

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS**Media Monitoring Report, 15 August 2007

(By Public Information Office)

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**IN THE NEWS TODAY:****➤ UN/ Agencies**

- UN chief plans first trip to Sudan trip shortly
- UN says Sudan violating SOFA
- UN confirms entry of 30,000 Arab nomads into Darfur
- Sudan cabinet affairs minister, joint UN-AU envoy discuss Darfur peace progress

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

- Weapons cache found in Khartoum, Qaeda suspected
- Al-Bashir addresses Army Day festivities in northern town
- Sudanese government says floods could endanger lives of one million people
- 70% of Kadugli residents suffer from malaria
- Sudan deadlock over Abyei stops thousands going home
- SLM Main Stream Changes into Political Organization
- Eastern Front criticises gold mining companies in the region
- Juba University Students' Union blames administration for campus violence

**➤ GoSS**

- Land commission demands to decide fate of Juba lands
- MP hits at SPLA for not protecting Jonglei
- Lack of funds bogs down Southern Sudan president's education initiative

**➤ Darfur**

- AU Peace, Security Council reviews Darfur peace process report
- Africans pledge Darfur troops, but expertise still needed
- African Union envoy urges Darfur rebel group to join talks
- Saudi Arabia urges support for government of Sudan on Darfur
- Asian envoys on Darfur fact-finding visit
- Darfur UN-AU force deputy commander a war criminal?

# Highlights

## UN/ Agencies

### **UN chief plans first trip to Sudan trip shortly**

(Reuters – 14 Aug. United Nations) U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said on Tuesday he plans to visit Sudan soon to expedite speedy deployment of a United Nations-African Union force for Darfur.

The secretary-general did not release a date but diplomats said the trip was expected in September, before Ban needed to be back in New York to prepare for the opening of the U.N. General Assembly session late that month.

Ban spoke to reporters after his monthly lunch with 15 U.N. Security Council ambassadors. The envoys told Reuters the secretary-general also would visit Chad and Libya in his first trip to the region since taking office in January.

Asked about the Darfur force, Ban said it was the top priority issue for him and the United Nations, adding: "I will try to expedite the speedy deployment of hybrid operation forces."

He also said he intended to follow up on peace negotiations being set up between the government and rebel leaders in Darfur, which he called "encouraging." [[Read more ...](#)].

### **UN says Sudan violating SOFA**

(AlAyaam) OCHA reveals that the Sudan is violating the Status of Forces Agreement that governs the movements of UN personnel in the country.

David Gressly who heads the Southern Sudan offices of the OCHA told a press conference yesterday that there are violations of the agreement in Darfur and some slight violations in eastern Sudan. He said that the UN did inform the competent authorities of these violations.

Speaking on returns, Gressly said that returns of Sudanese refugees from neighbouring states has gone a long way with about 160,000 returning (approximately a third of the Sudanese refugee population in the neighbouring states).

### **UN confirms entry of 30,000 Arab nomads into Darfur**

(The Citizen) A press conference was held at UNMIS on Sudan's humanitarian situation hosting UN Deputy Resident Humanitarian Coordinator, Southern Sudan, W. David Gressly, Public Information for the UNHCR Annette Rehl, Information Director for the Sudan Red Crescent Society Affaf Bukhari and Public Information Officer at the IOM Simona Opitz.

UNHCR Public Information Officer Annette Rehl said that there is a lot of rumour on the issue of Chadian refugees in Sudan with reports of many groups arriving in Sudan as refugees. "But

[Return to top](#)

our concern is on the 30,000 nomad new arrivals; some among them said they originally belong to Sudan. They said that they left Sudan in 1980 when draught hit Darfur.” She went on to say that despite restrictions from the government, the agency is trying to reach these people to know their humanitarian needs.

Following the arrival in West Darfur of approximately 30,000 Chadian nomads over the last three months, a joint report of the Sudan Commission for Refugees and UNHCR has been finalised, addressing the reasons for the group’s movement and their legal status. In the report, the UNHCR recommended that the group be granted prima facie refugee status. Although the group has not expressed any need for assistance so far, UNHCR has recommended providing the most vulnerable with a one-month food ration and has advised the Ministry of Health to vaccinate all children against all common childhood diseases.

Furthermore, given numerous cases where members of the group are living in the homes abandoned by displaced Darfurians, UNHCR has advised the government to clarify land and property issues without delay so that returning Darfurians may live in their dwellings should they wish to return.

### **Sudan cabinet affairs minister, joint UN-AU envoy discuss Darfur peace progress**

*(Sudan TV via BBC Monitoring – 14 Aug. KHRT.)* Minister of Cabinet Affairs Deng Alor discussed with the special representative of the UN and the AU, Rudolf Adada, developments in Darfur and the outcome of the Arusha meetings comprising the UN, AU, and the armed movements. The Minister said the envoy expressed optimism on prospects for peace in Darfur as a result of his meetings with Sudanese officials and the acceptance by the Government of National Unity of UN Resolution 1769.

The Minister also discussed with the political advisers of the AU envoy and the UN Mission progress in the political process in Darfur. The two counselors briefed the minister on the Arusha discussions and expressed satisfaction at the results. For his part, the Minister stressed the quest by the SPLM to convince Abd-al-Wahid Muhammad Nur to join peacemaking in Darfur.

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

#### **Weapons cache found in Khartoum, Qaeda suspected**

*(KUNA; the local press – 14 Aug. Khrt.)* Explosives were found in a new weapons cache in Hatanah suburb north of Khartoum, said Sudanese Justice Minister Mohammad Ali Al-Mardi on Tuesday.

Al-Mardi said that the new discovery came during security raids on suspected areas, the same kind of operations which led to the discovery of explosives last Sunday. According to the Sudanese official, large amount of explosives materials, guns and light ammunitions were found during the operations.

Regarding information linking the discovery with Al-Qaeda in Sudan, Al-Mardi did not confirm it but said all options remain open.

[Return to top](#)

Earlier on the official announced that eight suspects, all of them Sudanese, were arrested on charges of arms possession in southern Khartoum.

The arrest was attributed to an accident which involved the failed attempt on the behalf of the suspects who tried to make a bomb but their efforts came-short, leading to an explosion which injured two.

### **Al-Bashir addresses Army Day festivities in northern town**

*(Sudan Radio via BBC Monitoring – 14 Aug. Khrt.)* The president of the republic and the commander-in-chief of the armed forces, FM Umar al-Bashir, has stressed the commitment and keenness of the government to end all forms of social marginalization and oppression in the country.

Addressing a huge rally in the town of Merowe, northern Sudan, to mark the 53rd anniversary of the Armed Forces Day, he said: We will make the Northern [State] the bread basket of Sudan and provide wheat to all its inhabitants and ensure food security.

He said the government would continue to carry out infrastructure and development projects in the country, such as roads and provide electricity from Merowe, Kajbar and Shirayq [hydroelectric power stations], in addition to building airports in the Northern State.

Al-Bashir praised the dam construction unit for the projects that had been commissioned.

His Excellency also hailed the armed forces whose long history, he said, had shown its loyalty to the homeland. He also referred to its struggles and sacrifices to achieve peace.

Al-Bashir stressed the government's commitment to build and develop the army so as to enable it defend the peace, the homeland and to repulse those seeking to harm Sudan's unity and dignity.

### **Flood-related cholera outbreak kills 49 in eastern Sudan**

*(Reuters – 14 Aug. Kassala)* A cholera outbreak in eastern Sudan, which has spread due to devastating floods across the region, has killed 49 people and affected some 710 others, a World Health Organisation (WHO) official said on Tuesday.

Last year a cholera outbreak throughout Sudan killed 700 people and affected 25,000. It was the first time in many years the water-borne disease had been reported in Africa's largest country.

WHO official Mohamed AbderRab said all the recent cases had been reported in the eastern Gedaref state and Kassala town, with the first reported on April 19.

"The situation in Gedaref is not yet under control ... Flooding is spreading the water-borne disease," Rab told Reuters before travelling to the east to verify conditions in the region hit by the worst flooding in living memory in Sudan. "Latrines are flooded ... houses are destroyed. People are living on the fringes. They don't have proper drinking water or latrine facilities and hygiene is compromised," he added.

[Return to top](#)

Doctor Sumaya Okud from Kassala's ministry of health said people did not have access to clean water.

### **Sudanese government says floods could endanger lives of one million people**

(*IRIN via BBC Monitoring* – 14 Aug. Nairobi) The torrential rains that have caused massive flooding in areas of Sudan could endanger the lives and livelihoods of one million people, the country's government warned.

In a statement published by the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs on 14 August, the government said a large portion of the country continued to face further flood threats from rains expected until the end of the wet season in September.

With heavy rainfall predicted over the Ethiopian and Eritrean plateaus, the water levels of the Blue Nile, Atbara and Sobat rivers were expected to remain high, endangering areas around the banks of the Nile and its tributaries.

### **70% of Kadugli residents suffer from malaria**

(*AlSudani*) 70% of the population in Kadugli suffer from malaria while mortality rates from malaria in North Darfur State have been recorded at 11% of the infected, reports the Federal Ministry of Health.

The MoH further notes that the number of those affected with the watery diarrhoea may reach 120,000 if the deplorable environmental conditions in the states is not arrested.

Speaking at a meeting of health ministers of the Sudanese states, the head of the directorate for international health at the Ministry of Health noted that there is a real problem on protecting the environment.

### **Sudan deadlock over Abyei stops thousands going home**

(*AlAyaam; Reuters*– 15 Aug. KHARTOUM; TORIT) GoSS Vice-President Riek Machar cited SAF redeployment from Unity State and Upper Nile and transparency in the oil revenues as the outstanding issues in the implementation of the CPA. He said that the SPLM also has some observations on the questionnaire drafted for the population census and the north-south borders.

He said that he and Vice-President Taha agreed in a meeting in Khartoum yesterday that the two sides form a committee to tour the Abyei region to determine its borders as of 1974. He hinted of the possibility of an interim authority for the region pending compromise reached between the parties vis-à-vis the ABC PoE report.

Deadlock between Sudan's former north-south foes over the oil-producing Abyei area is preventing thousands of people from going home after decades of civil war, a tribal chief said.

The borders of the disputed Abyei region were to be decided by an independent commission and the region would also decide by 2011 whether to be in the south or north. But the NCP rejected

[Return to top](#)

the commission's report and the Abyei deadlock has continued for two years. Analysts have identified the dispute as a potential threat to the deal which ended Africa's longest civil war.

Ngok Dinka tribal chief Kuol Deng said people were living in fear in parts of the region. ([Read more ...](#)).

### **SLM Main Stream Changes into Political Organization**

(SMC – 14 Aug. el-Geneina) Mainstream SLM headed by the Governor of West Darfur, Abu-el-Gasim Imam, revealed that the movement is undertaking arrangements to declare itself as a political organization.

SLM secretary general Al Fadil Mohammed Karama told (smc) that they have decided to change from a military into political organization working with grassroots across the region of Darfur.

### **Eastern Front criticises gold mining companies in the region**

(*AlSudani*) The Eastern Front has strongly criticised gold miners in the east and protests that the local people do not reap any benefits – be it employment opportunities or development projects - from these companies.

The Eastern Front warns against a repeat of what the oil companies are doing in southern Sudan and pointed out that it will do everything possible to see to it that the local population benefits in one way or other from these projects.

### **Juba University Students' Union blames administration for campus violence**

(*Khartoum Monitor*) Juba University Students' Union has blamed the university administration for the clash that occurred on Monday at the university's main Kadaro campus north of Khartoum.

The clashes left many injured and some students were arrested by the police.

A member of the executive committee of the student's body told the press yesterday that the clash was not among two rivalling student's groups as had been reported but between students who had staged a sit-in and the police brought in to guard those students who wanted to sit for the exams. He said that the student's body was preparing to institute legal charges against the police detail involved.

## **GoSS**

### **Land commission demands to decide fate of Juba lands**

(*The Citizen*) The GoSS and the state governments reached a key agreement on the status of Juba without involving the Land Commission as required under the CPA, officials protested Tuesday.

[Return to top](#)

Land Commission boss Robert Ladu described his commission as the pivot which advised all levels of government on land issues as spelt out under the CPA.

The commission's reaction comes only days after a key bilateral agreement resolved the problem of how the two competing authorities would co-exist in Southern Sudan's capital following months of bitter quarrels with state and the local people accusing the regional government of land grabbing.

### **MP hits at SPLA for not protecting Jonglei**

*(The Citizen)* A member of the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly lambasted the SPLA yesterday for failing to deploy SPLA forces to protect the lives of innocent civilians in Pibor County in Jonglei State.

This came a week after clashes between the Nuer and Murle tribes over cattle left 33 dead and dozens injured amidst peaceful disarmament that saw about 1,500 guns collected.

### **Lack of funds bogs down Southern Sudan president's education initiative**

*(The Citizen)* An initiative to push all Southern Sudan children into school has been hit hard by failed donor pledges, leading to a shortage of classrooms with a number of pupils studying under trees.

Under GoSS' President Salva Kiir's initiative launched 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006, all school-age children should go to school. Both the GoSS and the World Bank, through the Multi-Donor Trust Fund, were supposed to fund the initiative.

## **Darfur**

### **AU Peace, Security Council reviews Darfur peace process report**

*(SUNA via BBC Monitoring – 14 Aug. ADDIS ABABA)* The African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council reviewed in its meeting on Tuesday 14 August, in Addis Ababa a report by the AU envoy for Darfur, Dr Salem Ahmed Salem, the peace process in Darfur and the joint road map of the United Nations and the African Union for the realization of peace in the region.

Sudan's envoy to the African Union, ambassador Mohi-ed-Din Salem, said in a press statement after the meeting that Sudan appreciates the AU efforts for a solution to the Darfur issue.

He affirmed the importance of putting pressure on the non-signatory parties of the Darfur peace agreement to join the peace process and expressed hope that the meeting of the African Peace and Security Council would come out with a strong message directed to the non-signatory movements who advocate the war and violence option, to join the peace march.

Ambassador Salem said that Sudan affirmed at the meeting that the negotiations with the non-signatory movements will be based on the agreed upon issues and principles, at its top is the

[Return to top](#)

Darfur peace agreement, which was signed in Abuja, adding that this agreement is regarded as the basic framework for achieving peace in Darfur.

He stressed that the government regards the participation of all the political forces, the citizens in the displaced camps, women, tribal leaders and the civil society organizations as important in the process for reaching peace and boosting confidence.

Responding to a question by SUNA, the ambassador described the meeting of the Peace and Security Council as positive and constructive, stressing that peace in Darfur can only be achieved through political dialogue.

Meanwhile, the AU envoy for Darfur, Dr Salem Ahmed Salem, said in a press statement that the spirit of understanding has prevailed in the meeting, explaining that the Peace and Security Council discussed the return of the displaced people in Darfur to their home villages and other issues, including the bringing together of the non-signatory parties to the Darfur peace agreement.

Dr Salem Ahmed Salem praised the positive cooperation of the Sudanese government with the African Union's endeavors for the realization of peace in Darfur. He said that a positive outcome was reached through the recent meeting of the parties that did not sign Darfur peace agreement in Arusha, Tanzania.

He said that consultations would continue with the concerned parties and the Sudanese government to bring together the non-signatory movements to join the peace process.

He referred to a plan that guarantees the participation of the different parties, including the tribal and civil society leaders in the process for realizing peace in Darfur.

### **Africans pledge Darfur troops, but expertise still needed**

(Reuters – 14 Aug. Khartoum) African nations have confirmed pledges of 11,000-12,000 troops for Darfur's joint U.N.-African Union mission so far, state-owned Sudanese Media Centre quoted Sudan's ambassador to the United Nations as saying.

On Sunday, AU Commission Chairman Alpha Oumar Konare said Africans had pledged enough troops and there was no need for infantry from non-African countries, comments which angered Darfur rebels who say AU troops currently in Darfur have been unable to stem the violence.

A senior U.N. peacekeeping official earlier this month said mostly African nations had pledged infantry but key logistics and air support was lacking. Analysts say much of this support needs to come from Western nations, which have yet to give any firm pledges of military personnel.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon welcomed the African pledges, his spokeswoman Michele Montas said in New York.

"However, we still need specialized units, particularly in terms of technology, communications, transportation and these can be provided by other countries ... and they are not all of them African," Michele Montas, spokesperson for Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in New York. ([Read more ...](#)).

### **African Union envoy urges Darfur rebel group to join talks**

(*AFP; SudanTribune.com* – 14 Aug. ADDIS ABABA) The African Union on Tuesday renewed its call for the last Darfur rebel group refusing to negotiate to join the process ahead of crucial peace talks with Khartoum.

Salim Ahmed Salim praised the efforts of Darfur's myriad rebel factions to unify their stance earlier this month at a meeting in Arusha, Tanzania.

He was speaking to reporters after a meeting at the pan-African body's Addis Ababa headquarters, the AU's top envoy to Sudan.

"We encourage those who are still reluctant ... to do the same," Salim Ahmed Salim told reporters in Addis Ababa in a clear reference to the faction led by AbdulWahid Mohammed Nur.

After the meeting on Darfur in Addis Ababa Tuesday, Sudan's ambassador to the AU Mohieddin Salem also urged Nur to join the process.

Nur has on the other hand invited the African Union envoy for Darfur to join calls on Sudan government to stop violence and attacks against civilians.

AbdulWahid Nur said he is sad to the insensibility of the African Union Envoy for Darfur towards the ongoing violence on the ground. "Since Abuja all what he does is to address warnings and blames on the rebels. We urge him to call on Khartoum publicly to stop massacring Darfur people." Al-Nur said.

The SLM leader said the SLM would not accept to negotiate while Khartoum continues its attacks to achieve its military solution. "We do not want to repeat Abuja again." He said. ([Read more ...](#)).

### **Saudi Arabia urges support for government of Sudan on Darfur**

(*Sudan Radio via BBC Monitoring*) The Saudi cabinet yesterday held a meeting chaired by the Custodian Two Holy Mosques King Abdallah Bin-Abd-al-Aziz and affirmed the importance of supporting the efforts being made by the Sudanese Government of National Unity in ending the Darfur crisis in a bid to safeguard the country's unity and its complete sovereignty over its national resources.

This would also strengthen the country's bilateral relations with its neighbors.

## **Asian envoys on Darfur fact-finding visit**

*(Sudan TV via BBC Monitoring – 14 Aug. Khrt.)* A delegation of ambassadors from Asian states in Sudan has visited Northern Darfur state. The delegation held talks with the government of the state and the chairmen of the state legislature and security committee.

The minister of social affairs and acting governor, Isa Bahr-al-Din, briefed the envoys on the humanitarian and security situation in the state and appealed to the international community for more assistance in order to bring about a comprehensive peace in Darfur. The acting governor stressed the government's keenness to resolve the Darfur problem.

Meanwhile, the head and members of the delegation expressed their satisfaction at the stability of the situation in Darfur. They said the visit was aimed at finding out and assessing the real situation on the ground.

The delegation toured displacement camps and various locations and announced a donation to build a technical training centre in Al-Fashir.

## **Darfur UN-AU force deputy commander a war criminal?**

*(SudanTribune.com – 14 Aug. Kigali)* A Rwandan opposition group have accused the newly nominated deputy commander for the Darfur hybrid force of being a “War Criminal”.

The Rwandan United Democratic Forces (UDF) opposition group said in a statement sent to Sudan Tribune that Major General Karenzi Karake has been documented to be responsible for a number of killings between 1992 and 2000.

Last week, the UN and the AU endorsed the nomination Karake to be the Deputy Chief Commander of UN-AU force to be deployed in Darfur. ([Read more ...](#)).