

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS****Media Monitoring Report, 05 December 07**

(By Public Information Office)

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Highlights

UN/ Agencies

UN envoy heads to Sudan for talks on Darfur (ST)

December 4, 2007 (KHARTOUM) — The United Nations Special Envoy for Darfur heads to Sudan tomorrow for talks with all sides to the four-year conflict as the UN and the African Union continue their joint mediation efforts to expedite preparations for direct negotiations between the Sudanese Government and rebel movements.

Jan Eliasson is due to arrive in Khartoum to start a seven-day visit of consultations in the capital, as well as in Darfur itself and in the southern Sudanese town of Juba, where some of the rebel movements are based.

The consultations represent the latest step in the efforts of the UN and AU to broker a peace accord to quell the violence and humanitarian suffering in Darfur, where more than 200,000 people have been killed and at least 2.2 million others displaced since rebels began fighting Government forces and allied militia known as the Janjaweed in 2003.

Today, Eliasson and AU envoy Salim Ahmed Salim have been in the Egyptian town of Sharm el-Sheikh for talks with representatives of Chad, Egypt, Eritrea and Libya, the regional partners to the peace process.

The two envoys briefed the four countries on the latest developments in the three-part peace process, which began in late October with formal talks in Sirte, Libya, and then moved into a second phase last month with consultations and meetings with some of Darfur's various and often splintered movements.

The third phase aims to bring the movements together with the Government for full talks on the key issues, including power-sharing, wealth-sharing, the humanitarian situation and security conditions.

While in Sharm el-Sheikh, Eliasson told UN Radio that he "cannot hide that we are in a difficult situation," adding that "we are seeing certain negative developments in the level of violence both inside Darfur, but above all in [neighbouring eastern] Chad."

Eliasson also stressed that the Government and the movements must do all in their power to facilitate a political process leading to a resolution of the deadly conflict.

(UN News)

UN envoy says bringing peace to Darfur a difficult task (ST)

December 4, 2007 (SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt) — The UN envoy for Darfur said Tuesday a hard task lies ahead in bringing peace to the western Sudanese region, as a proliferation of armed groups jeopardises relief efforts for the two million displaced.

"It is a very difficult task," Jan Eliasson said. "The military escalation on the ground, in Darfur, and outside Darfur, and outside Sudan continues. We have clashes, we have a very very fragile humanitarian situation."

Eliasson was speaking after he and the envoy from the African Union, Salim Ahmed Salim, met in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh with regional officials for talks aimed at ending the nearly five-year-old conflict in Darfur.

The talks, which included the foreign ministers of Egypt, Chad, Eritrea and Libya, are a new attempt at ending the bloodshed in Darfur, where at least 200,000 people have been killed and two million displaced, according to UN figures. Khartoum says only 9,000 people died.

"It is a very difficult task," Eliasson said. "For the peacekeepers to do a good job they have to have a peace to keep."

He added that he was "very fearful of the explosive situation inside the camps. We have to end this misery."

For his part, Salim said "we are hoping that those who are not involved in the current process of negotiations will come and join the negotiations.

"We want to be as patient as possible, but this cannot be an endless exercise. The more time we spend the more difficult the situation in the field.

(AFP)

Ashraf Qazi to Addis Ababa (Akhbar AIYom, AISudani)

(Akhbar AIYom, AISudani) SRSG Ashraf Qazi will leave tomorrow to Addis Ababa to represent the UN in the [IGAD] ministerial meeting on Sudan which will be held on the 5th of December. The US Secretary of State Rice has invited participants to this meeting to discuss with the two CPA partners the implementation of the peace deal and reactivation of the role of the regional partners. SRSG will be accompanied by his Deputy Taye Zerihoun.

We gave UN more than requested, says foreign minister (The Citizen)

The Spokesperson of the Sudan Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday said has given the UN more than asked for and sanctions were not necessary.

Ali al Sadiq was refuting a statement attributed Zalmay Khalibad, US Ambassador to the UN when said "if the Sudanese government fails to meet its obligations (the Security Council) should be willing to respond by increasing pressure and consider imposing sanctions".

Al Sadiq also refuted the statement of the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon in an address to the International Criminal Court's annual two-week meeting.

Another foreign ministry official said that the hybrid forces due to be deployed under Security Council resolution 1769 have got very clear mandate, which is peacekeeping, help to improve security and political conditions in the region. No more mandate is given for them. Therefore there is no other additional job these forces would do rather than what was stipulated on the agreement between Sudan, AU and UN in Addis Ababa.

ICC prosecutor to open two new Darfur cases - UN (ST)

December 4, 2007 (UNITED NATIONS) — The chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court plans to open two new cases in Sudan over attacks on humanitarian workers and peacekeepers in Darfur, a U.N. spokeswoman said Tuesday.

The ICC, which aims to try crimes that national governments cannot or will not, had previously issued only seven arrest warrants: four in Uganda, one in Democratic Republic of Congo and two in Sudan over events in Darfur.

U.N. spokeswoman Michele Montas said Moreno-Ocampo would open two new cases as part of a probe into atrocities in Darfur started at the request of the U.N. Security Council.

"The prosecutor did not identify new potential suspects but said the new cases will relate to attacks on humanitarian workers and peacekeepers, such as the Haskanita incident," Montas told a news conference at U.N. headquarters.

She was referring to an attack that killed 10 African Union peacekeepers in the eastern Darfur town of Haskanita in late September. A preliminary U.N. report

indicated the attack was carried out by rebels using vehicles marked with the letters JEM, standing for the Justice and Equality Movement.

Moreno-Ocampo is due to brief the U.N. Security Council on his investigation in Darfur Wednesday.

(Reuters)

UN Security Council should urge cooperation with ICC - HRW (ST)

December 4, 2007 (NEW YORK) — The United Nations Security Council should follow up on the International Criminal Court (ICC) prosecutor's report tomorrow and call on Sudan to surrender two suspects to the court, Human Rights Watch said today.

“The Security Council made a commitment to justice for the victims of Darfur when it referred the situation there to the International Criminal Court prosecutor,” said Richard Dicker, International Justice Program director at Human Rights Watch. “With two arrest warrants, the rubber has hit the road and the council must now insist on arrests. Failing to do so would betray the people of Darfur and make a mockery of the council's own actions.”

UN halts refugee repatriation after tribal clashes in South Sudan (ST), Clashes between Murle and Dinka hinder return of refugees (AlSahafa)

December 4, 2007 (KHARTOUM) — Following deadly tribal fighting provoked by cattle theft, the UN has been forced to stop repatriating Sudanese refugees from Kenya to a southern state despite the end of civil war, the U.N. said Tuesday.

UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) spokesperson Andrej Mahecic told reporters today in Geneva that cattle theft in Jonglei state, located in south-eastern Sudan, has led to clashes between Murle and Dinka tribesmen and degenerated into revenge attacks over the past fortnight that have left 34 dead and scores wounded.

UNHCR officials fear the revenge attacks could spread into areas of Jonglei, particularly Pibor, Boma and Porchalla, that are major return areas for refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) since the comprehensive peace accord in 2005 ended Sudan's long-running civil war between north and south.

“A UN security assessment mission is due to take place in Jonglei tomorrow to determine the level of the security threat,” Mr. Mahecic said.

Tribal clashes are frequent in southern Sudan but rarely reach such deadly intensity in the semi-autonomous part of Africa's largest country.

(ST)

GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

Six-Member Mechanism to Breakdown Presidential Resolutions on Disputed Issues (Sudan Vision)

Dr. Salahaddin, By: Al Sammani Awadallah, Presidential Advisor, Chief of NCP MPs Bloc, Dr. Ghazi Salahaddin, stated that President Al-Bashir and his Deputy Salva Kiir in their Presidential meeting,

have agreed on broad resolutions with respect to issues disputed between NCP and SPLM while the Six-Member Mechanism will embark on breaking down those broad resolutions.

In press statements, the Presidential Advisor noted that disputed issues need detailed description to avoid agreement on vague issues that might lead to divergence on implementation.

He added that the task of the said mechanism is to diagnose and sketch those disputed issues crystal clear.

Commenting on the probability that SPLM MPs might absent themselves from the Parliament session, of yesterday, Salahaddin noted that they have not yet received any notification from SPLM to that effect as they usually do.

NCP officially apologizes for not attending Rice meeting in Addis today (AIRai AIAam)

The NCP has yesterday apologized officially that it will not participate in today's meeting which will be chaired by the US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice within the context of efforts for finding a solution for the two CPA partners' crisis. The SPLM will attend this meeting. The NCP has asked the Sudan Embassy in Addis Ababa to apologize to concerned parties that the leaders of Sudan cannot attend the meeting because they are busy with other national issues.

Yay Joseph accuses NCP of using Brig. Zawagin in Murle-Dinka Bor conflict (Akhbar AIYom)

SPLM representatives in Khartoum accused the NCP of attempts to spread the tensions in Abyei area to Jongolei State. The SPLM Political Officer in Britain, Yay Joseph, said the NCP has armed the Murle militias to destabilize the situation in Jongolei State. Yay said that Brig. Zawagin is in a fact an officer in the Sudanese army.

Parliament Passes SAF Act for 2007 (Sudan Vision)

By: Staff Writer, Interim National Legislative Assembly in its session of yesterday, passed Sudan Armed Force Act for 2007 after making all the necessary amendments. Parliament Security, National Defense and Legislation and Justice Committees proposed new amendments when Defense Minister dismissed the dropping of lashing and retribution penalties in the military courts as has been incorporated in the Bill.

The two Parliamentary Committees proposed the amendment of Articles (51) by adding Item (4) that reads "Military courts are not to impose the Islamic Law penalties (Hudud) except upon necessity in remote areas and military operation stages and only when the parties to the prosecution are equally subject to that Law". Article

(61) reads that the Military Attorney is to transfer any criminal case against SAF personnel to the specialized criminal courts whenever those crimes relate to "Hudud" or retribution.

Hailing deliberations on the Act proposal till it has been ratified, Defense Minister, Abdalrahim Mohammed Hussein, remarked that soldiers had better be penalized within the Military Establishment respecting Hudud crimes.

Interior Minister: SPLM must apologize for spreading terror (Khartoum Monitor)

The Minister of Interior, al Zubeir Bashir Taha, has called on the SPLM to apologize for the operation that targeted SPLM offices during the campaign of illegal arms inspection. While speaking to journalists yesterday, al Zubeir stated that the authorities inspected SPLM offices because of crimes that have been documented at police stations, indicating that one of these crimes related to the murder of a student from al Neelain University. He added that criminal evidence from the central investigations laboratory showed arms found at SPLM offices have connection with boxes of finger print. He stated that all evidences showed that weapons existed in these offices.

Sudan Addresses International Bodies On Children Abduction Case (Sudan Vision)

By: SUNA, Sudan has asked the UN Human Rights Commission, the European Troika, Arab, Muslim and African ambassadors and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) to work for reaching a resolution for the international humanitarian problem concerning children abduction case and to expose the culprits.

Sudan's request has received wide response, said Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid Hasabo Mohamed Abdul-Rahman, in briefing forum held Sunday at Martyr Al-Zubair Conference Hall.

Abdul-Rahman affirmed continuation of trial of nine accused of abduction of 103 children and working to have information about the 74 missing children. In an official letter, the French Foreign Ministry described the act as illegal move, he said. Encouraged by Save Darfur campaign, the French organization was planning to sell the children at a price ranging between 2,500 to 8,000 euros for the one kid, adding that around 10,000 children were targeted, he said. Humanitarian aid organization director, Hassan Al Majamer, has called for international investigation in the case. The Darfur Organizations Network Chairman, Hassan Bargu, said the Network is embarking on suing the French organization and rejecting any compromise in the case, he said.

Council of Ministers approves budget of the year 2008 (SMC)

The Council of Ministers, chaired by President of the Republic Field Marshal Omer Al-Bashir, approved the budget of the year 2008 with total revenues of 21 billion pounds and total expenditure of 26 billion pounds. Minister of Finance and National Economy Al-Zubair Ahmed Hassan said in a press conference after the approval of the general features and the objectives of the budget prior to submitting it to the

parliament for approval that the budget targets realization of a growth rate of 8%, average rate of inflation of 8%, stability of the exchange rate of dollar at 2 pounds and realization of trade surplus of more than 300 million dollars. He added that the new budget is based on completion of the previous achievements, implementation of projects that boost peace and provision of the basic infrastructures for the services and the productive sectors. He pointed that the deficit would be covered from local and external financial sources. The minister affirmed that the budget would continue financing of the existing development projects including Marawi Dam, national roads, electricity, Western Salvation, new Khartoum Airport, agriculture and animal resources, rehabilitation of existing projects, provision of production inputs, combating poverty, housing, health insurance, students support and other projects. The budget bill, whose discussion was attended by representative of the government of southern Sudan Dr. Luka Biong and Wali of Blue Nile State Malik Aggar, is based on eight axes including peace and national unity and democratic transformation, preservation of the achievements of the macro economy, infrastructure projects, financial reform, completion of the salary structure, combating poverty, food security and boosting federal rule institutions.

President Bashir Hails Mauritania for Participation in Hybrid Troops (Sudan Vision)

By: SUNA, President Omer Al-Bashir has expressed appreciation to the stances of Mauritania and its support to Sudan at the bilateral, and regional and international levels. In a joint press conference with Mauritanian President Sidy Mohamed Wald Al-Sheikh Abdullah at the Republican Palace Monday,

President Al-Bashir lauded the excellent political relations between Sudan and Mauritania and their cooperation in the regional and international forums. President Al-Bashir described the Sudanese-Mauritanian relations as deeply rooted and historic, saying that the visit of President Sidy Mohamed Wald Al-Sheikh Abdullah gives a great boost to the bilateral relations and joint cooperation in all fields. President of Mauritania Sidy Mohamed Wald Al-Sheikh Abdullah has affirmed his country's keenness to boost its relations of cooperation with Sudan in all fields. In a joint press conference with President of the Republic Field Marshal Omer Al-Bashir at the Republican Palace Monday, the Mauritanian President referred to the deep-rooted and historic relations linking his country with Sudan. President Sidy Mohamed Wald Al-Sheikh Abdullah expressed appreciation to the Sudanese leadership and people and its role in boosting the bilateral relations between the two countries and its contribution in the fields of development and services top of this the work being done by SUDATEL Company for development of telecommunications in Mauritania. The Mauritanian President expressed welcome of his country to the Sudanese businessmen to implement development projects in Mauritania.

GoSS

Sacked SPLM ministers say Salva Kiir not qualified to dismiss them (ST)

December 4, 2007 (KHARTOUM) — Two former ministers of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) contested their removal from the party saying such decision can only be issued by the political bureau but not the SPLM leader.

SPLM chairman Salva Kiir on Monday issued a decision to relieve Telar Deng and Aleu Ayieny from the membership of the SPLM's political bureau and the national assembly as well as the SPLM's membership in general as of 1 December. Salva Kiir pointed out that the resolution aimed at protecting and maintaining the solidarity of the SPLM as an entity.

Telar Ring Deng and Aleu Ayieny Aleu told the press they had not yet been notified the decision of their removal from the SPLM. The two sacked ministers said the SPLM chairman can't take such decision but he had to convene the Political bureau, sole authority invested to issue such decision.

Meanwhile, the sacked former state minister of interior, Aleu Ayieny, launched a fierce attack against the SPLM saying the movement has been transformed from "A national movement into an opportunist movement." He told Al-Ray al-Amm that the SPLM had been buried with the late Dr John Garang and that it had no leadership in the South.

Ayieny further ridiculed the resolution saying that the SPLM's leadership could not dismiss him and that he was in fact capable of dismissing the leadership. "I am one of the SPLM's first fighters and I have the right to dismiss not the other way around" he added.

Ayieny attributed his dismissal to his demands for democracy in the SPLM. "This is the mistake we made because whoever says the truth in the SPLM is exposing themselves to greater danger," he said.

Telar accused some circles of issuing the decision of removal. However he said "if it is true that it emanated from Kiir you will what we will do." He further said they have the right to file an appeal against this decision before the political bureau.

The First Vice-President, the President of the Government of Southern Sudan and Chairman of the SPLM, Salva Kiir Mayardit, on Monday, has issued a decision to revoke the membership of two of Telar Ring Deng the nominee for state minister of Justice, and Aleu Ayieny Aleu, the former state minister of interior and the nominee for state minister of Agriculture.

The two men refused to appear before the investigation committee.

The SPLM's decision was taken on the grounds of the report by the investigation committee that was formed last week to investigate Telar Deng's statements in which he accused some SPLM members of plotting to topple Salva Kiir and Aleu Ayieny's repeated statements in which he accused the Ugandan government of being complicit in the death of the SPLM's former leader, John Garang.

(ST)

On developments within the SPLM (Alwan, Rai AlShaab, AlIntibaha)

(AlIntibaha, Rai AlShaab, Alwan), It seems that the problems within the SPLM which came to the surface three months ago are becoming deeper and deeper. Few

days ago the SPLM chairman and GoSS president Salva Kiir set up committees for investigations with some SPLM executive and political leaders. As a result, some of the leaders have been denied SPLM membership and fired from their executive positions, while others are expecting similar measures.

Meanwhile, the SPLM main military ally, Paulino Matep, has shown signs of dissatisfaction and preferred to isolate himself. In fact, he has already arrived in Mayom town in Eastern Nuer in protest against lack of implementation of the Juba Declaration by SPLM on the basis of which he and his forces have joined the SPLM/A. Paulino made four conditions for his return [to Juba and SPLM/A]. One of the main conditions he made is the firing of the present Governor of Unity State (Taban Deng) and the Governor of Jounquley State. He demanded replacing Taban Deng by Joseph Mantuel. Paulino has asked also for restructuring the SPLA and payment of the salaries of his troops.

Investigations with the Head of the SPLM Parliamentary group in the National Assembly, Manawa Aligo, and the Minister of State at the Federal Ministry of Finance have resulted in issuing warnings to them and threatening them with dismissal from SPLM and official positions.

The SPLM leaders, Telar Deng and Alio Ajang, have been fired from their official positions and denied memberships in the SPLM institutions. According to sources, similar measures against Dr. Lam Akol have been adjourned due to his tribal constituency.

Reports suggest that the SPLM Secretary General, Pagan Amum, might be forced to resign from his position in the Movement. The measures taken against Telar Deng and Alio Ajang, who are believed to be close to Kiir, are interpreted by some as no more than a message to Pagan Amum who they believe is in fact the main enemy of Salva Kiir. According to some sources, Salva Kiir has taken these measures in order to pave the ground and make it easier for him to fire Amum. Amum is accused of embezzling US\$ 48 million from the sum of US\$ 60 million which al Bashir had referred to at the CPA anniversary in Juba early this year.

Telar Says Dismissal Premeditated, Illegal (Sudan Vision)

By: Mona Al Bashir

Minister in the Presidency of the Republic and SPLM former member, Telar Deng, said the decision of his dismissal came as no surprise because it has been planned for since he put himself up as candidate for the post of SPLM general secretary and his announcement that he would wage the next elections, affirming that the dismissal violates SPLM regulations because it came before he and Aleu had been investigated.

"SPLM regulations provide members with full right to express their opinion. I have not overstepped the regulations when I stated that the General Secretary pays no respect to the SPLM Chairman; neither have I breached the regulations when I wrote on the causes of Garang's death," Telar said.

In exclusive statements he made to Sudan Vision from Juba, Telar said the law of the

SPLM allows the defendant 14 days before the investigation to put his case together, adding that they were allowed only 24 hours, and the investigation still had not taken place. He reiterated that he has rejected the head of the investigation committee, Dr. Ann Ito, because she is one of the deputies of Amum with whom he is in conflict. He revealed that the investigation was carried out in his and Aleu's absence, describing the results that the investigation committee came out with as a "mock performance intended to realize other purposes". He further referred to their right to object to the members of the investigation committee.

Telar absolved Kiir from having any hand in the above and affirmed that he will stand by him in the coming elections "even if he had made a mistake".

Southern Sudan vice-president assures Ugandan rebel delegates of security

Text of report by Henry Mukasa entitled "Machar assures LRA delegates of security" published by Ugandan newspaper The New Vision website on 4 December

Delegates to the LRA [Lord's Resistance Army] consultative conference at Ri-Kwangba should not fear for their security, the Government of South Sudan, has said. The south Sudan vice-president, Dr Riek Machar, in a telephone interview yesterday, allayed any fear, saying: "We have done it before, we cannot fail to do it now."

Machar, who is also the chief mediator, said the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) had provided security for 60 delegates who met Kony for a confidence-building meeting at the start of the peace talks last year.

"That time we provided security. We won't fail to do that now. Assure them." Machar's assurance comes after LRA peace team leader Martin Ojul said the security of the delegates would be guaranteed by the SPLA.

"LRA's security is also being provided for by the SPLA," Ojul explained in an exclusive interview at Hotel Africana in Kampala.

Anxiety has gripped the north after news trickled in that LRA leader Joseph Kony had executed his deputy, Vincent Otti. While Ojul and his team said Otti was quiet because he was ill with cholera, Kony called Gulu chairman Norbert Mao and claimed that his deputy was under house arrest for working with his enemies.

Mao said he would be reluctant to travel to Ri-Kwangba for the conference while Otti's fate was still shrouded in mystery. Over the weekend, Dokolo Woman MP Cecilia Ogwal warned that the LRA peace team, on their arrival in Garamba, could be met by Kony's unpredictability and brutality.

Machar said Kony had told him Otti was alive but under arrest. "That's what everybody should take." Ojul also disregarded assertions by rebel defectors that Kony executed Otti on 2 November.

Ojul described the peace talks as a marathon that had to be completed. "When you are running a marathon, people come with different perspectives. Nobody has confirmed whether (Otti's death) is true.

For that matter, I don't think that when we go to Ri-Kwangba we shall be the next victims as people allege.

" Source: The New Vision website, Kampala, in English 4 Dec 07

BBC Mon AF1 AFEau 041207/vk/job

Southern Sudan government to provide drugs to HIV/AIDS patients

Text of report in English by independent, Nairobi-based, USAID-funded Sudan Radio Service on 4 December

Western Equatoria state and the Government of Southern Sudan want to start providing drugs and other services to people living with HIV and AIDS soon.

Speaking during the commemoration of World AIDS Day in Yambio on Saturday [1 December], state Health Minister Paulino Zizi said that they are currently looking for funds to implement their HIV and AIDS programmes.

Mr Zizi said that a few people in the state already get their AIDS medicine from Uganda, but most people living with the virus cannot access the drugs.

However, he said from April next year, the state government will start providing Anti-Retroviral Drugs to all those with HIV and AIDS. Anti-Retroviral drugs do not cure AIDS but stops the virus that causes the disease from multiplying. He added that sufferers will also be able to check their CD4 count, which indicates how much of the virus is living in a patient.

At the same function, the Director of the State AIDS Commission, Pia Jane Bangbe, said that the rate of HIV infection is increasing at an alarming rate. She said the state has the highest rate of infection in southern Sudan.

Miss Pia also said that most people testing positive for HIV are women between the ages of 15 and 20 years.

She urged women to take the lead in fighting AIDS in Western Equatoria state.

*Source: Sudan Radio Service, Nairobi, in English 0330 gmt 4 Dec 07
BBC Mon ME1 MEEau 041207/hh*

Southern Sudan leader urges Darfur rebels to attend next round of peace talks

Text of report in English by independent, Nairobi-based, USAID-funded Sudan Radio Service on 4 December

The president of southern Sudan is urging the newly united Darfur anti-government groups to attend the next round of peace talks, regardless of the venue.

Addressing a gathering of Darfur anti-government group leaders in Juba last Thursday [29 November], Salva Kiir said whether talks are held again in Libya or in another country, all Darfur anti-government groups should participate.

He also said that the parties to the Darfur conflict should declare a cease-fire during the holy month of Id al-Adha.

He commended the anti-government groups for uniting ahead of renewed peace negotiations with the National Congress Party, saying that only their unity will allow them to solve the Darfur conflict.

The meeting was also attended by Government of South Sudan Vice President Dr Riek Machar, UN and AU officials, and representatives of foreign diplomatic missions.

In a related development, the chairperson of the Legislative Council for the Justice and Equality Movement Azraq faction, Mr Ali Adam Al-Nayir, said that the Sudan Liberation Movement [SLM] and his faction are close to uniting. He said that only two outstanding issues remain.

[Ali Al-Nayir]: "We have signed a 'unity for justice and liberation' draft between our movement and the SLM. There are only two hanging issues we are still discussing.

The two issues are to agree on the new name for the coalition and we can't cancel our leadership positions and names unless we reach common goals and principles and with one organization, so that we fully integrate."

For his part, the SLM spokesman and its newly united factions, Issam al-Haj, said that the Juba meeting was able to unite 15 factions into only two. He named the two new factions as the SLM and the United Front for Resistance.

Source: Sudan Radio Service, Nairobi, in English 0330 gmt 4 Dec 07
BBC Mon ME1 MEEau 041207/hh

Southern Sudan state concerned about nomads carrying weapons

Text of report in English by independent, Nairobi-based, USAID-funded Sudan Radio Service on 4 December

The security advisor to the governor of Western Equatoria State says the types of weapons and communication equipment carried by Ambororo nomads [a cattle-herding tribe] in his state are raising suspicions of state authorities.

Mr Majur Babur Ajang told Sudan Radio Service in Yambio last week that reports coming from different parts of the state indicate that most Ambororo nomads carry automatic weapons and high-tech communication equipment, such as satellite telephones.

[Ajang] "There are a lot of them who appear in uniform. They have automatic guns and they have sophisticated means of communication like Thuraya and other things. This will make us suspicious. Even if they are just civilians, this will make us keep our eyes on them. We have the right to watch them because these people may not be ordinary people."

Mr Ajang said the policy of the Government of Southern Sudan is not to confront the Ambororo, but to dialogue with their chiefs in a bid to ask them to move out of southern Sudan.

He also said some of the Ambororo leaders have requested Western Equatoria for land on which to settle, but their request has been rejected.

Source: Sudan Radio Service, Nairobi, in English 0330 gmt 4 Dec 07
BBC Mon ME1 MEEau 041207/hh/mp

Southern Sudan group accuses ex-rebels of "committing ethnic cleansing"

Text of report by pro-government Sudanese Media Centre website on 4 December

The Southern Sudan Democratic Front [SSDF] has blamed the southern Sudan government and the governor of Jonglei State for the regrettable clashes between Dinka and Murle tribes that caused the death of 30 people last week.

The chairman of SSDF, Pro David De'chan, accused the Sudan Liberation Movement Army of committing ethnic cleansing against the Murle tribe in Jonglei, saying that what happened was unconstitutional and against the human rights principals.

He said the conflict between Dinka and Murle was historical and was on cattle, but what happened was an attempt to politicize the issue, saying that the issue calls for the resignation of the governor.

De'chan called on the presidency to intervene and form investigation committee so as to know the reasons for incident and the perpetrators.

He appealed to tribal leaders in Jonglei State to come to negotiation table and find a lasting solution to their problems.

Source: Sudanese Media Centre website, Khartoum, in Arabic 4 Dec 07
BBC Mon ME1 MEEau 041207/aa

Darfur

Veteran politicians urge Darfur deployment (ST)

December 4, 2007 (KHARTOUM) — A group of veteran politicians formed by Nelson Mandela urged the international community on Tuesday to supply equipment needed to allow a joint U.N-African Union to deploy to Darfur in western Sudan.

They also said the north-south partners in Sudan's coalition government should accept international mediation to end a two-month stand-off that threatens to tear apart Africa's largest country.

"Darfuris are eager and in some cases desperate for the arrival of the UNAMID force," the report from the so-called Elders said of a planned joint U.N./AU mission to the region. "If anything, their expectations are dangerously high."

"We need a hybrid U.N.-AU force in Darfur with sufficient equipment and support. We need it now."

The Elders, a group of 13 men and women, was formed by former South African President Nelson Mandela and his wife Graca Machel earlier this year.

(Reuters)

Musa Hilal in Juba for consultations with Darfur rebel movements (AlSudani)

Informed sources revealed that the prominent leader of the Arab tribes in North Darfur, Musa Hilal, has arrived yesterday in Juba. Hilal is planning to hold consultations with the Darfur rebel groups in Juba. Sources said Hial's visit has been arranged by the AU and the UN.

Miraya FM English news bulletin 3 P.M.
5/12/07

In an exclusive interview with Miraya FM, one of the Arab leaders in Darfur, Musa Hilal, said that the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) rejected his visit to Juba despite an invitation from the Darfur Factions meeting in the town.

Mr. Hilal said that the SPLM official responsible for unifying the Darfur Factions, Edward Lino, asked him to visit Juba for consultations on the success of the next round of the Sirte peace talks.

Hilal said that he was surprised by the SPLM decision rejecting him from visiting Juba : *“I was supposed to go to Juba today or yesterday, Mr Edward Lino phoned me and invited me to come to Juba, to meet with the Darfurian Movements, there may be some general discussion to overcome the Darfur crisis, but we were informed that the Chairman of the SPLM has no idea about our visit, and he rejected it.”*

Meanwhile, Edward Lino confirmed to Miraya FM that the SPLM had invited Musa Hilal to visit Juba for consultations and the participation of the Arab leaders in the next round of the peace negotiations.

Mr. Lino said that he is not aware of Hilal being prevented from visiting Juba. He added that the visit can be realized any time in the future:

“What happened is that Musa Hilal is coming for a visit to Juba. We want to have an understanding between the Arab and other tribes so when peace comes, it should prevail amongst all people and not leave any resentment among the people. This is what we want.”

Swedish and Norwegian Forces: A New Page in Darfur Crisis (Sudan Vision)

By: Moan Al Bashir, Points to Ponder on Resolution 1769: The Sudanese government has agreed to Resolution 1769 only after finding out that it overrules Resolution 1706. Resolution 1769 provides for the deployment of 26,000 UN troops that include engineers and technicians. Before agreeing to the Resolution,

the government preconditioned that the forces to be deployed should be basically African in character. The hybrid forces approved by the Security Council to be deployed in Darfur were supposed to replace the AU under-funded forces by the current month, provided that the UN undertakes the funding of these forces, including the provision of six gunships, 18 transport helicopters and other prerequisite equipments.

The Foreign Ministry's official spokesman, Ambassador Ali Al-Sadig, said the tripartite meetings held between the government, the AU and the UN have concurred with the government on the African character of the forces, along with admitting technical units from China and Pakistan.

Hindering the Hybrid Operation:

UN and US reports have recently been circulated accusing Sudan of obstructing the deployment of the hybrid forces. Khartoum in turn refuted the charge, attributing it to

the desire of some powers to admit troops other than those agreed upon, particularly from Sweden and Norway, At the tripartite meetings that stipulated provision of rare specializations from non-African sources, namely from China and Pakistan, the government stuck to its guns as Ambassador Ali Al-Sadig affirmed that the tripartite mechanism has never agreed on introducing Swedish and Norwegian troops, declaring that the government will only accede to the troops agreed upon in the agreement. This rejection, he said, cannot be held as an obstruction to the deployment of the forces or a change of mind. He accused some western powers of attempting to influence and pressure the UN by hinting at the importance of presence of western forces in the hybrid operation.

The Funding Enigma:

Some observers further consider accusing the government of blockading the hybrid forces as a pretext for realizing far-reaching objectives in addition to replacing the African forces by troops from other countries rejected by Sudan, in this case Sweden and Norway, since President Al Bashir had previously averred that he will not admit troops of countries that had insulted the Prophet (pbuh), in an indirect reference to Denmark and Norway.

Some other observers still see that the UN, being unable to raise the required funding, is contriving these obstacles to throw the blame on the Sudanese government. This is further evidenced by the fact that the commander of the international forces in Darfur, Rodulph Adada, has expressed his dismay at the logistic shortage the troops suffer from and the international community's failure to provide 24 helicopters, drawing attention that Jordan had offered a proposal and later withdrew it though no other country had since made a similar proposal.

Sudanese-Norwegian Showdown:

Khartoum explicitly declared its rejection of Norwegian troops within the hybrid forces as the Norwegian Defence Minister was signaling that her government will send to Darfur an unspecified number of Norwegian troops in the coming January. While having in mind the perilous nature of this move on the light of Sudan's rejection of the Norwegian troops, the Norwegian Defence Minister insisted that Sudan's rejection does not mean that Norway will forgo its international mission under the UN mandate. It is also noteworthy to state that has been engaged in wide-scale activities in southern Sudan for a long time, activating Norwegian churches in the South in addition to its participation in the Abuja talks.

It becomes clear from the above that a crisis is looming in the horizon as Norway strives to assume a role in Darfur in sheer defiance of the Sudanese government's will. The coming scenarios will answer the question of who will have the upper hand in this tussle: Sudan or Norway.

TIMELINE: ICC investigating war crimes in Darfur (ST)

December 4, 2007 (NEW YROK) — The prosecutor of the ICC, Luis Moreno-Ocampo will brief the UN Security Council (UNSC) today on the progress of his

Darfur investigations. Ocampo is expected to notify the council that Sudan is not cooperating per resolution 1593 referring the situation in Darfur to the ICC.

September 2004 — The UNSC establishes an international commission of inquiry into reports of human rights violation in Darfur headed by the former President of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY Professor Antonio Cassese).

January 2005 — The International Commission of Inquiry on Darfur recommends the referral of situation in Darfur to the International Criminal Court (ICC). The commission identifies 51 individuals as potential suspects but seals their names in an envelope.

March 2005 — The UNSC adopts resolution 1593 referring the situation in Darfur since 1 July 2002 to the ICC. The first resolution of its kind from the UNSC was adopted by a vote of 11 in favor, none against with 4 abstentions (Algeria, Brazil, China and United States).

April 2005 — The ICC prosecutor formally receives a sealed envelope containing the conclusion of the International Commission of Inquiry on Darfur along with the names. The envelope is unsealed in the presence of 4 senior ICC officials then resealed.

June 2005 — The ICC prosecutor announces his decision to open an investigation into the situation in Darfur.

December 2005 — The ICC prosecutor selects a number of alleged criminal incidents in Darfur for full investigation.

June 2006 — The ICC prosecutor tells the UNSC that he will carry out his investigations from outside Darfur because of his office's inability to protect the witnesses.

December 2006 — The ICC prosecutor announces that he has nearly completed an investigation into some of the worst crimes committed in Darfur.

February 2007 — The ICC prosecutor requests the issuance of summons to appear from the Judges against Ahmad Muhammad Harun, former Minister of State for the Interior of the Government of Sudan, and Mr Ali Muhammad Ali Abd-Al-Rahman also known as Ali Kushayb, alleged leader of the Militia/Janjaweed. The Sudanese government dismisses the jurisdiction of the court.

April 2007 — The ICC prosecutor sends a letter to the Sudanese government requesting clarification on its position regarding the voluntary extradition of the Darfur suspects to court. Khartoum ignores the letter.

May 2007 — The judges of the ICC request an arrest warrant against Harun and Kushayb instead of a summons to appear as requested by the prosecutor.

June 2007 — The ICC transmits a formal request to the Sudanese government for the extradition of the two Darfur war crimes suspects. Similar requests were sent simultaneously to the member countries of the UN Security Council, State parties of the ICC in addition to Egypt, Libya, Ethiopia and Eritrea.

June 2007 — The International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) issues red notice for the arrest of Harun.

September 2007 — The International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) issues red notice for the arrest of Kushayb.

October 2007 — Sudan's foreign minister announces that his government released Kushayb, who was in custody since November 2006, for lack of incriminating evidence.

December 2007 — The ICC prosecutor says that he plans to open two new cases in Sudan over attacks on humanitarian workers and peacekeepers in Darfur.

(ST)

300 Darfurian killed by Sudan forces in six month (ST)

December 4, 2007 (GENEVA) — Sudanese forces and allied militia have killed several hundred civilians in ground attacks and aerial bombardments on villages in Darfur in the past six months, United Nations human rights experts said on Tuesday.

Bystanders caught up in clashes between the warring parties have also been tortured, raped and suffered widespread looting in the western region, according to the U.N. experts on Darfur.

Their 106-page report calls on the Khartoum government to protect civilians in Darfur and investigate all crimes. It is to be presented next week to the U.N. Human Rights Council.

"According to United Nations sources, from June 20 to mid-November 2007, at least 15 land and air attacks were made on civilian centres in all three Darfur states by the forces of the government, affiliated militia and the Minni Minawi faction of the Sudanese Liberation Army," the report said.

A Reuters tally of casualty figures contained in the report indicated that at least 300 people were killed in about 20 land and air attacks documented by the U.N. in the past six months.

U.N. officials pointed out they had been unable to document all the incidents due to restrictions on movement, logistical constraints and insecurity in Darfur.

"The information in the group of experts' report was meant to be illustrative only and not to provide a comprehensive picture of violations," Lyal Sunga, the Geneva-based coordinator of the U.N. experts' group, told Reuters.

(Reuters)

Chad's govt, rebels report new fighting (ST)

December 4, 2007 (NDJAMENA) — The Chadian army fought heavy battles against rebel forces Tuesday in the east of the country near the border with Sudan's troubled Darfur region, sources on the two sides said.

Government forces and rebel groups have been fighting for more than a week, since a collapse of a preliminary peace accord.

Meanwhile, the UN refugee agency warned the renewed fighting had limited its access to refugee camps.

(AFP)