



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN

UNMIS

Media Monitoring Report 3 April, 2008

(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/ Agencies**

- School enrolment soars in southern Sudan thanks to UN-backed initiative
- UN requests Japanese peacekeepers to Sudan's de-mining (ST)
- In an exclusive interview to Akhbar Al Yom, SRSG Ashraf Qazi spoke about his visit to Kadugli and Abyei

➤ **GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)**

- Sudanese president reshuffles army command; promotes officer sanctioned by US (ST)
- Northern troops enter Sudan disputed area of Abyei (ST)
- Sudan says Chadian helicopters attacked military positions in Darfur (ST)
- Sudan to issue arrest warrants for French Zoe's Ark workers (ST)
- US Charge d'Affaires visits Abyei and offers US mediation to resolve the crisis (Al-Sahafa)
- SPLM Secretary General: FVP is the one who appointed Abyei Administration (Al-Khartoum)
- SPLM, NCP at loggerheads over Abyei's new Administration (Khartoum Monitor)

➤ **GoSS**

- MSF quit Bor civil hospital in Jonglei over salary row (ST)
- SPLM to nominate 5 women as Sudan's ambassadors (ST)

Darfur

- Washington calls for deployment of 3600 additional African troops in Darfur (Al-Rai Al-Aam)

➤ **Miscellaneous**

Highlights

UN/ Agencies

School enrolment soars in southern Sudan thanks to UN-backed initiative

(ST) 2 April 2008 – Some 1.3 million children in southern Sudan are expected to start classes this year, compared to just 340,000 in 2005, thanks to an initiative supported by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) to boost school enrolment and strengthen the education system.

The “Go to School” Initiative was launched a year after the January 2005 signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), which ended the north-south civil war that killed as many as two million people and displaced 4.5 million others.

Underscoring the need to build on the gains made so far, UNICEF Country Representative in Sudan Ted Chaiban stressed that education is the single most important investment for southern Sudan. “We need a determination that is unshaken to get every southern Sudanese child into school and receiving a quality education,” he said.

A major milestone has been the increase in the number of girls in school – some 34 per cent of the 1.3 million children now in school. During the civil war less than 1 per cent of girls completed their primary education.

Along with promoting enrolment, UNICEF has also been supporting the Government of Southern Sudan in building over 200 new permanent classrooms, rehabilitating nearly 300 existing classrooms, and providing 400 emergency classroom tents while construction gets under way. A 2006 survey showed that only 16 per cent of the nearly 3,000 schools in the region had permanent buildings.

The initiative has also supported the training of 5,000 teachers, and distributed millions of school supplies to students and instructors.

Mr. Chaiban said the focus this year is on constructing more permanent classrooms, continued teacher training and the strengthening of an information management system.

“By working closely with the Government of Southern Sudan and other partners, we are confident that more and more children will enjoy their right to a quality education, delivered in a quality environment,” he stated.

UN requests Japanese peacekeepers to take part in Sudan’s de-mining

(ST) April 2, 2008 (TOKYO) — The United Nations has requested Japanese government to take part in U.N. peacekeeping operations’ de-mining activities in southern Sudan, government sources said Wednesday.

The Foreign Ministry has already been considering Japanese participation in the U.N. Mission in Sudan and the world body's request is expected to help expedite debate on the deployment of troops, which is a sensitive issue due to restrictions under Japan's pacifist Constitution.

The U.N. has approached Japan on several occasions since the beginning of this year, asking if Japan is willing to send troops to UNMIS and if they will be equipped to undertake demining capabilities.

Demining is crucial for securing transport routes to deliver humanitarian aid.

The Japanese army, Self-Defense Forces (SDF), has gained demining experience in such areas through its deployment on peacekeeping operations in Cambodia from 1992.

"The SDF has superb demining techniques and is fully capable of operating in Sudan," a government source said.

The Japanese government has already concluded that Japan can take part in UNMIS as the circumstances in southern Sudan, including a ceasefire among the parties concerned, satisfy the five principles for deployment.

The government has begun researching the security situation and details of current UNMIS activities. However, the Defense Ministry remains cautious about dispatching troops, the sources said.

Despite the government's desire to have Japan play a greater global role, overseas deployment of the SDF is controversial under the Constitution, which strictly limits the use of weapons and prohibits the deployment of troops to combat zones under the current interpretation.

[In an exclusive interview to Akhbar Al Yom, SRSG Ashraf Qazi spoke about his visit to Kadugli and Abyei](#)

In his first interview to a Sudanese newspaper, the Special Representative of the Secretary General has disclosed the details of a visit he paid last week to Kadugli and Abyei.

Mr. Ashraf Qazi, interviewed by Akhbar Al Yom newspaper yesterday, said the purpose of his visit was to familiarize himself with the situation in South Kordofan and Abyei.

He said he was concerned about the escalation of hostilities and violence in the area, which he said, constitute threat to Sudan's CPA. He said he had expressed his concern to the representatives of Dinka and Messeriya and to the representatives of the AJMC.

Mr. Qazi has affirmed UNMIS readiness to assist in the implementation of the CPA besides assisting the parties to the dispute in Abyei to reach a peaceful settlement if the parties so requested. He said he had noted the readiness of the parties to work for the resolution of the issue through dialogue and hoped that they would reach a peaceful settlement to the dispute over the area.

The SRSB said UNMIS came to Sudan to assist the implementation of the CPA and capacity building in the North and South of Sudan. He said that UNMIS was Chapter Six Mission and as such, it did not intervene in the affairs of Sudan. However, he explained that UNMIS was here to implement the Security Council's Resolution which was supported by the UN and Government of the Sudan.

GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

Sudanese president reshuffles army command; promotes officer sanctioned by US

(ST) April 2, 2008 (KHARTOUM) – The Sudanese presidency reshuffled today the army command of joint staff as well as ground forces, navy and air forces including a general accused by Washington of directing attacks against civilians in Darfur.

President of the Republic and General Commander of the Sudan Armed Forces, Field Marshal Omer Al-Bashir, has issued decrees promoting a number of officers of the Armed Forces and to amend the Command of the Joint Staff and the Ground Forces, Navy and Air Forces as part of regular administrative arrangements.

According to the decrees, Gen. Mohamed Abdel-Gadir Nasr-Eddin, was promoted to the position of the Chief of the Joint Staff, Gen. Awad Mohamed bin Oaf, as Deputy Chief of Joint Staff.

Oaf, who was former Head of Military Intelligence and Security, was placed on a US sanctions list in May 2007 by president George Bush for "contributing to the conflict in the Darfur region".

The US administration said that Oaf is "among Khartoum's senior leadership and have acted as liaison between the Sudanese government and the Government-supported Janjaweed militias, which have attacked and brutalized innocent civilians in the region".

He was also accused of have providing the Janjaweed "with logistical support and directed attacks".

The reshuffle list also included

Gen. Ismat Abdel-Rahman Zainal-Abidin as General Inspector.

Lt. Gen. Ali Al-Sharif was promoted to the position of chief of the Joint Operations and Training Administration,

Lt. Gen. Abdel-Rahman Mohamed Zain was promoted as the Chief of the Ground Forces Staff,

Lt. Gen. (Pilot) Ahmed Ali Al-Faki was promoted to be the Chief of the Air-Forces Staff,

Lt. Gen. Mahjoub Abdalla Sharfi as Chief of the Security and Intelligence Administration,

While Lt. Gen. (Naval) Al-Zain Hamad Balla retained the position of the Chief of the Naval Forces Staff.

A number of Major Generals in the ground forces were also promoted to the rank of Lieutenant General to assume leading positions, who were Lt. Gen. Hashim Abdalla Hassan, Lt. Gen. (engineer) Mustafa Osman Obeid, and Lt. Gen. Mohamed Gerham Omer.

Northern troops enter Sudan disputed area of Abyei

(ST) April 2, 208 (JUBA) — Some 200 heavily armed northern soldiers entered the capital of Sudan's disputed Abyei area, southern officials told Reuters on Wednesday, describing heightened tensions in the area coveted by Khartoum and Juba.

Under a 2005 north-south peace deal that ended more than 20 years of civil war, Abyei area is to be guarded by special joint units of northern and southern soldiers. But a witness said the new soldiers had set up separately in the town centre.

"There are 222 soldiers. ... It is a violation of the peace agreement," said Malony Thong, deputy head of Abyei's Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) administration, the former southern rebel group that now rules south Sudan.

Thong said the northern forces that arrived on Monday were sent into Abyei to "escalate the security situation in the area".

A southern Sudanese aid worker told Reuters from Abyei the soldiers had set up in a school inside the city.

"They came with seven mounted Toyotas and four trucks all full of soldiers and guns," Acuil Ajang said. "Everybody is very worried about this," he added.

The Sudan armed Forces (SAF) declined to immediately comment on the report.

Sudan's north-south civil war killed 2 million people. Under the 2005 peace accord residents of Abyei will chose to join the north or south in 2011, when the entire south will vote on secession from the north.

Analysts have called the region — one of Sudan's most important oil producing areas — "Sudan's Kashmir" and the greatest threat to the hard-won north-south peace accord.

Despite the peace deal, North-South tensions over the area have never truly subsided. An international group of experts marked Abyei's borders in 2005 but their report was rejected by the northern National Congress Party (NCP).

Earlier this year, northern armed nomadic Misseriya tribesmen, who the south says are supported by Khartoum, blockaded the main trade link through the oil-producing state.

Ajang said the sudden appearance of the forces may be a reaction to the arrival of the SPLM administrator of Abyei last week, Edward Lino.

Lino, a high profile figure in the SPLM, is commonly referred to by southerners as "Abyei's new governor".

The NCP has criticised the SPLM decision to appoint an administrator for Abyei, as the composition of a joint state government is still being discussed within Sudan's presidency. It further demanded the removal of SPLM administration.

Thong said the SPLM would not confront the soldiers militarily but would use diplomatic means to get them to withdraw.

"No, we are not going to fight them," Thong said.

[Sudan says Chadian helicopters attacked military positions in Darfur](#)

(ST) April 2, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — Sudanese army accused Chadian planes of launching air rockets against its positions in West Darfur but the Chad dismissed the attacks.

Border tension between the two countries is mounting again. Last Tuesday, Chad's defense ministry had accused Sudan of violating Dakar agreement saying that Khartoum was behind a rebel attack in the eastern town of Ade in eastern Chad.

Brigadier Osman Mohamed Al Aghbash, the Sudanese army spokesperson, said that Chadian military helicopters fired rockets into Sudanese army positions southern east Baydda at dawn today. Hours after, they attacked again another position in Um Tajok northeast of Baydda in western Darfur, he added.

As it was predicted by analysts Dakar Agreement can't hold on as far as the two countries do not address their internal problems. The Chadian president, exercising a one man dictatorship, refuses to negotiate with political and armed opposition. And Sudan's Darfur crisis is deepened by the lack of political solution.

However, in N'Djamena, a government source denied the Sudanese accusations to AFP Wednesday "Chad had never bombarded Sudan. The Chadian army has never left its positions on the border," said the source.

"The rebels came from Sudan and the Chadian army chased them until they went back inside Sudanese territory." Chadian source added.

During the last week of March, Sudan and Chad traded accusations before the UN Security Council over Dakar deal breaches.

Khartoum's complaint to the Security Council accused Chad of giving Sudanese rebels logistical help to enter Sudan's western province of Darfur.

Chad's Foreign Minister Allam-Mi denied the allegations, saying that Ndjamenahad told the Security Council that Khartoum's information was erroneous.

The Sudanese army spokesperson described the air attacks on West Darfur as a hostile act and a clear breach of the Government of Chad to the non-aggression agreement signed by the Senegalese capital Dakar on March 13.

He pointed out that the Government of Chad still arguing that Chadian opposition was moving from inside Sudanese territories

He reaffirmed the readiness of the Sudanese armed forces to deter any Chadian, foreign aggression or attack from rebel groups in West Darfur state.

[Sudan to issue arrest warrants for French Zoe's Ark workers](#)

(ST) April 2, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — Sudan said on Wednesday it would issue arrest warrants for child trafficking against six French aid workers who were released after being pardoned by Chad for abducting 103 children.

Sudan's minister for social affairs, Samia Ahmed Mohamed, told Reuters 18 of the children were Sudanese. N'Djamena had still not agreed to return six from a holding camp in the east of Chad and she said she feared for their safety.

"A group of Sudanese lawyers will bring charges against the kidnappers for a crime they were not tried for — child trafficking," she said.

The six from the Zoe's Ark organisation were sentenced to eight years' hard labour by a Chadian court last year and were allowed to serve their sentences in France. On Monday, Chadian President Idriss Deby pardoned them and they were released.

Sudan will ask Interpol to post arrest warrants for the six aid workers and compensation will be sought for the families of the Sudanese. "I am very astonished ... at the release of the criminals," Mohamed said.

"It is clear that the trial was a sham and there was a deal between the two countries and the victims were the children."

France has a policy of not extraditing its own citizens. Several members of the group have been placed under formal investigation in France for fraud and other charges, making it unlikely that Sudan's warrant would lead to an arrest.

Mohamed urged the United Nations to intervene to release the six Sudanese in a holding camp in eastern Chad.

Chadian rebels have been waging a low-level insurgency against the government for two years from the east which borders Sudan's Darfur region, embroiled in its own five-year rebellion.

The other 12 Sudanese children were returned to their families who had fled to eastern Chad during the war. The six still in Chadian care were originally taken from West Darfur.

The minister accused Chad of using the children as a tool in the deteriorating relations between the two neighbours who accuse each other of supporting the other's insurgents.

"Chad is taking the children as part of the political machinations between the two countries and are using them as if they are hostages," she said.

[US Charge d'Affaires visits Abyei and offers US mediation to resolve the crisis](#)

(Al-Sahafa) The US Charge d'Affaires in Khartoum, Mr. Alberto Fernandez, paid a surprising visit to Abyei yesterday.

At a meeting with Edward Lino, the Charge d'Affaires offered US mediation to resolve the crisis between the two partners.

Mr. Fernandez said he met with Edward Lino after familiarizing himself with the situations and warned that the conflict could threaten the CPA.

[SPLM Secretary General: FVP is the one who appointed Abyei Administration](#)

(Al-Khartoum) The Cabinet Affairs Minister and Secretary General of SPLM, Pagan Amun, said the First Vice President of the Republic, Lt. Gen. Salva Kiir himself, appointed the Abyei administration under the leadership of Edward Lino.

In statement to the newspapers Mr. Pagan categorically denied what was reported by the SMC to the effect that SPLM chairperson and Secretary General did not support Lino-led Abyei administration.

"The statement of the NCP leader, Mr. Al-Dirdiri, was incorrect. I did not speak with him," Mr. Pagan said.

[SPLM, NCP at loggerheads over Abyei's new Administration](#)

(Khartoum Monitor) The Secretary General of the Abyei government, Malunj Tong turned down a proposal by the Chairman of the National Congress Party in Abyei Zacharia Atim to the effect that Misseriya tribe be involved in the new administration of Abyei which was formed by the SPLM under the leadership of Edward Lino, Atim told Khartoum Monitor in an exclusive statement. They rejected the NCP proposal and expressed adherence to the experts report. Abyei belongs to Dinka Ngok, he added.

He went on to say that, the new government would provide basic services to residents of Abyei who have been without services for more than three years. The government will check and revise the bloated pay roll of government employees. He downplayed worries of the residents over the existence of the Sudan Armed Forces 31st brigade, which violated the protocol of security arrangements by not withdrawing to the North.

He added that the issue of co-existence would be settled by the upcoming co-existence conference due within a few days.

He disclosed that Saturday and Sunday are adopted as the two public holidays. The census, which is due on 15th of April, and breaches of security in peripheral areas of Abyei are the two major challenges facing the new administration.

Meanwhile, NCP's chairperson in Abyei, Zacharia Atim said the NCP rejects the new administration, which was installed by the SPLM. That is a violation of the CPA. It is provocative, he said. He called for the participation of the NCP, particularly the Misseriya tribe in the new administration. He emphasized that Abyei belongs to greater Kordofan in Northern Sudan. The NCP and the SPLM reached a deadlock over Abyei and the problem was exacerbated by the appointment of Edward Lino as the Governor of Abyei.

He called on Salva Kiir Mayardit, President of GoSS to reverse the appointment of Edward Lino, Zacharia accused the SPLM of performing inhuman acts against citizens.

GoSS

MSF quit Bor civil hospital in Jonglei over salary row

(ST) April 2, 2008 (BOR, Jonglei) – Medical charity Medicins Sans Frontiers (MSF) evacuated its staff, vehicles and other accessories Monday April 1 following a row between the MSF administration and local employees over salary, a local health worker told Sudan Tribune today at Bor civil hospital.

MSF, which is the only NGO supplying health facilities to Jonglei communities, had all staff left for Juba following an alleged statement threatening their lives.

"After the failure of the two parties to reach a positive compromise, the local workers rang to MSF base office in Juba demanding that Bor MSF staff should be serious or "taken back in coffin," a health worker who requested anonymity, given the sensitivity of the issue, revealed.

All the drugs are left behind and now being used by local staff, running the hospital for the main time, but whose effort is likely to be out completed by the large volume of patients.

MSF had conditioned local thirty (30) health workers, whose contract expired last month, to choose between government payment or MSF's. The health workers, in response, preferred government salary on condition that a two month salary from the MSF (out of the contract) is paid and topped up by what they call "two years compensation allowances" claiming they were not informed ahead of time.

State government in February demanded that all employees should not be dual workers, the trend MSF seems to have used to screen its workers. Some eighty (80) health workers receive salary from the state government and MSF at a go, a source close to the state health ministry revealed.

It is not the first time Bor civil hospital, at the control of MSF, face such life threats. MSF staff (a Kenyan national) was arrested by police in March 2007 at a bar-hole

drilling site in Bor town and released 24 hours later without clear explanation concerning his arrest.

Lately that year, a tribal mob broke into the MSF compound here in November, killing four patients. All these acts, the state government says, are unacceptable and partners were immediately brought to books.

MSF supplies drugs, pay both local and international staff, renovated Bor civil hospital in theyear 2007 and improved water system at the hospital. Their absence, if not properly check, may lead to diverse suffering of the local communities in Jonglei state.

It is however, unclear whether MSF quit the hospital in order to allow interrogation of its staff in Juba and return or it has open the case with state government before it left. State minister of health is reportedly out of the state for an official visit to Juba and thus won't be reached for comments.

[SPLM to nominate 5 women as Sudan's ambassadors](#)

(ST) April 2, 2008 (JUBA) — Five Southern Sudanese women would soon be nominated to ambassadorial positions by President of the government of Southern Sudan, Salva Kiir Mayardit, Sudan minister of foreign affairs, Deng Alor has revealed.

Minister Alor stated that the ambassadorial quarter allocated by the Government of National Unity in Khartoum to the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) as stipulated in the CPA. In fact, out of ten ambassadorial positions, only eight were filled by male during the fiscal financial year 2007.

The SPLM foreign Affairs minister further disclosed that in this year 2008 budget, foreign affairs ministry has allotted various diplomatic positions to Southern Sudan up to 45 including five ambassadorial positions that ought to be filled by women who have been deprived from the first allocation quarter of foreign affairs ministry during the CPA era.

The minister made the remarks when responding to question raised by visiting African Union Ministerial Committee on post conflict reconstruction of Sudan, that why GoSS has not appointed women in Ambassadorial positions since it has initiated and adopted a popular affirmative action for women's twenty five percent positions at all levels of governments to women who are also allowed to compete for the remaining seventy five percent positions together with men

Alor further disclosed that out of the ten five ambassadorial positions allotted to government of Southern Sudan last year following the signing of the CPA on 9th January 2005, all positions were occupied by men except for those nominated individuals who failed to take up their appointments for the best reasons known to them.

He advised all aspiring Southern Sudanese women for ambassadorial positions should be more articulated in presenting issues of Southern Sudan and of the whole Sudan wherever they are going to be posted.

Samon Kwaje, minister of agriculture and forestry of southern Sudan stated that the twenty five percent women's mandatory positions at all level of governments in Southern Sudan have been fairly fulfilled by both governments of Southern Sudan and of national unity in Khartoum.

However he noted that out of 24 executive positions in GoSS only three went to women and also out of ten governors of southern Sudan only one female governor, two deputies Governors, one undersecretary, short of twenty five percent with exception of 21 female Directors Generals in various ministries of the government of Southern Sudan are fairly allocated.

Meanwhile the director for Peace and Security of African Union Commission, Geoffrey Mugmya, announced that African Union commission will soon open its liaison office in Juba to enable the commission to observe and monitor implementation of the CPA; adding that within the commission there will be a gender officer who will be directly dealing with problems facing Southern Sudanese women especially in regard to linkage with outside world.

Darfur

US wants more African troops in Darfur

(The Dawn) UNITED NATIONS, April 2: The United States is pressing the United Nations to ensure that 3,600 more international peacekeepers are deployed in Sudan's strife-torn Darfur region by June, according to a letter seen here on Wednesday.

"We believe that the deployment of 3,600 new African troops by June, a target number based on the UN's planning schedule, will bring increased security and stability to the people of Darfur," said the letter sent to UN chief Ban Ki-moon by US presidential envoy to Sudan Richard Williamson.

"At this crucial moment, the deployment of new troops as quickly as possible is our best hope to change the course of this tragedy," said Williamson in his letter dated March 27.

"We appreciate the full partnership of the United Nations in this effort, especially as we focus on the deployment of the Egyptians, Ethiopians and Rwandans by June," he added.

Washington has earmarked \$100 million for training and outfitting the African troops which have been pledged for the UNAMID mission.

Williamson said Ethiopian and Rwandan troops were currently taking part in US-sponsored training prior to their deployment in Darfur and added that Washington would "urge additional partner countries to contribute to UNAMID."

Last February, Jean-Marie Guehenno, the outgoing head of UN peacekeeping operations said the UN would give priority to deploying an Ethiopian contingent for UNAMID provided Khartoum quickly agreed to the simultaneous deployment of battle-hardened Nepalese and Thai units.

Khartoum has been dragging its feet on allowing key non-African forces to serve with UNAMID, arguing that the UN should turn to available African troops first.

UN peacekeeping planners are also complaining that UNAMID still lacks crucial air transport and ground logistical assets, including 24 attack and transport helicopters.

At least 200,000 people have died from the combined effects of war, famine and diseases and more than two million have fled their homes in Darfur since the ethnic minority rebels took up arms against Sudan's Arab-dominated regime in February 2003.—AFP

Miscellaneous