

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS**Media Monitoring Report, 01 August 2007

(By Public Information Office)

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# Highlights

## UN/ Agencies

### **Security Council authorizes hybrid UN-African Union operation in Darfur**

*(UN News)* The Security Council today approved the creation of a hybrid United Nations-African Union peacekeeping force to quell the violence and instability plaguing the Darfur region of Sudan.

In what Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called a “historic and unprecedented resolution,” Council members unanimously backed the establishment of a force of nearly 20,000 military personnel and more than 6,000 police officers.

The hybrid operation – to be known as UNAMID – has an initial mandate of 12 months and will incorporate the existing AU Mission in Sudan (AMIS), which has been deployed across Darfur since 2004. It will become the largest peacekeeping force in the world.

By October UNAMID is scheduled to have its management, command and control structures in place, and then by the end of the year it is expected to be ready to take over operations from AMIS.

“You are sending a clear and powerful signal of your commitment to improve the lives of the people of the region, and close this tragic chapter in Sudan’s history,” Mr. Ban told the Council after it voted for the resolution authorizing the force.

Stressing the need to move rapidly to ensure UNAMID can deploy on time, he called on Member States to contribute troops and police officers and urged the Sudanese Government and the rebel groups to immediately end hostilities and give their “unequivocal and continuous support” to the force.

UNAMID is tasked with acting under Chapter VII of the UN Charter to support the “early and effective implementation” of last year’s Darfur Peace Agreement between the Government and the rebels, and it is also mandated to protect civilians, prevent armed attacks and ensure the security of aid workers and its own personnel and facilities.

Command and control structures and backstopping for UNAMID will be provided by the UN, today’s resolution added, and the operation will also have a single chain of command.

Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Jean-Marie Guéhenno told reporters that “enormous work” would be required between now and the end of the year to make sure that UNAMID can start operations on time.

The resolution has been adopted just days before the UN and AU Special Envoys for Darfur, Jan Eliasson and Salim Ahmed Salim, host "pre-negotiation talks" in Arusha, Tanzania, with those rebel groups and militias that have not signed the Darfur Peace Agreement.

Mr. Ban said it was critical that the three-day meeting starting on Friday "yield positive results so as to pave the way for negotiations and, ultimately, a peace agreement. Only in this way can we end the violence and destruction that have afflicted Darfur for more than three years." [[TEXT: UN Security Council Resolution 1769 on Darfur Hybrid Force](#)].

### **China urges accelerating political process on Darfur**

(Xinhua) The international community should promote the political process on the Darfur issue while deploying a joint United Nations-African Union peacekeeping operation in the Sudanese region, Chinese Ambassador Wang Guangya said here Tuesday.

"Peacekeeping deployment is only one aspect of the settlement of the Darfur issue. The 'two-track strategy' should continue to be implemented by accelerating the political process," Wang said after the 15-member council unanimously adopted Resolution 1769 authorizing deployment of AU-UN hybrid operation in Darfur, explaining China's stance.

"The fundamental prerequisite for achieving lasting peace and stability in Darfur is to encourage all factions in the region to conclude and implement a comprehensive peace agreement," said Wang, who also served as president of the Security Council for July.

He said China welcomes the success of the second Tripoli Conference and appreciates and supports the great efforts made by the two special envoys of the AU and the UN.

"As a next step, the international community should take effective measures to persuade and press the non-signatories to participate in the political process," he said.

Noting the broadly shared view that a root cause for the Darfur crisis is poor development in the region, Wang called for more attention to rehabilitation, reconstruction and development in Darfur.

"The international community should take a long-term perspective, work out at an early date a development strategy for Darfur in consultation with the government of Sudan, and provide more input to economic and social development in Darfur, so as to fundamentally improve the livelihood of the people and uproot the source of conflicts," the ambassador added.

He said China sincerely hopes to see an early settlement of the issue in a fair, equitable and proper manner.

### **Sudan says Darfur UN force resolution "practical"**

(Reuters) Sudan on Wednesday described a U.N. Security Council Resolution to deploy 26,000 U.N. and African Union troops and police to Darfur as "practical" and said it would cooperate fully with the deployment of the force.

"It is practical. It's taken into consideration most of our concerns -- we are comfortable with the resolution," Foreign Minister Lam Akol told Reuters.

"We can live with it," he said, adding the government had no problems with the timetable of deployment, which is expected to take up to a year to get the entire force in place.

"Now that we have been part of the discussion we will definitely cooperate with it," he added referring to negotiations which eventually removed the threat of sanctions if Sudan failed to comply. [[Read more ...](#)].

### **Advocacy group praises China stand over Darfur UN resolution**

(SudanTribune.com) A Darfur advocacy group has hailed the positive stand of the Chinese government by voting in favor of the UN Security Council resolution related to the deployment of African Union UN troops in Sudan's Darfur region.

"The Olympic Dream for Darfur" said in a statement Tuesday "China today joined in a unanimous UN Security Council vote to authorize, under Chapter 7 of the UN Charter, deployment of 26,000 civilian police and troops to Darfur. Chapter 7 authority, which confers enforcement authority, is critical to the ability of the deploying force to protect itself, Darfuri civilians, and humanitarian workers and operations."

"This is a key first step by Beijing in enabling an international response to the security crisis in Darfur, as well as eastern Chad," said Eric Reeves, Sudan advisor to the Olympic Dream for Darfur. [[Read more ...](#)].

### **US warns Sudan over UN peacekeeping force**

(AP) The US has warned Sudan that it faces repercussions if it does not cooperate with a the 26,000-strong peacekeeping force for Darfur agreed by the UN Security Council yesterday to try to help end the bloodshed in the region.

Now Sudan faces a choice. Sudan can choose the path of cooperation or defiance. ... All eyes are upon Sudan, and we look to its government to do the right thing and pursue the path of peace US Ambassador to the United Nations Zalmay Khalilzad. [[Read more ...](#)].

### **Asia-Pacific countries welcome UN peacekeeping mission to Darfur**

(DPA – August 1, MANILA) Asia-Pacific countries attending an annual security forum in the Philippines on Wednesday welcomed a United Nations resolution creating a 26,000-member peacekeeping force for Sudan's war-torn Darfur region.

Australia said it would send a small number of doctors and nurses to Darfur as part of the mission, while China stressed the need for proper implementation of the UN resolution passed on Tuesday.

Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi said sending a mission to Darfur would hopefully push all parties involved in the conflict to implement peace agreements they have signed.

'Greater implementation of the resolution is of greater importance as the peacekeeping operation makes progress,' he told reporters in Manila.

'The international community should take effective measures to promote the political process concerning Darfur in order to seek a comprehensive solution of the issue,' Yang added.

Javier Solana, the European Union's foreign policy chief, also hailed the resolution and cited China's influence over Sudan.

'I think the most important outcome of that (China's influence) is the fact that last night, the resolution finally has been approved,' he said. 'I think the resolution, with the modifications that have taken place during the last minutes, I think it's a good resolution.'

### **British troops to help end civil war crisis in Darfur**

*(The Daily Record, Scotland)* British troops are to lead a new peacekeeping force to end the bloodshed in Darfur.

Gordon Brown has won UN backing for his plan to send 20,000 peacekeepers to the war-torn region of Sudan.

The force, which will be sent in October, will be largely drawn from African states such as Rwanda. But dozens of UK troops will run the HQ and provide logistical support.

Brown's spokesman yesterday dismissed fears that more could be needed, insisting only a "small number" will be sent.

### **France offers troops for United Nations mission in Darfur**

*(DPA)* French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner said Wednesday that Paris was prepared to provide forces for the planned deployment of UN and African Union troops to Darfur. "We have offered our services," Kouchner said, in comments coming after the decision late Tuesday by the UN Security Council authorizing the deployment of more than 20,000 forces under joint UN-AU command.

Kouchner did not specify how many French troops might be deployed.

"There is however a new phenomenon - the Africans themselves wish to take care of African matters," he added, in reference to the fact that the major share of international force would be provided by the African Union.

### **Darfur rebel leader hails UN resolution on peacekeeping force**

*(SudanTribune.com)* A key Darfur rebel group leader applauded the UN Security Council (UNSC) for adopting resolution 1769 authorizing up to 26,000 troops and police for Darfur.

"This is a historic moment for the people of Darfur" Abdelwahid al-Nur, leader of Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) told Sudan Tribune.

Al-Nur commended the co-sponsors of the resolution UK and France for their "relentless efforts in getting the resolution adopted". [[Read more ...](#)].

### **Arusha meeting as scheduled, Achouri\***

*(Sudan Vision; AlAyaam; AlRai AlAam)* Spokesperson Radhia Achouri of the United Nations Mission in Sudan says that the Arusha meeting will take place as scheduled during 3-5 August.

Achouri indicated that SLM leader AbdulWahid Mohammed Nour has been invited to the meeting and added that United Nations Special Envoy Jan Eliasson has affirmed that AbdulWahid will attend the meetings and that the door is open for all non-signatory factions to attend the talks.

The AU official spokesman, Nour Eddin al-Mezni, said that the delegation will leave for Arusha today and voiced the AU concern with the success of the negotiations. He revealed that the meetings will be monitored by the AU and UN envoys, Salim and Eliasson.

Meanwhile, the United States urged the non-signatory movements not to set preconditions for the negotiations while its official spokesperson warned the armed factions that absenting themselves from the negotiations will reflect unwillingness to resolve the crisis as well as impede the peace process. It also stressed that reaching a political agreement is a basic step for putting an end to the suffering of the people of Darfur region.

On the other hand, the official spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Ali Al-Sadig, held the Arusha talks as a culmination of the efforts of the AU and UN envoys towards activation of the political solution advocated by the Addis Ababa meeting held in November 2006. He disclosed that the Arusha meeting has been preceded by intensive communications and shuttle diplomacy aimed at assembling the Abuja opponents under a unified umbrella.

He added that three factions, namely SLM/ Unity faction, JEM and the Darfurians Abroad Forum, had last Monday signed in the Libyan capital, Tripoli, a pledge to present at the Arusha negotiations the visions and recommendations made by the Darfurians Abroad Forum. He said that the Forum will participate in the Arusha talks scheduled to start on Friday.

*The Office of the Spokesperson, United Nations Mission in Sudan, has issued a rejoinder requesting Sudan Vision daily to issue a correction on its reporting of the section referring to invitations to the Arusha meeting. The text of the Letter to the Editor is attached separately.*

### **U.N. agencies to launch polio vaccination campaign in west Darfur**

*(ReliefWeb)* The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) notes that, following reports of two confirmed cases of polio across the border in Chad, UNICEF, the World Health Organization (WHO) and other partners are set to launch an emergency vaccination campaign in West Darfur in the coming days.

OCHA also notes that so far this year, 87 humanitarian vehicles have been hijacked, including two on Sunday. One of them was later recovered, and no one was injured in the latest attack.

### **GoNU (CPA; Darfur Peace Agreement; ESPA)**

#### **CJMC calls on the SAF and SPLA to withdraw from oil fields**

*(AlIntibaha)* The Ceasefire Joint Military Committee meeting recently in Juba has asked the SAF and the SPLA to withdraw from the oilfields and hand over the task of protection of those fields to the Joint Integrated Units, reports the Office of the Spokesperson of the SAF.

The SAF has confirmed its total consent to the request and notes that the SAF redeployment from those areas has to coincide with that of the SPLA that still maintains a 30,000-strong force. The SAF further pointed out that the oilfields were supposed to be a demilitarized zone as per the CPA.

#### **SPLA withdraws from Nuba Mountains**

*(Khartoum Monitor)* The SPLA has withdrawn from the Nuba Mountains areas to points south of line 1.1.'56, reports Brg. Izzat Kuku, Commander of the Fourth Front of the SPLA.

The commander said that the remaining SPLA soldiers will redeploy by the end of the week.

The SPLA commander said that the rainy season and lack of cooperation from the United Nations hindered smooth redeployment of the SPLA to the south.

#### **Charge d'Affaires of the US Embassy says differences between Khartoum and Washington are not deep**

*(AlRai AlAam)* The Charge d'Affaires of the US Embassy in Khartoum says the differences between Khartoum and Washington are not that large as to block the way to normalization of relations between the two countries.

Following a meeting between state minister for foreign affairs AlWaseela AISammani and the Cd'A, a spokesperson for the Sudan's foreign ministry said that the two sides also underlined the need to expedite implementation of the agreement on the hybrid operations, support for the

political process and punitive measures for obstructers of the peace process. They also noted that it is to the US interest that the Sudan remain united.

## **GoSS**

### **S Sudan 'worst floods in decades'**

(BBC) South Sudan's Vice-President Riek Machar says the region is suffering from its worst floods in decades.

"What happened this year can only be matched by what happened 40 years ago," Mr Machar told the BBC after touring the flood-affected areas.

At least 10,000 people are affected and six of South Sudan's 10 states have been declared a disaster zone. [[Read more](#)].

### **MPs summon governor, postpone AlCardinal hearing**

(*The Citizen*) The issue of the AlCardinal flopped car deal opens today in the GoSS legislative body after it failed to kick off at yesterday's session.

The issue was top of the agenda distributed to lawmakers on Tuesday but was put off the table after another lawmaker moved what he called an urgent matter deserving faster attention.

Lawmakers are also baying for the blood of the Governor of Eastern Equatoria State and want him to face them over turmoil and insecurity in the state and for failure to appoint a female to his cabinet or advisory board.

## **Darfur**

### ***Humanitarian:***

### **ICRC has better access in Darfur but needs remain**

(*Reuters*) The International Committee of the Red Cross has better access in Sudan's Darfur region, but general lawlessness still threatens civilians who seek refuge in teeming camps, the outgoing head of its Darfur operations said.

Yasmine Dessimoz, who was also ICRC's deputy head for Sudan, said the agency's top priority was getting help to hundreds of thousands of people in rural areas of Darfur, many of whom remain vulnerable to fleeing ongoing violence and insecurity.

The 35-year-old Swiss spoke in an interview at the ICRC's headquarters in Geneva after spending a year and a half in Sudan, the agency's largest humanitarian operation worldwide.



"Over the past three or four months, access in the field has improved. We could move around a little bit more, which was very important before the rainy season," she told Reuters. "But that doesn't mean that the general situation has become better."

There has been a fragmentation and proliferation of armed groups involved in the Darfur conflict, and affected communities have also seen "a high level of criminality and banditry," said Dessimoz, whose previous post was deputy of operations in Iraq.

"It is the general atmosphere of lawlessness and insecurity that pushes them (civilians) to move. They don't think it is safe to stay where they are," she said. [[Read more ...](#)].

### ***Security:***

#### **Death toll from Turgum-Rizeigat clashes rise to 68**

(*AlAyaam*) A tribal leader of the Turgum reports that they have lost 68 people from clashes with the Rizeigat. 53 Turgum tribesmen are nursing injuries from the same clashes, he adds.

The tribal leader also said that government helicopters are patrolling the area to restore stability but the tribes are still amassing and the situation may worsen with possibilities of more clashes.

He further pointed out that the Rizeigat Abbala used "banned weapons" and were backed by the Border Guards who looted 1,500 heads of Turgum livestock. He called on the parties to observe the recommendations of a recent reconciliation conference.

Medical sources have meanwhile confirmed that the bodies of two Abbala men have been brought into the local hospital.

Governor Mahmoud Mohamed of South Darfur has meanwhile called on the regular forces to restore security in the area.