



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN

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Media Monitoring Report

17 April 2008

By Public Information Office

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Highlights

Main News

Opposition parties sign memorandum, decide to submit it to the Presidency, the memo is dealing with Elections Act (Ray Al-Shaab)

(Ray Al-Shaab /Al-Khartoum/ Al-Ayyam) The opposition political forces/parties signed yesterday a memorandum containing their position on the Elections Act, they were resolved to submit it to the Presidency within days.

The memorandum reportedly included demands such as representation of the opposition parties in elections commission, involvement of the opposition parties in the preparations for upcoming elections, representation in geographical constituencies should be 50% and 50% for proportional representation.

The National Umma Party, the Communist Party, Democratic Unionist Party, Popular Congress Party, Arab Baathist and Nassirists Parties in addition to other forces have signed the memorandum.

UN/Agencies

UNAMID zero tolerance on troop misconduct in Darfur

(ST) April 18, 2008 (NYALA, South Darfur) — UNAMID Deputy Joint Special Representative (DJSR) Henry Anyidoho met, Thursday, in Nyala with senior State officials, including Deputy Governor, Abdel-Raheim Abul Risha and Minister of State Affairs, Omer Abdel-Jabbar. The DJSR stressed that the UNAMID does not tolerate any misconduct from its troops.

An officer serving with the hybrid mission in Nyala, capital of South Darfur State was detained by local authorities on 13 April 2008 on the grounds of alleged misconduct inside a house in the quarter of Nyala airport.

Reiterating UNAMID's zero-tolerance policy regarding misconduct, Anyidoho said, "We will not condone any wrong-doing. If proved guilty, the Mission will take strict action according to the rules and regulations of the United Nations."

He made clear to Nyala state officials that the case of the UNAMID officer charged by the state authorities with misconduct had to be handled on the basis of the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA). He also noted that medical tests undertaken at the request of local police, proved negative.

South Darfur NCP had issued a statement condemning “immoral practices perpetrated by the peacekeeping troops,” and had organised a protest against the peacekeeping forces in the region. Ali Mahmoud, the Governor South Darfur, also asked the UNAMID to vacate rented houses within the city by some troop members in order to avoid "occurrence of such outrageous acts."

The DJSR and accompanying delegation visited UNAMID sites, checked progress on the construction of Nyala Super Camp, and met and spoke with UNAMID staff in South Darfur. In his address to staff, Anydoho stressed, "Challenges should not discourage us from meeting our responsibilities. UNAMID is determined to make a difference on the ground and you are the agents of this process." He called upon UNAMID personnel to pursue their duties with dedication, despite challenges, placing the interest of the people of Darfur as priority. He also emphasized the need to respect the customs and traditions of the people of Sudan and to follow the highest standard of conduct at all times.

[GoNU](#)

Messeriya delegation fails to open Meiram-Aweil road

(Akhir Lahza) Efforts by Messeriya to open Meiram-Aweil road failed despite consultations between the delegation and competent authorities.

The efforts were spearheaded by a Messeriya delegation led by Governor of South Kordofan Omer Sulaiman and Al-Khair Fahim.

Chairman of the Conflict Resolution Committee between Dinka and Misseriya Bushtana Mohamed Salim told the newspaper that the Messeriya refused to open the road despite the agreement between the Messeriya and Aweil authorities.

The Messeriya said opening of the road depend on withdrawal of SPLA to 1.1.56 Line but Mr. Bushtana was of the view that efforts would succeed in opening the road during the few coming days.

Sudan sends delegation to discuss British offer of Darfur conference

(ST) April 19, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — A Sudanese high-level delegation will visit London by the end of the month to hold talks with the British officials over Darfur peace process.

British Prime Minister Gordon Brown said on April 12 he was in contact with the Sudanese government and rebel groups to host peace talks to end the five year crisis in Darfur.

The Sudanese Foreign minister Deng Alor flanked by the presidential advisor Mustfa Osman Ismail will pay a visit to the British capital carrying a written message from President Omar Bashir to the British Prime Minister Gordon Brown.

The two-day visit will take place on 29-30 April.

Omar Sidiq, Sudanese Ambassador to the United Kingdom said that the letter came in response to a letter from the British Prime Minister to the President al-Bashir.

He further said that there is a shift in relations between the two countries after the arrival of Brown's government, which shows more understanding of the relations with Sudan, particularly with regard to the issue of Darfur.

The Sudanese presidential spokesperson last week welcomed the British proposal saying the Government of Sudan is willing to resume peace negotiations with the rebel movements in Darfur anywhere and at any time.

Mahjoub Fadl said Sudan accepts in principle Brown proposal aimed at ending the ongoing conflict in the province for more than five years.

Darfur peace envoys welcomed today in a press conference in Khartoum the British offer. They further said that London accepted that the talks would be under the lead of the UN-AU.

However, it seems that the British government wanted to know the reaction of the Sudanese government before contacting the rebel groups.

Foreign Minister to visit Britain on 28 April to convey message from President Bashir to British Prime Minister dealing with bilateral relations (Al-Rai Al-Aam)

(Al-Rai Al-Aam) A delegation from the Government of National Unity comprised of Foreign Minister Deng Alor and Presidential Advisor Dr. Mustafa Osman Ismail will visit Britain on 28 April on 2-day official visit.

According to Foreign Office's Director of the Directorate of Europe Ambassador Khidir Harron the delegation would convey a message from President Bashir to British Prime Minister Gordon Brown and meet with several British officials among them Foreign Minister.

Sudan Ambassador to UK Mr. Omer Siddiq said the message was in reply to the British Prime Minister's message to President Bashir.

He added that talks between the two countries would focus on bilateral relations and situations in Sudan.

Janjaweed leader launches social initiative to end Darfur crisis

(ST) April 18, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — Darfur Janjaweed militia leader Musa Hilal, the recently appointed adviser at the Ministry of Federal Government in Khartoum, told leaders of the native administration at a meeting in Khartoum Thursday of plans to launch a social initiative to end the Darfur crisis and promote peaceful coexistence. Hilal, the leader of the Mahamid tribe, said he had met with the head of the national security and intelligence service, Salah Abdalla Gosh, who had welcomed the initiative. He added that he would be meeting Presidential Assistant Nafi Ali Nafi, Vice-President Ali Osman Mohamed Taha and President Omer al-Bashir to mobilize

support for the Federal Ministry-backed initiative for peace and mending the social fabric in Darfur.

Hilal said a Council had been formed including 62 of the native administration's leaders and elders. He explained that the initiative was humanitarian and not related to the political dossier, security arrangements and international agreements and that it would try to help with the voluntary return of IDPs and refugees. Membership of the Council includes Sultan Saad Abdel-Rahman Mohammed Bahr Eddin, Mohamed Hassan Brko, Mansour Dossa, al-Malik al-Tom Sabah, Ashartay Adam Sabi, Ashartay Jaafar Abdel-Hakam, Gen. Adam Hamid, Brigadier Zayed Issa among others, he added. (ST)

GoSS

GoSS declares Tuesday holiday on the occasion of census

(Al-Rai Al-Aam) The Government of Southern Sudan announced yesterday that coming Tuesday would be an official holiday marking start of fifth census.

Undersecretary of GoSS Ministry of Labour Mr. Oat Deng Acuil told Miraya FM that movement of public transportation vehicle between cities and States would be ceased on that day and has called on civilians, States' Governors, Commissioners and native administration chiefs to cooperate with enumerators.

Non-SPLA elements are allowed to be integrated into SPLA

(Miraya FM)-The Sudan People's Liberation Army decided to give another chance to the non-SPLA soldiers to integrate into the SPLA after the previous deadline was over.

This was confirmed Friday to Miraya FM by the spokesman of the SPLA Maj. Gen. Peter Parnyany Daniel. On Thursday, Miraya FM interview the SPLA spokesman about why the SPLA rejected about 7000 former South Sudan Defense Force soldiers to be integrated into the SPLA; He said it was due to their failure to meet the deadline.

However, Maj.Gen, Peter Parnyany Daniel appealed to each and every non SPLA soldiers' groups, to get organized through their respective organizations first. Earlier, the rejected forces appealed to the International Community and the United Nations to save the Juba Declaration of 2006 between the SPLA and the SSDF from collapsing.

Meanwhile the manager of SAF'S spokesperson lieutenant, colonial Sawarmi Khalid Saad told Miraya FM that, the armed forces is committed to the agreement with the demobilized soldiers in the south, adding that, the first installment of their dues has been paid.

Reaction to the threat by the soldiers of disrupting the coming census, Saad said the issue was referred to the government of south Sudan.

Egypt donates electrical equipment to Southern Sudan

(Miraya FM) Egyptian government sent Equipments of Electricity generation to the government of Western BAHR Al-Ghazal State.

Speaking upon the arrival of the equipments to Wau, the State's capital, the Governor Mark Nipoch thanked the Egyptian government for supporting what he described as vital project.

For his part, the head of the engineers who delivered the equipments, Hasan AL-Kholi said the electricity services would be available starting from the beginning of May.

Darfur

UN-AU Envoys address press conference, 3-staged plan to end Darfur crisis Darfur warring parties willing to discuss security arrangements - envoys

(ST/Rai Al-Aam) April 19, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — U.N. and African Union Peace envoys today announced the approval of all parties to the conflict in Darfur to start talks leading to stop the deterioration of the security situation before engaging in direct negotiations to achieve peace in Darfur.

At the end of their fifth visit to Sudan, Jan Eliasson, the UN Secretary General envoy for Darfur and Salim Ahmed Salim, the African Union envoy to Darfur held on Saturday a press conference at the premises of the United Nations in Khartoum.

Salim Ahmed Salim said that Sudanese government and all the rebel movements in Darfur had expressed during the meetings that have taken place "their willingness to discuss the security arrangements."

"But each one of them had his own position on how this can be brought about ... Whether this could lead to a cessation of hostilities or to a ceasefire; this is the work that is being accomplished now." Salim added.

Jan Eliasson, said that they would pursue a 3-staged approach to address the issue: how and ways of the ceasefire, cooperation between the Government of Sudan and UNAMID and the rebel movements in Darfur and ways to stop attacks and banditry in Darfur, which has impacted negatively on the security situation and the civilians in Darfur.

Banditry has long been common in the remote west of Sudan, which borders Chad, Libya and the Central African Republic, but armed bands have organised to take advantage of rich pickings from the influx of U.N. and aid agency vehicles since the rebellion began.

The conflict has claimed an estimated 200,000 lives with 2.5 million forced from their homes, according to the United Nations. Khartoum disputes the figures, saying 9,000 have been killed.

Eliasson expressed hope that the talks on security arrangements begin before this autumn. He further said it is not possible now to give the date where the parties will sit together, or discuss in any other form the security measures that may lead to a ceasefire or cessation of hostilities.

He added that various circles have now begun work on these arrangements in coordination with the UNAMID.

The underscored that the current efforts aim to quell violence in the region and clear the way for the resumption of peace talks before the end of the year.

Salim further told the media "we are not saying that all parties now prepared for a ceasefire to determine when it will take place; but we said that all the parties have expressed willingness — whether the Justice and Equality Movement, the Sudan Liberation Movement led by Abdel-Wahid al-Nur or the Government of Sudan — to discuss security arrangements.

The two envoys pointed out that the current row between Sudan and Chad is one of the reasons that led to the escalation of violence in Darfur. Salim said no one could believe that the problem of Darfur will be resolved unless there was a normalization of relations between Sudan and Chad.

They also welcomed the different offers to host peace talks including a proposal from UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown to hold peace talks in Britain.

The envoys pointed out that Brown didn't consult them in advance. However Britain accepted that their offer is going to be under the lead of the United Nations and the African Union, underlined Eliasson.

In May 2006, Sudanese government and a SLA faction led by Minni Minawi signed a peace deal and some small splinter groups. Nonetheless the peace pact did not change the level of violence in the region, and the security situation even deteriorated since the signing of the deal and the fragmentation among the two main rebel groups.

A joint African Union-United Nations peacekeeping mission took over in January from a beleaguered AU force to try to stem the violence. But it only has about 9,000 troops and police on the ground, out of a total of the authorized 26,000.

After spending around one year in attempts to reunite the different rebel factions in Darfur, the international community now seems convicted that no peace without security on the ground.

Peace envoys, JEM leader discuss ways to stop Darfur violence

(ST) April 19, 2008 (KHARTOUM) – The United Nations and African Union envoys for Darfur met yesterday with the leader of the Justice and Equality Movement to discuss the need to clear violence in Darfur before engaging in peace process.

The two envoys dedicated their fifth visit to Sudan for talks on violence in Darfur telling the warring parties they cannot fight and prepare for peace talks at the same

time. They also stressed that a reduction in violence was vital if progress is to be made on the political front.

Jan Eliasson of the UN and Salim Ahmed Salim of the AU met with Khalil Ibrahim, the leader of the rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), in a rebel-controlled area of West Darfur on Friday.

The envoys said discussed with Ibrahim the primacy of the political process and the urgent need to cut the level of violence, better protect civilians and ensure greater humanitarian access during the talks with the two groups.

During a press conference held in Khartoum on Saturday the two envoys said the warring parties in Darfur accepted to work for the end of violence in Darfur and to hold direct or indirect talks over military arrangements.

Clashes between the Sudanese army and the powerful JEM intensified since last December.

Delegation of British Muslims visits El fasher, Launches peace initiative

(Rai Al-Shaab) A delegation of British Muslims launched Saturday a peace initiative to settle Darfur conflict with popular support from British Muslims.

Head of the delegation and member of the British Council of Lords Ahmed Al-Nazir, who met yesterday with North Darfur State's Governor Osman Kibir, said the peace initiative aimed at bringing together the native leaderships, civil society organizations and armed movements with the support of the British Muslims.

He said the initiative aimed at reaching an effective solution to Darfur issue to ensure security and stability in Darfur.

SLA-Unity delegation visit Holland

(AL-Sahafa) A delegation from SLA (Unity Faction) arrived yesterday in the Dutch capital of Amsterdam, for talks on political developments in Sudan.

Member of the Movement' Revolutionary Council Sayed Sharf told the newspaper that the aim of the meeting was to discuss the re-energizing of the peace process and to explain the movement's stance on political developments in Sudan in general and Darfur in particular.

He pointed out that the visit to the Netherland would be the first leg of a tour that would cover Belgium, Germany, France, Switzerland and Britain.