

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS**Media Monitoring Report, 12 December 07

(By Public Information Office)

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## Highlights

### UN/ Agencies

#### **UN Darfur envoy says peace process 'alive'**

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 12 Dec. KHARTOUM) The UN envoy for war-torn Darfur said in Khartoum on Tuesday that the peace process is alive and that he hopes it will gain pace in the coming weeks.

Jan Eliasson was speaking to the press at the end of a week-long visit to Sudan in a bid to get the government and rebel groups back to the negotiating table.

He said "the peace process is alive and we will try to speed up the process in the coming weeks," adding that he hoped talks would resume as quickly as possible.

Eliasson told journalists he had been unable to meet one of the rebel leaders, Justice and Equality Movement chief Khalil Ibrahim, due to fighting in the area. However, he said he had managed to speak with him by telephone.

He said he had also had contacts with Paris-based Abdelwahid Mohamed al-Nur, head of the main Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM).

Asked by Sudan Tribune, al-Nur denied the contacts, adding that last time he met Eliasson was in June when the UN envoy attend Paris Conference on Darfur.

#### **UN Envoy for Darfur defends meeting tribal chiefs**

(*The Citizen*) The UN Special Envoy for Darfur Jan Eliasson said that he had met the tribal leaders in Darfur. He said the meetings reflect the traditional way of representation and the intension to represent tribal groups either from government side or rebel side.

#### **More than \$2 billion required for humanitarian, recovery projects in Sudan – UN**

(*UN*) Sudan needs more than \$2.29 billion to fund 959 humanitarian, early recovery and development projects next year, according to the United Nations relief arm, which is calling on the international community to make "an urgent commitment" to ensure that the country can head towards a sustainable peace.

Launching the 'UN and Partners Work Plan for Sudan' today in Geneva, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said that 20 per cent of the funding has already been secured, leaving \$1.84 billion to be raised to implement projects across 12 different sectors.

Ameerah Haq, the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Sudan, said the projects will be divided fairly evenly between humanitarian and development requirements.

"The challenge is to continue to assist life-saving activities in Darfur while ensuring resources for early recovery and developmental activities in the whole of Sudan," she said. "We must continue to invest in Sudan to ensure a smooth transition from a conflict-affected nation to one capable of providing for the needs of its population."

### **Fate of UN rights envoy for Sudan hangs in balance**

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 12 Dec. GENEVA) The fate of the United Nations human rights investigator for Sudan, who has reported war crimes in Darfur, hangs in the balance this week as African and Islamic countries seek to end her mandate.

Sima Samar, a former Afghan deputy prime minister, has served in the independent post of the U.N. special rapporteur on the human rights situation in Sudan since 2005.

But African and Islamic countries told the U.N. Human Rights Council on Tuesday that conditions in Darfur had improved and that Khartoum had been cooperative with recent U.N. inquiries.

They saw no need to renew both Samar's investigative mandate and that of a separate group of seven independent experts that she leads. The larger group does not have the power to carry out fact-finding missions on the ground, deemed crucial.

Samar made no direct comment on her future role.

**Read more** <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25132>

### **GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)**

#### **Sudan's SPLM to rejoin national government**

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 11 Dec. KHARTOUM) The Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) said on Tuesday they would order ministers to rejoin a national coalition government, ending one of the biggest political crises to hit the country since the end of a two-decade civil war.

The SPLM said it would end its boycott of the Government of National Unity on Wednesday after leader Salva Kiir met President Omar Hassan al-Bashir and resolved a string of grievances.

The former rebel movement pulled its ministers out of the coalition government in October, accusing Khartoum of stalling on a 2005 peace deal that ended Africa's longest civil war.

The move sparked a bitter row between the sides and stirred fears of a return to conflict.

But SPLM Secretary General Pagan Amum told reporters that Kiir and Bashir had now resolved almost all the points of contention, including a timetable for the withdrawal of troops to either side of Sudan's north-south border.

*Read more* <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25130>

### **SPLM rejoins GoNU, SPLM Ministers to be sworn in within two days, Pagan the six-member committee reached strategic agreement**

*(AlRai AlAam, AlSudani)* The CPA partners (NCP, SPLM) said they have agreed on all CPA pending issues except Abyei which will be discussed by the Presidency as of Saturday (15 December). They have also agreed that the SPLM Ministers in the GoNU will be sworn in and will resume work immediately. The decree appointing them will be issued by the Presidency.

The SPLM Secretary General, Pagan Amum, said yesterday that the Presidency has issued strategic resolutions including the full commitment of the two parties to the CPA, enhancing democracy, independence of the judiciary, dialogue with political forces by organizing a national conference, rule of law, respecting the constitution, completing the redeployment of the troops in the south, Blue Nile, Nuba Mountains and deploying the JIUs at the oilfields. They agreed on funding the Borders Commission, population census and establishing a mechanism for the development of South Sudan. Pagan said that the FVP and GoSS President Salva Kiir will ask the SPLM Ministers to resume their work soon.

The NCP member of the six-man committee, Ahmed Mohamed Haroun, said the national will, the CPA implementation mechanisms and the two partners will be capable of overcoming the crisis. He said the two partners will implement the recommendations of the six-member committee by issuing presidential resolutions and decrees.

The SPLM Deputy Secretary General, Yasir Arman, said the Presidency has resolved the problem and will implement the 16-page document of the six-member committee.

### **SAF will never fight new war in south Sudan, Defence Minister**

*(Sudan Vision)* Minister of National Defence, Eng. Abdulrahim Mohamed Hussein, has affirmed that Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) is not bracing itself up for war in the South, explaining that SAF's Act for 2007 does not apply to the SPLA or the joint forces.

Hussein said the Act has been specially drafted for the interim Period and will be regularly revised to conform to conditions in the country in the wake of the right of

self determination and the results of the referendum, whether the South opted for voluntary unity or separation.

### **Joint force training session commences, Spokesman**

(*Sudan Vision*) Joint Defence Council Spokesman, Lt. Gen, Abdulrahman Mohamed Zain stated that the Joint Force training session started last Saturday in accordance with the defense Council Resolutions. He further told Sudan Vision that Sudan Armed Forces and Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) are determined to fully implement what has recently been agreed upon between CPA partners for the sake of peace.

Zain disclosed that the committee which has been set up for Joint Force deployment in oil production regions has formulated a work plan to be tabled to the joint defense Council meeting scheduled at the end of this month

### **Expert says elections face tremendous challenges**

(*Khartoum Monitor*) The upcoming elections are faced by several challenges, the census and the war in Darfur. Up to now elections can not be conducted while Darfur is ravaged by war, said Dr. Mukhtar Alassam, A Khartoum University lecturer while speaking at a training course on elections yesterday at the commission's complex, eastern Khartoum.

The deputy secretary General of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement northern sector, Yasir Arman said the upcoming elections due in July 2009 faces tremendous challenges arising from the political and social rifts in the country. He added that there will be no real elections without national reconciliation.

The elections will reflect on the referendum which will be held for southern Sudan to choose between having their own state or remaining united with northern Sudan, he said

### **Amid tight security measures, first court session of sabotage suspects started yesterday**

(*Sudan Tribune*) Amid tight security measures, the first court session in the trial of "sabotage attempt" suspects started, here, in Khartoum yesterday.

30 suspects appeared before Judge Essmat Suliman. The most high profile among the suspects are Democratic Unionist Party vice president lawyer Ali Mohamed Hassanein, Ex-Minister of Tourism Abduljaleel El Basha and a number of retired and still serving military and police officers.

A number of the suspects' family's members demonstrated outside court against denying them entry to the court hall. The session took less than one hour spent on registering the defense lawyers and the prosecutors who represent the general prosecution. A subsequent session was scheduled for next Sunday to hear the investigators testimonies.

## **Presidency Continues Meeting for handling Disputes**

(SMC) Presidency said should continue discussion over the joint six member committee report and recommendation to handling the dispute between national congress and SPLM over implementation of CPA kit was noted that the previous presidency meeting conducted between president AL-Bashir and his two deputies Salva Kiir and Ali Osman decided that Abyei case has to be handed exclusively by the presidency. But the presidency ordered joint defense committee to prepare scheduled for redeployment of Armed forces and SPLA troops north and south of 1956 border line respectively.

## **JEM Elements Killed at Dafra Oil Filed in South Kordofan**

(SMC) Armed Forces refute JEM allegation published by foreign media that it has captured an oil field area operated by Chinese.

Army spokesman brigadier Osman Mohammed Al Agabash told (smc) that JEM as usual alleged capturing an oil field in south Kordofan. What happened was that a group composed of 20 rebel elements led an attempt to enter Raho camp of Dafra Oil field in south Kordofan.

During the attempt their car went up side down. Those who were rescued started open fire against the patrol force around the camp. As consequence two rebels were killed and the remaining ones fled away. The spokesman however confirmed that armed force is fully controlling the situation and no security threats exposed by any group of rebels any where.

## **Sudanese army denies rebel attack oil field**

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 11 Dec. KHARTOUM) Sudanese army today denied statement by a Darfur rebel group that they had seized control of a Chinese-run oil-field in Kordufan region for the second time.

The rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) said Tuesday attacked the oilfield of al-Rahaw and took control of the facility" in the south Kordufan region.

In a statement to SUNA, the spokesman of the Sudan Armed Forces denied that any oil well was seized. He further said that the security was stable in the oil region and the report was false and far from truth.

He said a group of 20 persons tried to attack al-Rahaw camp out side Dakhirah well in South Kordufan State. He added that the assailants jacked a vehicle belonging to a Chinese company after forcing the driver to hand it over to them.

The vehicle rolled over at the gate of the camp and the rebels escaped using another car they were driving, the military statement said.

The Rahaw facility run by China's Great Wall Company produces 35,000 barrels a day and is located northwest of the Hajlil field

Last October JEM rebels seized five hostages when they attacked Kordofan's Defra oil field in an assault they said was meant to send China a message to stop supporting the Sudanese government through oil revenues.

Beijing's ambassador to Khartoum last month voiced deep concern at Darfur rebel threats to target Chinese peacekeepers being deployed as part of a bolstered African Union-United Nations force in Darfur.

### **International Community Addresses Rebel Movements in Darfur with Different Agendas**

(SMC) Head of Abuja Peace Agreement Implementation Committee Mohammed Al Tigani Al Tayeb stresses the importance of reactivating the deal mechanism Al Tigani said most of delay regarding the implementation of the deal is based on financial contains but some were administrative. However head of the committee acknowledges that the responsibility to implement the deal requires solidarity between parties concern and not only the government. Al Tayeb said the bulk of responsibility lies on the international community particularity on the issues related to fighter's requirements.

He said the respective group of fighters demand survival requirement such as food in the light of security arrangements difficulties. He said his committee demands establishing of integrated force to maintain security following attacked against AU forces working in Darfur. Regarding non signatories to Abuja Al Tayeb said his committee has exerted efforts to convince this group joint peace process but shortage of funds hampered the respective efforts. Al Tayeb has likely blamed the international community for addressing non signatories' movement through different agendas to make parties accept its concept for peace in the region.

### **Sudan rights lawyer awarded top European prize**

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 11 Dec. STRASBOURG, France) The European Parliament on Tuesday awarded its top human rights prize to Sudanese lawyer Salih Mahmoud Osman for his work in Sudan's Darfur region.

Osman was the unanimous choice of the leaders of the parliament's political groups, for the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought, whose previous recipients have included Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

Osman, an opposition member of the Sudanese parliament who works for the Sudan Organization Against Torture, has for years defended and given free legal aid to hundreds of victims of rights abuses in Darfur.

At a ceremony in Strasbourg the European Parliament hailed Osman's work with the victims of conflict.

"I have seen thousands of people who have been tortured. I have seen hundreds of women and young girls who have been victims of sexual abuse. I have seen the four million who have been forcibly displaced from their homes," Osman told a news conference"

Osman himself was imprisoned by the Sudanese government for over seven months in 2004 without a charge or a trial. "His fight against injustice has had a personal cost; members of his family have been killed and tortured," the parliament said in announcing the award. *Read more* <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25137>

### **Sudan: Human Rights Council denounces "double standards"**

(*Suna website*) The Rapporteur of the Human Rights Advisory Council, Dr Abd-al-Mon'im Uthman Muhammad Taha, said that among the biggest obstacles facing the issues of human rights are that they are still linked to politicization and double standards.

Speaking at the regular Press Forum of the Sudan News Agency on Monday [10 December], on the occasion of International Human Rights Day, Dr Taha explained that some countries try to achieve political gains through selectivity and double standards in the field of human rights.

Dr Taha explained that the issue of human rights is one of the basic objectives of the United Nations and the other international and regional organizations.

He explained that the big powers withhold aid with regard to the issues of human rights despite it being important for the developing countries to carry out their duties in the domains of human rights.

### **GoSS**

#### **South Sudan delegation in Egypt to discuss students' problems**

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 11 Dec. CAIRO) A delegation from the Southern Sudan government is arrived in Cairo discuss with the concerned authorities education Cooperation and problems related to the situation of south Sudanese students in the Egyptian universities.

MP Nartisio Loluke Manir, Chairperson of Education, Research, Science and Technology Committee in the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly (SSLA) and Samuel Kanyanga, Deputy Director for Ministry of Education, Science and Technology/High Education arrived to Cairo on Saturday, December 8, 2007 to discuss with the officials at the Ministry for High Education problems facing the southern Sudan students who were accepted in scholarships in Egypt.

Nartisio told Sudan Tribune that the purpose of his visit is to get acquainted with the students' problems and particularly those who studied in East Africa and do not know Arabic language, and the problem of evaluating their grades into the Egyptian standard as well as to fill the remaining 96 scholarship vacant posts for this academic year 2007/2008 and to see as how these problems could be sorted out.

*Read more* <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25138>



## **Machar urges belligerent tribes to stop fighting**

(*Khartoum Monitor*) Vice President of the Government of Southern Sudan Dr. Riak Machar called on the people of Bor and Bibor to cease hostilities and seek reconciliation. While visiting Jonglei state yesterday, Machar emphasized disarmament of people carrying illegal arms in order to realize security and stability in the area.

## **LRA Split Worsens, More to Abandon Rebellion**

(*Africa Global Media*) THE recent split between the LRA rebel leaders Joseph Kony and his deputy Vincent Otti has caused more divisions with more fighters planning to defect.

Gulu RDC Walter Ochora during a press conference at his office in Gulu on Monday said intelligence information from some of the LRA defectors reveals that confusion has heightened at the LRA base with a number of senior LRA commanders and fighters contemplating to abandon the rebellion. "The killing of LRA's second in command Vincent Otti on orders of his chairman Joseph Kony sent shock waves within the camps of the LRA. A good number of them have escaped. I am about to go back to eastern Congo to lead more LRA fighters to the UN peace keeping mission," Col. Ochora said.

Col. Ochora who recently travelled to eastern Congo to bring back defected LRA commanders Opio Makasi, Sunday Otto among others said a number of LRA fighters were still scattered in the Congo jungle after the split between Kony and Otti. He said they were trying to find ways of handing themselves over to Monuc.

Monuc has set up three reception centres in the eastern Congo towns of Dungu, Bunia and Goma to receive LRA returnees.

## **Darfur**

### **US envoy accuses Darfur rebel leader of allying with Janjaweed militia**

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 11 Dec. WASHINGTON) A senior US official accused a prominent Darfur rebel leader of trying to forge a military alliance with a major Janjaweed leader in the war ravaged region.

Andrew Natsios, the special envoy of U.S. President George W. Bush, speaking at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, said that Abdel-Wahid Al-Nur, leader of Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) is "in discussion and maybe in alliance" with Mohamed Ali Hamiditi who is the leader of a Janjaweed group.

Natsios described this development as a "major event" saying that he doesn't think al-Nur "wants to have it publicized".

The US official said that Hamiditi despite being funded by Khartoum felt betrayed by the central government.

Natsios also accused al-Nur's forces of making physical threats against IDP's who participate in the election process to choose their advisory council. He also said that the Sudanese government is trying disrupting the IDP election process.

The US envoy said that despite al-Nur being popular in IDP camps he has reasons to believe that his support is dwindling because "people are getting impatient".

*Read more* <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25139>

### **SLM of Arkoy Leads Intense Communication with Darfur Rebels Leaders**

(SMC) SLM of Mani Arkoy has entered into intense communication with Darfur rebel movements which did not sign on Abuja peace agreement. The motive of communication was to convince movements accept participation in the second round of Sirte talks for peace between the government and Darfur rebels. SLM spokesman Saf Al Dein Salih Haroun reveals that the movement has reached understandings with main movements influential leaders such as Dr. Khalil Ibrahim, Ahmed Abdel Sahfi and others

### **Senior Assistant to President Arkoy Discusses with Ellison Peace Process in for Darfur**

(SMC) Senior assistant to the president Mani Arkoy calls for the importance of hurrying up peace process scheduled in Libya town of Sirt between the government and Darfur rebels. He said peaceful talks to settle Darfur dispute is the most acceptable option for achieving comprehensive peace in the region. Senior assistant however gave this statement following the meeting with UN secretary general envoy for Darfur Yan Allison at the office of the first yesterday.

Arkoy discussed with Ellison the humanitarian situation there.

### **Sudan reiterates readiness for Darfur peace talks**

(Sudan Tribune.com – 11 Dec. KHARTOUM) The Sudanese government reiterated on Tuesday its readiness to held peace negotiations with Darfur rebel movements at any time set by the mediators of the United Nations and the African Union (AU).

Sudanese Presidential Assistant Nafie Ali Nafie, who is also the head of government delegation for Darfur peace talks, made the remarks following a meeting with visiting Jan Eliasson, the special envoy of the UN secretary general for Darfur.

Nafie told reporters that he discussed with Eliasson the arrangements for the coming round of talks between the Sudanese government and the rebel movements in Darfur and ways to unify their position in order to make the next negotiations success.

The Sudanese official denied that his government had blocked a joint UN-AU peacekeeping operation in Darfur, which has been delayed due to financial and logistic problems, urging the UN to finance the operation.

## **Peacekeeper dies 2 months after Darfur's Haskanita attack**

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 11 Dec. KHARTOUM) A Nigerian soldier has died in hospital more than two months after he was critically wounded in an attack on his base in Sudan's Darfur region, the African Union said on Tuesday.

The 32-year-old corporal was the twelfth person to die following the attack in late September — the worst single assault on African Union peacekeepers since they arrived in the area in 2004.

Armed raiders overran the AU base in the southern Darfur town of Haskanita on Sept. 29. Ten AU peacekeepers were killed.

AMIS said another 48-year-old Nigerian corporal, who was critically wounded in the attack, died three weeks ago after returning home for treatment. The 32-year-old corporal died late on Monday in the intensive care unit of a Khartoum hospital where he had been treated since the attack.

Two other Haskanita soldiers are still in a critical condition in the same hospital, Mezni said, adding that he would not release the men's names.

No group has yet claimed responsibility for the attack which is still under investigation by the AU.

Preliminary results of the probe released by the U.N. said the attackers used vehicles marked "JEM", the initials of Darfur's powerful Justice and Equality Movement rebel faction.

JEM denied carrying out the attack and blamed members of a breakaway splinter group. **Read more** <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25131>

## **Darfur rebels claim second oil field attack**

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 11 Dec. KHARTOUM) Darfur rebels said they attacked a Chinese-run oil field in Sudan on Tuesday and vowed to launch more assaults on other installations.

No one from Sudan's armed forces or the Ministry of Energy was immediately available for comment on rebel claims of an attack on the field in Sudan's Kordofan region.

But in October Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) rebels seized five hostages when they attacked Kordofan's Defra oil field in an assault they said was meant to send China a message to stop supporting the Sudanese government through oil revenues. Khartoum is very sensitive about reports that might damage its oil industry.

## **2nd LD: Sudan's army denies oilfield near Darfur seized by rebels**

(*Xinhua*) The Sudanese army denied on Tuesday that an oilfield near the conflict-torn western Sudanese region of Darfur had been taken control by rebels from the region.

"No oilfield has been occupied," the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) said in a statement.

The Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) claimed that its militants launched an attack Tuesday morning on an oilfield in South Kordofan State neighboring Darfur and taken control of it.

"This report is baseless" the SAF statement said, noting that the situation around the oilfield was "calm and stable". *Read more* <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25128>

### **China calls for safety guarantees in Sudan after attack**

(AFP) China on Wednesday called for the safety of its citizens in Sudan to be guaranteed a day after rebels there attacked an oil field being run by a Chinese company for the second time in as many months.

"Any threats or attacks on Chinese organizations or people in Sudan are unacceptable," the foreign ministry said in a statement on the latest attack. "The safety of Chinese personnel in Sudan must be effectively guaranteed."

China is Sudan's top oil buyer and weapons provider in a relationship that has drawn much criticism in the West, as well as opposition from Darfur rebels.