

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS**Media Headlines, 29 August 2007

(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**

- UN's Ban visits Sudan next week to discuss Darfur peacekeeping
- UN expert urges Sudan to suspend Merowe, Kajabar dam projects
- Ashraf Gadhi UN SRSG in Khartoum
- Ki Moon condemns recent violence in Darfur
- UN launches urgent appeal for \$20 million for Sudan
- SC supports deployment of international troops in eastern Chad

➤ GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

- Former East Sudan rebel leader sworn in as Presidential Assistant
- NCP accuses SPLM of arresting its cadres in Juba
- Southern official dismisses possibility of demarcating borders this year

➤ GoSS

- Minister urges South Sudan officials to stop nepotism, fictive jobs
- Deng Alor : the biggest enemy of SPLM is the Southerners
- South wants sanctions on GoNU, if it violates CPA
- GoSS may raise the 2008 fiscal year budget

➤ Darfur

- SLM leader needed but Darfur talks to start without him - AU
- ICC Prosecutor says Sudan not cooperating on Darfur crimes Sudan must allow Darfur peacekeepers to operate - Egeland
- During my visit to Darfur I was never chased, Salim
- Sudan's state minister in USA for talks on Darfur

➤ Miscellaneous

- Sudan confiscates 15,000 copies of opposition communist paper

Highlights

UN/ Agencies

UN's Ban visits Sudan next week to discuss Darfur peacekeeping

(*SudanTribune.com* – 28 Aug. UNITED NATIONS) U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced Tuesday he will visit Sudan next week to test the government's commitment to allow the speedy deployment of a 26,000-strong peacekeeping force in conflict-wracked Darfur.

Ban told a news conference that he wanted to go to Sudan to see "the very difficult conditions" that the African Union-U.N. force will operate under and "to know, first hand, the plight of those they seek to help."

"But more, I want to create the foundations of a lasting peace and security," Ban said. "My goal is to lock in the progress we have made so far, to build on it so that this terrible trauma may one day cease."

Ban said he will also visit neighboring Chad, which has been affected by the spillover of the Darfur conflict, and Libya, which has played an important role in trying to get rebel groups in Darfur to join the government in new peace negotiations that will hopefully start in October.

Not long after he returns from Africa, Ban said he will host an international meeting on Darfur at U.N. headquarters on Sept. 21. It will follow up a ministerial meeting in Paris on June 25 that tried to push forward peace efforts in the ravaged Sudanese region and included the world's major industrial and political powers, China and South Africa.

Ban said he chose this time to make the week-long trip to Sudan because of the resolution adopted by the U.N. Security Council on July 31 authorizing the "hybrid" force to replace the beleaguered 7,000-strong A.U. force now in Darfur no later than Dec. 31. The resolution was adopted after months of delay in getting agreement from the Sudanese government.

He said he also planned to raise the government's recent expulsions of the country director of the aid organization CARE International and the top Canadian diplomat and European Union envoy.

In addition to seeking full support from al-Bashir for deployment of the A.U.-U.N. force, Ban said he will also be pushing the peace process, ensuring smooth delivery of humanitarian aid, and start talking about economic development in Darfur.

UN expert urges Sudan to suspend Merowe, Kajabar dam projects

(SudanTribune.com – 28 Aug. GENEVA) A United Nations human rights expert has called for a halt to work on two hydroelectric dams in northern Sudan after receiving reports that local communities are about to face large-scale evictions from the area to make way for the projects.

Miloon Kothari, the UN Special Rapporteur on adequate housing, issued a statement yesterday saying he had also received “numerous reports of violations of civil and political rights” – including the shooting of unarmed demonstrators, arbitrary arrests and repressive measures against the media – by the Sudanese Government as it responded to local protests about the projects.

Kothari said work on the dams in the Merowe and Kajabar areas of the northern Nile Valley should be suspended until an independent assessment can be carried out on the projects’ impact on the local population, estimated at more than 60,000.

He said he has received reports that the Merowe reservoir’s water levels have already risen, destroying dozens of homes in the area and putting many more at risk.

The Special Rapporteur noted that thousands of people in the same area were relocated in similar circumstances that left many temporarily without food or shelter, and that some of those people remain homeless today.

Given the local opposition, moving forward with the projects “would lead to large-scale forced evictions and further violence,” he said. He urged the Government to take all necessary steps to ensure the safety and adequate housing of locals.

He called on the Government to allow UN human rights monitors into the region to conduct an independent evaluation of the situation.

Ashraf Gadhi UN SRSG in Khartoum

(AlRai AlAam) The Governmnet has officialy approved the nomination of abassador Ashraf Gadhi as UN SRSG to Sudan replacing Jan Pronk who was expelled last October by the government.

Qouting what it termed as deplomatic sources in New York, AlRai Alaam daily reported that the goevrnment notified officialy the UN on its agreement to the nomination of Gadhi following keeness showed by Ki Moon to take the desision prior to his land visit to Sudan next Monday.

The sources said that Gadhi might accompany Ki Moon on his visit to Khartoum after he was prompted to rapidly deal with the situation in Khartoum which, according to the sources, witnesses intensive international activities due to the deteriorating conditions in Darfur state.

In another development, Sudan ambassador to UN Abdul Mahomoud Abdul Halim told the paper that he informed Ki Moon on the approval of the Government to the

nomination of Gadhi as SRSG to the Sudan, adding that this decision was preceded by intensive consultations by the government and the UN.

However, Gadhi who is a Pakistani national had been assuming the position of SRSG to Iraq.

Ki Moon condemns recent violence in Darfur

((*AlSahafa*) The UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon has called on the government and other armed factions in Darfur States to halt any further military operations dismissing recent violence in the region as “ un acceptable “.

He expressed his anxiety over the recent escalating violence in Darfur, which left hundreds of persons dead during the last week.

UN launches urgent appeal for \$20 million for Sudan

(*AlHayat*) The United Nations and INGOs have appealed to the international community to urgently provide the sum of \$ 20 million to assist millions of flood-ravaged Sudanese population.

OCHA Resident Coordinator said that the floods led to the death of tens of citizens and displaced more than 200,000 of the population.

He noted that more than 400,000 were negatively affected by the floods as well as an estimated three million people were threatened by epidemics.

SC supports deployment of international troops in eastern Chad

(*AlAyam*) U.N. Security Council expressed his support to the idea of deploying hybrid forces in the eastern Chad and the northeastern Central Africa to protect civilians affected by the on going civil war in Darfur States.

The European Union showed last July a green light to prepare for a new deployment to help protect civilians in Chad and the Central African Republic caught in the spillover of the conflict in Darfur.

This force aims at ensuring humanitarian, political and military movement to assist civilians living along the border with Darfur States

GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

Former East Sudan rebel leader sworn in as Presidential Assistant

(*SudanTribune.com* – 28 Aug. KHARTOUM) The leader of the former rebel East Front, Musa Mohamed Ahmed, was sworn in Tuesday noon before the President Omer Al-Bashir, as Assistant of the President of the Republic.

The leading figures of the East Front, Amna Dirar and Mubarak Mabrouk Saleem, also took oath as a Presidential Advisor and State Minister at the Ministry of Transport, Roads and Bridges, respectively, the Official SUNA reported.

At the oath-taking ceremony in the Republican Palace, the President of the Republic, Field Marshal Omer Al-Bashir, affirmed that he and the government of national unity are keen to boost implementation of East Sudan peace agreement and realization of stability and development in east Sudan.

In a press statement after taking oath, Musa Mohamed Ahmed assured their readiness to assume their patriotic role at the national and eastern Sudan levels by implementation of East Sudan Peace Agreement.

Amna Dirar also assured their pledge to serve the Sudanese nation and east Sudan people, take part in the government of national unity and to cooperate for removing all causes of poverty, disease and marginalization.

NCP accuses SPLM of arresting its carders in Juba

(AlSahafa) The Co-Ruling National Congress Party (NCP) has accused SPLM-affiliated armed group of kidnapping students' Secretary of the NCP's South Sector along with other cadres.

Statement by the NCP's South Sector said that such acts were considered as a violation to the spirit of CPA and a serious indication, which would threaten peace and stability in the region.

The statement noted that the kidnapping of the NCP's students was an expression to disrespect to the State's to the State's concerned authorities in accordance with the law.

It said that the incident contradicted the outcome of what had been agreed upon by the partners meeting as well as to the meetings of the partnership committee, co-chaired by Vice-President of the Republic Ali Osman and Vice- President of GOSS Dr. Reiak Machar.

Southern official dismisses possibility of demarcating borders this year

(AlIntibaha) A leading Southern official has ruled out the borders demarcation between the South and the North this year according to what had been agreed upon.

Minister of Cabinet Affairs at GOSS Luca Biong said that despite the promise to finalize the demarcation by the end of this year, financial issues constituted an obstacle for doing the job.

He added that there were six disputed areas along the borders of 1956 when Sudan obtained independence from the Condominium Rule.

“These areas include areas of oil fields, agricultural projects and disputed areas among many various groups”, Biong noted.

He mentioned that the government in the North had been attempting to hinder the application of CPA through abstaining from financing the joint committee.

Chinese delegation continues visit to southern Sudan

(State-owned Sudanese radio) The Chinese visiting delegation in Juba will today continue its visit to various government institutions and will hold meetings with government officials. It will also assess needs and identify fields in which China can assist in the framework of reconstruction, development and investment projects in southern Sudan.

The local Minister of Health met the delegation yesterday and discussed the health situation and the challenges faced by southern states in this field. At the same time, the delegation met the Deputy Minister of Education, science and technology in southern Sudan William Aker [as heard], who briefed the delegation on the situation of education in the south. Aker also illustrated priorities set by the Ministry of Education in the south, which will concentrate on the reconstruction of schools destroyed by the war, as well as training.

The delegation also met the minister of culture and youth in southern Sudan and discussed with him the role that China can play in the fields of sport and youth, ways to develop the economic and youth sectors in the south and spread the culture of peace.

The Chinese delegation pledged to offer support to the three ministries in the south in the near future.

NCP accuses SPLM of arresting its cadres in Juba

(AlIntibaha) The Co-Ruling National Congress Party (NCP) has accused SPLM-affiliated armed group of kidnapping students' Secretary of the NCP's South Sector along with other cadres.

Statement by the NCP's South Sector said that such acts were considered as a violation to the spirit of CPA and a serious indication, which would threaten peace and stability in the region.

The statement noted that the kidnapping of the NCP's students was an expression to disrespect to the State's to the State's concerned authorities in accordance with the law.

It said that the incident contradicted the outcome of what had been agreed upon by the partners meeting as well as to the meetings of the partnership committee, co-chaired by Vice-President of the Republic Ali Osman and Vice- President of GOSS Dr. Reiak Machar.

GoSS

Minister urges South Sudan officials to stop nepotism, fictive jobs

(SudanTribune.com – 28 Aug. JUBA) Southern Sudan minister of Finance has appealed southern Sudan government officials to stop nepotism recruitment in their ministries or to create fictive jobs to loot public funds.

Speaking at the opening session of states Consultative Planning and Budgeting workshop today in Juba, GoSS minister of Finance and Economic planning, Kuol Athian Mawein, said "There are many Southern Sudanese government officials and politicians' today practicing nepotism by bringing in their respective offices their relatives and friends in order to loots public funds and resources,."

He said corruption involves both the givers and the receivers of such bribe and hence it creates disunity, tribalism and prevention of development in southern Sudan. Therefore, he urged those who are either elected or appointed to hold government offices to better disassociate themselves from misuse of their official powers for their private benefit rather to recruit and treat all people of southern Sudan according to their qualifications and merit.

The GoSS finance minister said proper uses of resources would improve good governance and image of the government of southern Sudan. However, if the ministry of finance is weak, then the government also will be weakened and will not be able to control corruption across the government institutions.

He cautions the participants that if corruption, is not combated in southern Sudan, it will drives away investors and will eventually hinders economic development to the downtrodden people of southern Sudan.

Deng Alor: the biggest enemy of SPLM is the Southerners

(Alwan) A leading SPLM figure in cabinet of Minister Deng Alor has admitted that the hostile media campaign he is launching against the NCP is due to the delay of the implementation of the CPA.

Reporting from Geneva, Alwan daily said that Alor, who is currently visiting Geneva on an official visit, described the relations between the two ruling partners as "very poor" and thus would lead to undermining the CPA.

Meanwhile , Alor commended the efforts been excreted by President Al Bashir for developing South Sudan maintaining that absence of mechanism to implement the president decision impeded a lot of development projects.

Commenting o Abyei issue, Alor proposed creating of temporarily solution by setting up a joint administrative committee prior to finding out comprehensive settlement to the issue.

He acknowledged that the biggest enemy to the SPLA was the Southerners themselves, but he did not elaborate.

South wants sanctions on GoNU, if it violates Comprehensive Peace Agreement

(The Citizen) The Government of Southern Sudan announce Tuesday that the regional government was open to all options, including requesting international sanctions against the Government of National Unity, if it continues to fail to implement the CPA.

GoSS may raise the 2008 fiscal year budget

(The Citizen) The Government of Southern Sudan budget officials say they expect to have more money to spend on the people in 2008.

The 2008 Fiscal year budget could rise from \$ 1.4b last year to \$ 1.5b to the increase in oil prices at international market. A barrel of oil has hovered around \$40 in the past two months, officials said. The high production of Melut quality oil has also boosted the increase of budget.

The undersecretary of the ministry of finance & Economic planning, Aggrey Tisa, told a consultative meeting on the budget Tuesday, that a considerable drop in oil prices occurred in April and May. But the price has risen significantly in the past two months, and the government has earned \$100m per month from the oil.

Darfur

SLM leader needed but Darfur talks to start without him - AU

(SudanTribune.com – 28 Aug. KHARTOUM) Darfur's peace process needs rebel leader Abdel Wahid Mohamed al-Nur's support, but his failure to participate will not halt talks to end the conflict in western Sudan, African Union envoy Salim Ahmed Salim said.

Nur has refused to join the ranks of Darfur rebel commanders and groups who agreed a joint position earlier this month in Tanzania, saying he wants international troops to disarm militias to secure the region before talks with the government.

"He is certainly needed in the peace process, but the peace process takes its own momentum and I would hope that Mr. Abdel Wahid becomes a part of that momentum," Salim told reporters on Tuesday after a week-long visit to Sudan.

"I can't see this peace process being stopped because the people of Darfur want peace. They are really tired to go through the agonies of what they are going through now," he added.

Asked by Sudan Tribune to react to Salim's statements, the rebel leader said Salim had the opportunity yesterday to verify that what we demand is in fact the demand of Darfur people. He further called on the AU envoy to work for Khartoum respect of the ceasefire even before the deployment of the hybrid forces.

Nur said "When we request security for civilians our intention is not to obstruct the political process but we can't start talking while Khartoum militias killing our people on the ground." Adding "Khartoum lack of credibility should incite Salim to work with us because what is happening to his Abuja agreement is a perfect reason for common prudence and caution."

Salim said any final agreement reached in renewed peace talks needed to address Darfuris' demands that the militia be disarmed.

The DPA gave just \$30 million compensation to the Darfuris. Khartoum has since agreed to pay \$100 million, but the victims say it's not enough and demand individual compensation.

ICC Prosecutor says Sudan not cooperating on Darfur crimes

(*SudanTribune.com* – 28 Aug. UNITED NATIONS) The Sudanese Government has not moved to arrest two suspects wanted to stand trial for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Sudan's war-wracked Darfur region, the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) said today, calling on Khartoum to cooperate immediately with the court.

In an interview with the UN News Centre, Luis Moreno-Ocampo said that it is "totally unacceptable" that one of the two suspects, Ahmed Mohamed Haroun, is currently Sudan's Minister of State for Humanitarian Affairs.

Unless the Government takes steps to arrest Haroun and the other suspect, Janjaweed militia leader Ali Mohamed Ali Abdel Rahman (also known as Ali Kushayb), Moreno-Ocampo said he would inform the Security Council in his next progress report.

He said there had been no progress from Khartoum since it was informed of the arrests and its responsibilities.

Moreno-Ocampo said his staff was trying to monitor the movements of the two suspects to determine their whereabouts, particularly now that an Interpol red notice – which allows the warrant to be circulated around the world with the request that the wanted person is arrested with a view to extradition – has been issued for Haroun.

Haroun and Kushayb are accused of targeting civilians in attacks on four villages in West Darfur between August 2003 and March 2004, according to their warrants, which outlines multiple counts of personal responsibility for murder, rape and pillaging for each man.

Sudan must allow Darfur peacekeepers to operate - Egeland

(*SudanTribune.com* – 27 Aug. SINGAPORE) The former United Nations official who oversaw a massive relief operation in Sudan's Darfur region called Tuesday for Khartoum to allow international peacekeepers to operate effectively there.

Jan Egeland was commenting as the UN-African Union peacekeeping force — the world's biggest ever at 26,000 troops — prepares to begin deployment to Darfur in October.

"There are two things that will make it really effective. One is that we get enough high quality forces from the member states and the second is that the government of Sudan lets it in, and lets it operate," Egeland told AFP.

Egeland — who was speaking after addressing the top governing body of the Christian aid organization World Vision — said he was optimistic about the force, which will not be deployed in full before the middle of next year.

Egeland said he negotiated in 2003 the first agreement on access for humanitarian organizations to Darfur.

Egeland is now director general of the government-linked Norwegian Foreign Policy Institute after ending his term as head of UN humanitarian affairs last year.

In March, Egeland was named special adviser on conflict prevention to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.

During my visit to Darfur I was never chased, Salim

(Sudan Vision) The AU Special Envoy for Darfur peace, Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim in a press conference held in AMIS headquarter in Khartoum yesterday denied press reports published in Khartoum that his visiting entourage to Zalingei IDP Camp was chased by residents of the camp. "The report is not true because we were never chased" "The IDPs never ran after our cars."

In the meantime Salim briefed President Al Bashir on his recent visit to Darfur States. Following his meeting with al basher, Salim told reports that Al Bashir was keen on the vitality of attaining security stability that would pave the way for the repatriation of the IDPs to their areas.

He said the meeting emphasized the necessity providing conducive atmosphere for negotiations pointing out to the importance of the participation of the various factions in the talks, which will be convened next October.

Salim described the security situation in Darfur State as "deteriorating" indicating the wide spread of weapons and the escalating of the tribal conflicts in the region.

Sudan's State Minister in USA for talks on Darfur

(Sudan Tribune) Sudan's state minister for foreign affairs, Muhammad Al-Samani al-Wasilah arrived in Washington for talks with US officials that are likely to be dominated by the issue of Darfur.

Sudanese press reports said Al-Wasilla received an invitation from the US Administration, which raised hopes that strained relations between the two countries could be normalized. However, Tom Casey, Deputy Spokesman for the US State Department said that Khartoum "requested that he [Al-Wasilla] be allowed to travel here to meet with US officials".

Al-Wasilla was due to meet the US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Jendayi Frazer. It is not clear if he had other senior US officials on his agenda. A State Department official speaking to Sudan Tribune on condition of anonymity said that talks in Khartoum about normalizing ties and upgrading diplomatic representation were "over-stretched". US President George W. Bush ordered new economic sanctions against Sudan late May to pressure Khartoum to halt the bloodshed in Darfur.

The US closed its embassy in Khartoum in 1996 and has imposed numerous sanctions on Sudan since 1989. The US embassy resumed its activities in 2000 with a charge d'affaires in place ever since.

Miscellaneous

Sudan confiscates 15,000 copies of opposition communist paper

(*SudanTribune.com* – 28 Aug. KHARTOUM) Sudanese authorities confiscated 15,000 copies of an opposition newspaper with ties to Sudan's communist party, the weekly's editor said on Tuesday.

Tigani al-Tayeb, editor of the al-Midan paper, said national security officials had confiscated all copies of the paper ahead of distribution on Tuesday morning and did not give a reason.

"We still don't know why they took it. ... There was a headline new arrest in Kajabar' but we don't know if that was the reason or if there was some other reason," he said.

Sudan's national security was not immediately available for comment. Sudan has banned all reporting on Kajabar.

In June police fired live rounds of tear gas on Sudanese protesting against plans to build a new dam in Kajabar in northern Sudan, killing four people and injuring others.

Security held 10 journalists and lawyers, some for almost two months without charge, after they reported on or tried to visit Kajabar. All but one has been released.

"This is due to direct censorship," said Faysal el-Bagir, legal adviser to the paper, adding that it was the first time the paper, running since April, had been censored.

"The government is against all opposition," Tayeb said, adding the newspaper is linked to Sudan's communist party, which has been operating openly in Sudan for the last two years.

Other political leaders said this month they were concerned authorities were targeting opposition parties ahead of elections due by the end of 2009.

"If we are going to be a democracy then laws like freedom of the press and freedom of expression need to be enforced," Tayeb said.