



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN

UNMIS

Media Monitoring Report, 09 December 07

(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**

- Darfur displaced tell UN envoy to not visit their camps
- UN envoy urges Sudan's peace partners to solve pending issues
- Ashasrf Qazi: SAF redeployed 80%, SPLA 20% of troops
- Ban Ki-moon selects four members for panel on Darfur sanctions
- UN delegation to focus on Darfur deployment at African-European summit
- Darfur Rebels Must Respond to Government Unilateral Ceasefire, Confirm Attending Peace/Ellison
- Ki-moon: Risks facing deployment of the hybrid in Darfur
- Sudan, UN urge international support for Darfur force
- Presidential Adviser Mustafa Osman, Sudan Ambassador to UN say Sudan rejects meeting with UN officials on Darfur
- UN Darfur envoy says troubled by renewed fighting
- Sudan lashes out at ICC prosecutor, UN chief
- Humanitarian need growing in Sudan and Somalia - UN

➤ **GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)**

- Joint board set December for SAF pull out from South Sudan
- CPA partners' six-member committee reaches positive results on disputed issues
- SPLM opposes allocating most of budget to security and defence
- GoS says it has not hinder UN flight carrying Darfur rebels from Juba
- Dinka conference in Abyei on implementation of Protocol on Abyei, al Dibelo: internationalizing the issue does not help solving problem
- IGAD partners to meet in Sudan to discuss CPA partners' crisis
- GoNU, GoSS sign a memorandum of understanding
- 2008 Budget Revenues To Hit SDG 21 Billion ,Minister Says
- Cost of DDR Strategic Plan \$2b
- Southern parties propose initiative for resolving NCP, SPLM crisis
- Sudan peace stalemate threatens African security
- Sudan north and south armies finalize deal on troops redeployment

➤ **GoSS**

- Plans for Beef industry depend on owners in South Sudan
- Situation quiet in Jonglei following tribal clashes
- Great Lakes counties give LRA Kony ultimatum
- South Sudan's Jonglei insecurity facts finding committee arrives
- Paulino Matip refutes Al-Intibaha allegations
- US Nuer demand Paulino Matip to quit South Sudan army

➤ **Darfur**

- Sudan under mounting pressure over Darfur force
- China Donates Assistance Equivalent to 60m Yuan for Darfur
- Chadian forces face worst rebel fighting in two decades
- African Union wants immediate deployment of Darfur force
- Darfur rebel leader plans attacks on Chinese oil firms
- Arab League urges deployment of Darfur force
- French charity workers to learn fate next week
- Annan says EU-African Summit should pressure Sudan on Darfur
- Action sought on Darfur, Mugabe at EU-Africa summit
- European unlikely to meet UN Darfur goal
- African and EU legislators want Darfur on AU-EU summit
- Sudan army continues to kill civilians in Darfur
- Lack of copters could doom Darfur force - UN chief

Highlights

UN/ Agencies

Darfur displaced tell UN envoy to not visit their camps

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 8 Dec. KALMA, South Darfur) Darfur displaced said they are not willing to receive UN envoy for Darfur in their camps reiterating that peace must be discussed after security on the ground.

Hussein Abusharati, the spokesperson of Darfur displaced and refugees told Sudan tribune from Kalma, South Darfur, they handed a letter to the representatives of the UN and African Union in the area telling Jan Eliasson he is not welcome in Darfur displaced camps.

The U.N. special envoy for Darfur toured the tribal heartland of the region's top rebel on Saturday, trying to draw the reluctant chief's followers into new peace talks that have stalled since October

The rebel spokesperson justified their refusal to see the UN envoy in Darfur saying that they reject talks before the deployment of the international troops in the region.

"How people can speak about peace while they are subjected on daily basis to the attacks and seeing death and rap around them." Shartati said.

Jan Eliasson is on a four-day visit to Darfur to press key leaders of rebel movements to join the peace process that began in October but quickly broke off. He also said keen to win the Fur civilian leadership to the idea of negotiations.

Read more <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25091>

UN envoy urges Sudan's peace partners to solve pending issues

(BBC Mon, Radio Miraya FM) The special representative of the UN secretary-general in Sudan, Ashraf Qadhi, has assured that Sudan Armed Forces [SAF] has completed about 80per cent of redeployment of its troops to the north beyond the borders of 1956, while the Sudan Peoples Liberation Movement redeployed 8per cent [as received].

After attending a meeting with SPLM and US Secretary of State in Addis Ababa, Ashraf Qadhi called on the two government partners to do their best to resolve the outstanding issues in the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

On the situation between the CPA [Comprehensive Peace Agreement] parties, the special representative of UN secretary-general, Ashraf Qadhi, expressed hope that the stand of the Government of National Unity may soon come to an end and either party should exert efforts to resolve all pending issues. He indicated that these issues were currently being addressed at the highest level.

However, it must be pointed out that delay in the demarcation of the north-south boundary and the census could have implications for the national elections schedule for 2009, and the referendum in 2011.

He stressed that the issue of Abyei remained a major challenge and added that UNMIS suggested two approaches where the issue can be addressed at local and national levels. UNMIS could help assess in finding the position of the local community and then facilitate direct negotiations in the format agreed between the two CPA partners. The special representative of the secretary-general concluded his remarks by expressing hope that the two CPA partners would make every effort to realise the objectives of the CPA.

Asharf Qazi: SAF redeployed 80%, SPLA 20% of troops

(AlWatan) The UN SRSG for Sudan, Ashraf Qazi, confirmed that the SAF has redeployed 80% of its troops north of 1 January 1956 borders while the SPLA has redeployed 20% of its troops south of same borders. Following his return from Addis Ababa, where he has attended a meeting with the US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and SPLM, Qazi called on the GoNU partners to exert efforts so as to resolve all disputed issues.

Ban Ki-moon selects four members for panel on Darfur sanctions

(UN News Focus) Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has appointed four experts to serve on a panel authorized by the Security Council to monitor the arms embargo, travel ban

and assets freeze set up as a result of the conflict in the Darfur region of western Sudan.

Mr. Ban sent a letter to the Council President that was made public this week informing him that he has appointed Thomas W. Bifwoli (Kenya), Awni Momani (Jordan), Ian Rowe (Canada) and Anoop Swarup (India) to sit on the panel until 15 October next year.

Mr. Bifwoli has also been designated to succeed Gerard P. McHugh as the Coordinator of the Panel of Experts, which was established under a resolution in March 2005.

UN delegation to focus on Darfur deployment at African-European summit

(UN News Focus) Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro is heading a United Nations delegation to this weekend's African Union-European Union summit in Lisbon amid mounting international concern about the obstacles to deploying a hybrid UN-AU peacekeeping force to the war-wracked Darfur region of Sudan.

Ms. Migiro will be joined in the Portuguese capital by the UN High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Countries and Small Island Developing States Cheick Sidi Diarra, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Edmond Mulet and Deputy Chef de Cabinet Kim Won-Soo.

Mr. Mulet and Mr. Kim are scheduled to meet with the Sudanese delegation attending the summit on issues relating to the deployment of the hybrid force, known as UNAMID, to try to quell the fighting between rebels, Government forces and allied militias that has left at least 200,000 people dead and more than 2.2 million others displaced since 2003.

Darfur Rebels Must Respond to Government Unilateral Ceasefire, Confirm Attending Peace/Ellison

(SMC) UN envoy for Darfur Yan Ellison said it is not possible determined a date for restarting Sirt/Libya talks for peace in Darfur before making sure Darfurian rebels should participate and announce commitment to ceasefire.

Ellison told Sawa radio in Cairo that Sharm Al Sheikh meeting of Sudan neighboring countries has concluded acceptable outcome for supporting peace in Darfur but he said Darfur rebels must respond to the government unilateral ceasefire and confirm attending Sirt talks.

Ki-moon: Risks facing deployment of the hybrid in Darfur

(AlSudani) The UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, said the deployment of the biggest peacekeeping operation in Darfur by beginning of next year is facing real risks as the international community did not fulfill its pledges.

Sudan, UN urge international support for Darfur force

(Sudan Tribune.com – 8 Dec. LISBON) At a meeting held in the sideline of the EU-Africa summit, Sudan and the United Nations agreed on the need for a speedy deployment of

the African Union-UN Mission in Darfur (UNAMID). They also urged the international support of the mission.

In a news statement issued following the meeting on Saturday, the two delegations “recognized that UNAMID would play a critical role in bringing peace and stability to Darfur” and agreed on the importance of setting up the force.

Read more <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25097>

Presidential Adviser Mustafa Osman, Sudan Ambassador to UN say Sudan rejects meeting with UN officials on Darfur

(*Sudan Tribune.com AlSudani, AlWatan, SMC*) President al-Bashir would not meet special envoys of the UN Secretary General planed to meet him during Europe Africa Summit in Lisbon at the weekend, a Sudanese official said.

Presidential advisor, Mustafa Osman Ismail, denied that president Omer al-Bashir would meet two envoys sent by Ban Ki-Moon to discuss with him in Lisbon the obstacles to deploying a hybrid UN-AU peacekeeping force.

Ismail said the envoys can come directly to Khartoum and meet the concerned authorities, he also added that the UN Secretary General can contact le president or the minister of foreign affairs.

Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro, the head of UN delegation to this weekend’s African Union-European Union summit in Lisbon, and Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Edmond Mulet were supposed to discuss divergences on Darfur peacekeeping mission with the Sudanese president.

Read more <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25085>

UN Darfur envoy says troubled by renewed fighting

(*Sudan Tribune.com — 7 Dec. EL FASHER, Sudan*) Signs of renewed fighting in Darfur are a worrying omen for peace talks, a U.N. special envoy said Friday as he toured the troubled region in an attempt to draw reluctant rebels into negotiations with Sudan’s government.

Jan Eliasson is on a four-day trip to Darfur to press key leaders of the splintered rebel factions to unify their positions and join in the peace process that began in October but quickly broke off.

He had planned to meet Friday with Khalil Ibrahim, the powerful leader of the Justice and Equality Movement, but U.N. security officers would not allow his helicopter to go to the secret Darfur location where the meeting was to be held.

Read more <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25080>

Sudan lashes out at ICC prosecutor, UN chief

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 6 Dec. KHARTOUM) Sudan lashed out Thursday at an International Criminal Court prosecutor over an investigation into Khartoum officials for Darfur atrocities, and claimed the U.N. chief was wrong to accuse Sudan of stalling on deployment of a joint U.N.-A.U. force in the troubled region.

The remarks indicated Sudan is ratcheting up a defensive stance amid rising international accusations.

Sudanese foreign ministry spokesman Ali Sadiq told The Associated Press that U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's criticism was "unfair."

Ban accused the Sudanese government Wednesday of "foot-dragging" on the deployment of the 26,000-strong U.N.-A.U. peacekeeping force for Darfur and that this "deeply concerned and disappointed" him.

Sadiq insisted these were "untrue accusations" and added that the foreign ministry would officially respond to the criticism in a press conference Saturday.

Read more <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25066>

Humanitarian need growing in Sudan and Somalia - UN

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 6 Dec. UNITED NATIONS) the top U.N. aid official called on Thursday for big increases in assistance for refugees in Somalia and Sudan next year as security deteriorated for millions of people displaced by conflict.

Under-Secretary-General John Holmes said aid for Somalia would need to rise by a third to \$400 million (197 million pounds) next year while funding for Sudan's Darfur region should increase to \$825 million from around \$700 million this year.

He said morale among aid workers was low and the humanitarian operation in Darfur was increasingly fragile. *Read more* <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25063>

GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

Joint board set December for SAF pull out from South Sudan

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 8 Dec. JUBA) The spokesman of SPLA, General Kuol Dim reiterated that SPLA is fully committed in implementing the Joint Defense Board (JDB) resolutions adopted on 6th December 2007 which stated that SAF redeployment to north as of 1956 border stood should be completed by end of December this year.

The statement revealed that the current chairman of JDB, Lt. General Oyai Deng Ajak Chief of Staff of SPLA has on arrival to Juba yesterday briefed the six-member committee on the out come of their 11th JDB meeting held in Khartoum.

Delivering SPLA Press statement over Southern Sudan Television last night, Gen Dim said The JDB met under the chairmanship of Lt. General Oyai Deng Ajak, who is also the current chair of JDB and it was attended by nine members from both SPLA

and SAF while SAF delegation was headed by General Hag Ahmed, the Joint Chief of Staff. *Read more* <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25098>

CPA partners' six-member committee reaches positive results on disputed issues

(AlRai AlAam) The NCP-SPLM six-member committee has reached agreement on all disputed issues. The Co-spokesperson of the committee from the NCP, al Dirdeeri Mohamed Ahmed, said the committee focused on security arrangements, oil, rule of law and other issues. He explained that the two parties presented similar schedules for implementing the pending issues. The committee, he said, will be briefed by the Ministry of Finance, Borders Commission and Elections Commission and then present its recommendations to the Presidency. The Committee's Co-spokesperson from SPLM, Yasir Arman, said when the Presidency meets on Monday and approves the recommendations of the Committee; the SPLM Ministers will resume their work in the GoNU.

SPLM opposes allocating most of budget to security and defence

(AlSahafa) The SPLM MP, Yasir Arman, criticized the Sudan 2008 budget for allocating most of the funds for security and defence. He said the budget does not benefit the poor people and deprived.

GoS says it has not hinder UN flight carrying Darfur rebels from Juba

(Rai AlShaab) Authorities at Wau airport stopped the UN flight carrying representatives of five Darfur rebel movements from Juba to the field in Darfur. On board were 27 military and political rebel leaders. However, the GoS refuted report on hindering the UN flight which was heading to Darfur.

Dinka conference in Abyei on implementation of Protocol on Abyei, al Dibelo: internationalizing the issue does not help solving problem

(AlKhartoum) The Dinka Ngok will hold a conference to discuss the status of the Abyei protocol, development and social services issues. The conference will be held in Abyei (19-24 December). The Head of the Abyei civil society organizations, Dr. Karlo Shiog, appealed to the CPA partners to implement the protocol.

Meanwhile, the Chairman of the Miseriya Free Forum, Dr. Suliman al Dibelo, called for implementing the Abyei protocol as soon as possible. He said the ABC report is not in line with the protocol. Al Dibelo believes that making Abyei issue an international issue does not help solving the problem.

IGAD partners to meet in Sudan to discuss CPA partners' crisis

(AlIntibaha) The SPLM Secretary General, Pagan Amum, said the IGAD and IGAD partners will hold a meeting in Khartoum before the 9th of January to lobby international support for the CPA partners in order to implement the agreement.

GoNU, GoSS sign a memorandum of understanding

(Khartoum Monitor) The Government of National Unity and the Government of Southern Sudan yesterday signed a memorandum of Broadcasting and TV co-operation. The memorandum provides for correspondents and representatives from the National Broadcasting and TV bodies in all south states. It also provides for maintenance of broadcasting and TV buildings to be carried out by the GoNU. It allows for the opening up of Sudan News Agency (SUNA) in south Sudan's ten states as well as FM radio stations.

2008 Budget Revenues To Hit SDG 21 Billion, Minister Says

(Sudan Vision) Ministry of Finance and National Economy has honored its commitment to continue implementing development projects related to CPA implementation in terms of infrastructures in the fields of roads, railways, agriculture, industry, along with its efforts to achieve budget's macro objectives.

Cabinet has endorsed 2008 budget in its early last week session chaired by Al-Bashir and participated in by GoSS, States Governors, Central Bank Governor, Revenues Allocation Commission, Businessmen Union and Labor Trade Unions Federation. The said budget should have been tabled to the Parliament session of Nov.5th for deliberation and approval.

Minister of Finance , Alzubair Ahmed Alhasan, stated that 2008 budget faces various external and domestic challenges that include satisfaction of CPA requirements in terms of Funds establishment, besides completion of Commissions and other organs, national population census, borders demarcation and preparations for the upcoming countrywide elections.

He revealed that 2008 budget revenues estimates amount to SDG 21 billion plus 4.6 billion from foreign and local financial sources, while public expenditure is expected to hit SDG 26 billion.

Wrapping up his statements, Alzubair said that the New Year budget would apply the international "Government Financial Statistics" system.

Cost of DDR Strategic Plan \$2b

(Sudan Vision) Minister in the Presidency of the Republic and head of the National DDR Coordinating Council, Lt. Gen. Bakri Hassan Salih, has ratified the unified national strategic plan for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration in Sudan.

Executive Secretary of the DDR National Council, Brig. Osman Nouri, told Sudan Vision that the plan has been drawn up by the North Sudan DDR Commissioner, Dr. Sulaf Addin Salih and his assistants, South Sudan DDR Commissioner, Brigadier Arop Riek Arop, and his assistants and the head of the UN DDR Unit, Dr. Francis Mustafa Kai.

Nouri said Lt. General Bakri has ordered the plan to be circulated to the Council's members and implementation partners from the international community so that the

work started in 2004 can be resumed, adding that, in accordance with the CPA provisions, the plan will be overseen by the state so that running and implementation of the programme will be conducted by national cadres as it has allowed a wide scope for Sudanese voluntary and civil society organizations to run the programme along with the foreign voluntary organizations.

Nouri explained that the program will be implemented in five stages during the period 2007-2011 at a total cost of about \$2 billion for both the northern and southern Sudan, targeting 450,000-500,000 persons.

Southern parties propose initiative for resolving NCP, SPLM crisis

(*Sudan Vision*) National Congress Party (NCP) has agreed to the initiative of southern political parties seeking to resolve the current standoff between the two Naivasha partners through a meeting to be held between those parties and NCP. Following his meeting with the representatives of the Union of Sudan African Parties (USAP), the Democratic Salvation Front (DSF) and the South Sudan Democratic Forum (SSDF), the Secretary of NCP Political Bureau, Dr. Mustafa Osman Ismail, held a press conference at which he affirmed NCP readiness to respond to all the national initiatives to override the present stalemate, indicating that the southern parties have proposed a joint meeting that includes the SPLM in order to transcend the differences.

"We are ready to sit with the SPLM in the presence of the southern parties or any other national political forces, as well as accept any proposals from these forces, because this is a national issue. We always opt for national roles in order to ward off foreign intervention," Dr. Ismail said.

He revealed that NCP will sit with the Sudanese Communist Party next week as part of a series of meetings NCP intends to hold with political forces to brief them on its stance on the current standoff with SPLM as well as share ideas with them on means of settling it.

Sudan peace stalemate threatens African security

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 8 Dec. KHARTOUM) Sudan's government and former southern rebels are stuck in a political stalemate that could undermine security across the horn of Africa, a senior official said on Saturday.

Khartoum and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) signed a peace deal in 2005 ending Africa's longest civil war. But worsening relations between the two sides reached crisis point in October when the SPLM pulled its ministers out of the coalition government, accusing Khartoum of stalling on the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

"Now they are stuck. It's a stalemate," said Tom Vraalsen, the departing chairman of the international body set up to assess the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

"I am disappointed at where we are today. I thought that the parties would be much further down the road in implementing the peace agreement... I had hoped for much more," Vraalsen told Reuters. *Read more* <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25086>

Sudan north and south armies finalize deal on troops redeployment

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 8 Dec. KHARTOUM) Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) agreed to finalize the redeployment of troops by the end of this year.

In a meeting held in the Ugandan capital last Monday 3 December, the Ceasefire Joint Military Committee (CJMC) adopted a resolution to on SAF and SPLA redeployment from Southern Sudan, Blue Nile, and Southern Kordofan by 9 January 2008.

The meeting approved a three-stage redeployment plan with the following targets: 33.3% redeployment by 15 December 2007, 66.6% redeployment by 31 December 2007, and 100% redeployment by 9 January 2008, the UNMIS disclosed today.

The redeployment of troops to 1956 border is one of the key provisions of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. Last October the SPLM suspended its participation in the national unity government to protest against the delay of implementation in this issue besides, the border demarcation and the row over Abyei Protocol.

The CJMC meeting was chaired by UNMIS Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Jasbir Singh Liddar. In addition to the SAF and SPLA representatives, as well as the JIU commanders, the meeting was attended by observers from Belgium, China, France, Russia, and the United States. The Ugandan State Minister for Foreign Affairs attended the opening of the CJMC meeting.

Read more <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25071>

GoSS

Plans for Beef industry depend on owners in South Sudan

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 8 Dec. CHUKUDUM, Sudan) In the next few months, the nascent government of semiautonomous southern Sudan plans to conduct an ambitious, if controversial, experiment that has been tried with varying degrees of success in other sub-Saharan African countries, including neighboring Kenya. Government workers will fan out into cattle land in a studied attempt to undo traditional communal thinking about cows and replace it, slowly, with a more profit-driven, market-oriented mentality.

The effort is intended to help transform southern Sudan, a region still recovering from 21 years of civil war, into the Argentina of Africa — a cattle-processing, beef-exporting machine.

"Right now, this traditional thinking means that in South Sudan, people are keeping cows, not selling them," said Ann Felix, an official with the region's Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries. "People don't have this economic vision of selling

cattle in large quantities and benefiting from that. That's why we are doing this intensive work, to enlighten people. If we make proper use of them, cattle could be more important than oil."

Some experts say the problem is not so much the herders' attitude toward their cows, but inadequate roads, inaccessible markets and other deficiencies.

Read more <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25094>

Situation quiet in Jonglei following tribal clashes

(*AlAyam, BBC*) The Government of Southern Sudan [GoSS], has said that security situation in Jonglei State has calmed down after tribal clashes between the Dinka and Murle [tribes] which led to the killing of 34 citizens and injury of dozens of others. GoSS also unveiled a meeting with the government of the state in Bor [capital of state] to discuss the issue.

Meanwhile, GoSS disclosed the resumption of weapons collecting from citizens at the beginning of the New Year.

The vice president of GoSS, Dr Riek Machar, told Al-Ayam yesterday that the security situation was back to normal after the cease of tribal clashes. He added that GoSS has sent a delegation yesterday to meet ministers and commissioners of the state in Bor for discussing causes of the bloody clashes. Machar said that he would join the meetings heading another delegation of ministers and officials, and to form an investigation committee following the meetings.

Great Lakes counties give LRA Kony ultimatum

(*Khartoum Monitor*) According to one of Uganda's leading websites, the New Vision, Lord Joseph Kony, the LRA chief, has been given until January 31 as to leave Gramba national park in DR Congo "or be flushed out". The warning came on Wednesday, at the conclusion of a security meeting held at the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa. The meeting brought together foreign, defense, intelligence ministers from Congo, Burundi, Rwanda, with president Museveni representing Uganda.

South Sudan's Jonglei insecurity facts finding committee arrives

(*Khartoum Monitor*) On Thursday, a delegation from fact-finding committee landed at Bor airstrip on the way from Juba. The delegation was led by South Sudan Vice President Dr. Riak Machar, Minister of legal affairs and constitutional development. The high level delegation from Juba has been lauded by some as a sign that the Government of Southern Sudan is ready to resolve the bleak security situation in the area, though not a single citizen of Jonglei turned up to welcome the delegates, accompanied by those they see as "value power" more than the well-being of the local citizens. A security meeting was convened, but the agenda and resolutions of the meeting were not revealed.

Paulino Matip refutes Al-Intibaha allegations

(*Khartoum Monitor*) The daily Al Intibaha carried news that the SPLM Deputy Commander –in Chief of the SPLA Lt Gen Paulino Matip, walked out of the SPLA. It was false news forged by the enemies of peace, the Sudanese people and southerners in particular. We would like to confirm that commander Paulino Joined the SPLA because he is interested in the stability, unity and permanent security of South Sudan, and also because he trusts Commander Salva Kiir.

US Nuer demand Paulino Matip to quit South Sudan army

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 7 Dec. WASHINGTON) Sudanese Nuer community in the United States of America urged the deputy commander-in-chief of southern Sudan army to quit the SPLM and to not participate in an eventual war that SPLM decides to wage in the country.

The Union of Nuer Community in North America (UNCONA) "has passed unanimously a resolution on Dec, 5th, 2007, calling on Lt-Gen. Paulino Matip to quit the SPLA." It further decided Nuer in the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) should not participate in an eventual war "orchestrated" by SPLM leader Slava Kiir.

Read more <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25081>

Darfur

Sudan under mounting pressure over Darfur force

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 8 Dec. LISBON) the pressure was ratcheted up Saturday on Sudan for the deployment of a UN-led peacekeeping force to Darfur as EU leaders met President Omar al-Beshir on the sidelines of an ongoing summit here.

After the head of the African Union commission and UN chief Ban ki-Moon's deputy called for the immediate dispatch of the hybrid UN-AU force, French President Nicolas Sarkozy and Portuguese Prime Minister Jose Socrates expressed their concerns about delays directly to Beshir in Lisbon.

Joao Gomes Cravinho, Portugal's secretary of state for cooperation and development, described the hour-long meeting as "very frank" in which Europe's concerns were "rigorously conveyed".

In particular, the Europeans raised "the very serious concerns about the possibility of a break-up of Sudan" with Beshir in order "to encourage the development of a more serious dialogue with all the different parties."

Socrates and Sarkozy were also accompanied to the talks by EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana and EU commission president Jose Manuel Barroso in a signal of Europe's intention not to let the mission stall indefinitely.

Cravinho said the delegation had expressed their unhappiness over what they saw as "the difficulties posed by the Sudanese concerning the deployment of troops for the hybrid force, particularly non-African troops".

Read more <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25089>

China Donates Assistance Equivalent to 60m Yuan for Darfur

(SMC) Ministry of humanitarian affairs has received the third and fourth delivery of items as assistance from Chinese government for Darfur war affected population estimated for 60 m Yuan.

HA Commissioner Hassabo Abdel Rahman hails Chinese's government and its embassy to Khartoum for the assistance they provided for Sudan particularly in Darfur. He noted that the Chinese assistance has now transported by train to Darfur. The assistance according to commissioner is composed of shelters, health equipment and prefabricated schools.

Chinese ambassador to Khartoum Li Tichi Wien said the objective of sending these items was to help in reconstruction program and development in Darfur.

Chadian forces face worst rebel fighting in two decades

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 8 Dec. NDJAMENA) Chadian troops, boosted by a vastly improved arsenal, are mounting a stiff resistance to the worst rebel attacks in nearly 20 years but insurgents in the central African nation appear ready for a fight to the finish.

Government officials, rebels, foreign observers and experts all agree that the fighting which erupted in the country's east since November 26 has been the worst since President Idriss Deby Itno seized power in December 1990.

However, the army is managing to cope with the attacks mainly due to new weaponry funded by Chad's recent oil wealth. The country started producing oil in 2003 and has rapidly become one of Africa's main petroleum producers.

Read more <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25087>

African Union wants immediate deployment of Darfur force

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 8 Dec. LISBON) African Union Commission president Alpha Oumar Konare called Saturday for the immediate deployment of a U.N.-led peacekeeping force for Sudan's Darfur region, appealing for funds for vital air cover.

"Without wasting any more time, we must deploy the hybrid (U.N.-A.U.) force," Konare said in a speech at the start of a two-day E.U.-Africa summit in Lisbon.

Konare said it was vital that the funding be put in place to ensure the success of the operation. "It is important that the resources of this operation, particularly air support, be beefed up," he said. *Read more* <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25088>

Darfur rebel leader plans attacks on Chinese oil firms

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 8 Dec. LONDON) A key rebel leader in Sudan's troubled Darfur region has singled out oil companies as military targets, particularly from China, posing a

threat to the Asian nation's crude imports and adding to the mounting challenges it faces over its involvement in Africa.

In a face-to-face interview with Dow Jones Newswires, Abdelwahid Nur, head of one of the two largest rebel groups in Darfur, said his organization now intends to attack oil companies, particularly from China - a country he said provide weapons used to kill his people.

China National Petroleum Corp., or CNPC, is the largest oil producer in Sudan. India's Oil & Natural Gas Corp. (500312.BY), Malaysia's national oil company Petroliam Nasional Bhd., or Petronas, and domestic state-owned Sudapet are also present in the country.

The Chinese Foreign ministry had no immediate comment and CNPC declined to respond. The Chinese embassy in Khartoum didn't return a request for comment.

Read more <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25075>

Arab League urges deployment of Darfur force

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 7 Dec. PARIS) Arab League Secretary-General has urged deployment of the African Union-United Nations hybrid force in Sudan's troubled Darfur region.

Amr Musa, in exclusive statements to Sudan Tribune demanded the swift deployment of the AU-UN hybrid force in Darfur and called to overcome current obstacles in order to avoid further complications in the region.

Musa said there is time to agree over the pending issues up to the next spring indicating that the implementation of the Heavy Support Package — to pave the way for the hybrid force deployment — is not yet ended.

Musa disclosed that Arab League had refused since the beginning to play alone any role in the resolution of the conflict in order "to avoid getting snared in the trap that presenting Darfur crisis as a conflict between African and Arabs."

He said that the Arab League was and is still acting hand to hand with the African Union and provides all the necessary support until the end of the crisis.

Read more <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25083>

French charity workers to learn fate next week

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 7 Dec. NDJAMENA) Six French charity workers, five Chadian officials and a Sudanese refugee will learn next week if they are to face criminal proceedings over a bid to fly 103 children out of Chad, a judicial source said Friday.

"The prosecutor has sent the case to the examining magistrate with his petition," the source in the state prosecutor's office said, adding that the judge would decide next week if it was to be treated in a criminal court.

The judge has two other options — either to clear all or some of the suspects, or downgrade the charges from crimes to misdemeanors, as the lawyers for the six French suspects have been demanding.

Six French nationals are still incarcerated in Ndjamena on charges of kidnapping and fraud. Five Chadian officials and a Sudanese refugee are also detained for complicity.

One of the detained French nationals, Philippe Van Winkelberg, said the trial was flawed as all the suspects had been presumed guilty.

Read more <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25077>

Annan says EU-African Summit should pressure Sudan on Darfur

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 7 Dec. GENEVA) Former U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan says leaders attending the upcoming European Union-Africa summit must put pressure on the Sudanese government to accept non-African troops as part of a U.N.-African Union peacekeeping force in Darfur.

The first EU-Africa summit in seven years will be held in Lisbon on December Saturday and Sunday. Annan spoke to journalists in Geneva in his capacity as president of a new organization called The Global Humanitarian Forum, the Voice of America reported.

Former U.N. Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, calls the situation in Sudan very dangerous and precarious. He says the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement, which ended more than 20 years of civil war in the country has stalled. And, he says, no progress is being made in bringing more than four years of conflict in Darfur to an end.

Annan says there is no military solution to the conflict in Sudan. And, the rebels as well as the government must understand that sooner or later a political solution will have to be hammered out around the negotiating table.

He says pressure must be applied on the splintered rebel groups to find a common position to negotiate with the government.

Read more <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25082>

Action sought on Darfur, Mugabe at EU-Africa summit

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 7 Dec. LISBON) European and African parliament members told their leaders on Friday they would be ignoring the plight of thousands of civilians if they failed to tackle the crisis in Sudan's Darfur at a weekend summit in Portugal.

The appeal by 40 parliamentarians was joined by 50 European and African human rights groups. They said in a separate letter that not acting on the crisis would mean turning "our back on the people of Darfur", where 200,000 people have been killed.

"MPs, campaigners and human rights activists are all asking the same question: how can our leaders ignore one of the world's worst crises?" asked Glenys Kinnock, a member of the European Parliament.

Read more <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25079>

European unlikely to meet UN Darfur goal

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 7 Dec. BRUSSELS, Belgium) European nations look unlikely to meet an urgent U.N. call to provide military helicopters for a peacekeeping force planned for Darfur, saying their armies are already stretched by missions in Afghanistan, Kosovo and other hot spots.

More than 200,000 people have been killed and 2.5 million uprooted from their homes in Sudan's western Darfur region since a rebellion broke out in 2003, and many European governments have said they support deploying the peacekeeping force.

Despite the verbal support, no one has offered any of the 24 helicopters sought by U.N. officials.

"There's something like 12,000 military helicopters in Europe, so it's bizarre that not one has been found available so far to commit to this force," said Thomas Cargill, Africa program manager at Chatham House, an international affairs think tank in London.

He said European countries risk undermining their credibility "if they commit themselves to resolving a crisis but then can't commit themselves to providing the necessary hardware."

Read more <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25076>

African and EU legislators want Darfur on AU-EU summit

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 6 Dec. LONDON) More than forty members of African and European Parliaments have today (Friday) expressed 'surprise and disappointment' that the crisis in Darfur is not on the agenda for the EU-Africa Summit that begins in Lisbon this weekend.

In a strongly worded letter sent to the African and European head of states, the lawmakers said that they were, 'surprised and disappointed to note that at a two-day summit of the leaders of our two continents, there will be no time allotted to discuss the continuing crisis in Darfur that has claimed over 200,000 lives.'

The EU-Africa Summit will be held in Lisbon on Saturday and Sunday, 8-9 December, European and African leaders including Sudanese president Omer al-Bashir are expected to attend.

Read more <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25068>

Sudan army continues to kill civilians in Darfur

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 6 Dec. GENEVA) Sudanese armed forces continue to kill civilians in Darfur and all sides in the conflict still abuse human rights with impunity, according to the latest report by a group of U.N. experts.

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

These attacks killed more than 170 civilians and injured around 30, while at least three women were raped, it said.

In several incidents, fighters on both sides "failed to distinguish between combatants and non-combatants, and used disproportionate and indiscriminate means of warfare," the report said.

Sudan committed itself to increasing protection for the civilian population, especially women and children, after the experts' last report in September, but the latest findings show scarcely any progress since then.

Read more <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25065>

Lack of copters could doom Darfur force - UN chief

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 6 Dec. UNITED NATIONS) U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appealed to the Security Council on Thursday to arrange for a planned Darfur peacekeeping force to receive helicopters, whose absence he said would wreck the mission.

"In a separate statement to journalists, Ban called on U.N. member states to "walk their talk" about the need for the 26,000-strong force to deploy by supplying the transport and attack helicopters that no country has yet provided.

He said the force was needed to entice Darfur rebel groups into peace talks with Sudan's government. "But for this we need on-the-ground capability — specifically helicopters. We're not getting them. Because of that the entire mission is at risk."

Read more <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25062>