to see what measures to take ... measures will be taken."

The AU special representative in Sudan Baba Gana Kingibe said efforts were continuing to woo the holdouts to sign the agreement.

"Concerted efforts are still being made with a view to convincing the hesitating Darfur movements' leaders of the need to append their signatures to the agreement," Kingibe said in a statement.

Zaghawa *Shoura* (consultative) Council mediates between Minnawi and Sherif

(*AlRai AlAam* – 31st May. **Khartoum**) The *Shoura* (consultative) Council of the Zaghawa tribe has moved in quickly to mediate between Minnawi and a member of his SLM faction who has expressed opposition to the D{A.

Minnawi is said to have arrived in his SLM-controlled territory in Darfur and immediately put the man under arrest.

Meanwhile, Sherif Hareer, who heads the group of 19 SLM officers who walked out on SLM-AbdulWahid earlier following the signing of the DPA, said that the council is also exerting efforts to mediate between his group and Minnawi over their differences.

Sudan arrested Chadian rebel leader to support his rival

(*ST* – 30th May. **Paris**) The released Chadian rebel leader said Tuesday that Sudanese authorities had arrested him to help his rival in a Chadian rebel group to unify Chadian rebels and overthrow Deby regime.

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

In a statement to Radio France Internationale (RFI) Mahamat Sileick who is freed by Sudanese Authorities at the end of the last week, said the main objective of his detention was create favorable conditions for his rival in the Alliance Nationale de la Résistance (ANR), Mahamat Nour to create a large opposition movement against Chadian president Idriss deby.

My presence in the ANR was impeding Nour's project at that time.

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.

Sileick who is currently in a secrete residence outside the Sudan, said Nour is very close to the Sudanese security service. "These people believed he can be helpful in the realization of their project to topple down president Deby".

Sileick release comes after a campaign in favour of his liberation in which may 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.

Southern Sudan

Eastern Equatoria discourages disarmament

(*Khartoum Monitor* – 31st May. **Khartoum**) The governor of Eastern Equatoria State held a meeting in Khartoum with Eastern Equatorians in Khartoum and announced that he discourages the disarmament of the cattle-keeping tribes in his state.

He pointed out that disarming the cattle-keeping tribes such as the Toposa of Eastern Equatoria will only encourage the cattle-rustling from the Turkana tribes from across the border with Kenya.

He said, however that the disarmament process may need a long time.

On the Lord's Resistance Army, the governor said that the GoSS is exerting efforts to put a stop to that and has sent a delegation to its leader to that end – an unprecedented move since the inception of the Lord's Resistance Army.

On redeployment of the SAF from the area, the governor said that only the SAF contingents of the JIUs are present in the area but not in Kapoeta where they claim they could not find accommodation.

He lamented what he described as the SAF destruction of villages and burning even of trees as they prepared to redeploy north of the 1.1.'56 line.

South Sudan's Salva Kiir defends aid to Ugandan rebels

(*Reuters/ST* – 30th May. **Khartoum**) Sudan's First Vice President Salva Kiir defended giving aid to the wanted Ugandan rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) saying it would help start peace talks and stop them looting and killing in the lawless south.

Kiir, also president of autonomous southern Sudan, said the LRA had chosen the path of peace and approached his government to mediate talks with the Ugandan government. Kampala has given Kony until the end of July to stop the rebellion before talks.

"This is the only way to stop them from killing, from raping ... what is wrong with that if that can bring them back to law abiding citizens of Uganda?" Kiir asked reporters late on Monday night in Khartoum.

Kony and his four top commanders were the first to be indicted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague last year. That sent him on the run from his bases in southern Sudan where he has sought refuge during two decades of fighting.

"We took this decision because the people who they kill are southern Sudanese, the women they rape are southern Sudanese women and girls, and the boys they abduct are southern Sudanese," said Kiir. "And so how do we stop them from all these things?"

Kiir was positive that the talks would succeed.

The Ugandan ambassador to Khartoum, Mull Katende, said they were waiting to hear back from Kony on where and when the talks would begin.

But some analysts believe Kony is just buying time until the LRA sets up in the remote northern forests of Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) where they will be out of reach of Uganda and Sudanese troops.

The ICC has no police force of its own and relies on member nations to comply with arrest warrants. Sudan has signed but not ratified the treaty creating the ICC.

Eastern Sudan

Government reinforces security in Kassala to secure the main road to Port Sudan

(*AlSahafa* – 31st May. **Kassala**) The Ministry of Interior dispatched yesterday new police reinforcements to Kassala and says reinforcements are to follow.

The commissioner for El-Gash in Kassala State confirms that the first batch of reinforcements has indeed arrived. He said that the reinforcements are part of precautionary measures to enhance security and protection of civilians especially on the main highway linking Port Sudan to Khartoum which has seen attacks by rebels.

The commissioner said that the army may not be sent in to reinforce due to the prevailing atmosphere as the talks on the east are expected to start soon and the police and security forces are doing a good job in the area.