



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN UNMIS

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(By Public Information Office)

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UN/ Agencies

Security Council urges Sudan to accept joint UN-AU force

(AFP – 19 Dec. UN) The UN Security Council urged the Sudanese government to accept the deployment of a joint African Union-UN peacekeeping force in its strife-torn Darfur region.

In a statement read by its president for December, Qatar's UN envoy Abdelaziz al-Nasser, the 15-member body endorsed Darfur-related decisions taken at a high-level meeting in Addis Ababa and by the AU Peace and Security Council last month.

The council on Tuesday called for "the immediate deployment of the United Nations' Light and Heavy Support Packages to the AU mission in Sudan and a hybrid operation in Darfur."

It reaffirmed "its deep concern about the worsening security situation in Darfur and its repercussions in the region."

Annan makes last push for Darfur deal

(AFP – 19th Dec. UN) Kofi Annan used his last press conference to defend his 10-year stewardship of the United Nations and to make one last push to end the tragedy in Sudan's Darfur region.

Monday, he announced the dispatch of senior adviser Ahmadou Ould Abdullah to Khartoum to clarify Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir's stance on plans to turn the underfunded and ill-equipped African Union (AU) peacekeeping force in strife-torn Darfur into a "hybrid" AU-UN force.

He also named Swedish former foreign minister Jan Eliasson as interim special representative to Sudan.

Eliasson, a former president of the UN General Assembly, "will work the diplomatic channels mainly outside Sudan, working with capitals and governments and encouraging them to stay engaged and work with us in Darfur in the search for a solution," Annan said Tuesday.

UN workers evacuated from largest Darfur refugee camp*

(via *SudanTribune*) The United Nations evacuated more than 70 aid workers from the largest refugee camp in Darfur, Sudan on Tuesday after gunmen looted their compounds, leaving some 130,000 refugees virtually without humanitarian help.

It was the largest single instance of an aid worker evacuation since the U.N. launched its large-scale humanitarian campaign in war-torn Darfur in 2004. Over the past year, worsening violence has made delivering vital aid to hundreds of thousands of residents difficult or impossible.

A group of over 20 gunmen raided several humanitarian compounds in the South Darfur refugee camp of Gereida late Monday, harassing staff and stealing vehicles, communication equipment and money, the U.N. Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said in a statement.

Though no humanitarian worker was hurt in the attacks, the situation was considered too unsafe and the U.N. said it airlifted 71 aid workers out on Tuesday.

The U.N. said it was the eighth evacuation of endangered aid workers it has had to carry out so far this month in the western Sudanese region of Darfur.

"More than 400 (workers) have been evacuated this month, the situation is getting worse and worse," said OCHA spokeswoman Dawn Blalock on the telephone from Sudan.

A handful of aid workers chose to remain in Gereida, but the "the vast majority" left the camp, Darfur's largest with some 130,000 refugees, she said.

** Please find attached separately the full text of the statement by DSRSG Manuel Aranda da Silva.*

UN rights body plans Darfur mission in Jan

(Reuters – 19th Dec. Brussels) The chairman of the new United Nations human rights watchdog said on Tuesday he planned to send a high-level mission to Sudan's Darfur in early January.

The 47-state United Nations Human Rights Council decided last week to dispatch five "highly qualified" team members to war-torn Darfur along with the world body's special Sudan investigator, but no date was set.

"It should be early January, that's what we are aiming for, but we need to ensure good preparation," council chairman Luis Alfonso de Alba of Mexico told Reuters after meeting European Union officials and lawmakers in Brussels.

De Alba said nominating the five members of the mission was difficult because he needed to preserve the consensus found last week. He said he was receiving offers of names by various countries and would decide by the end of the year.

The mission would aim "to identify ways and means for the council to be part of the solution, not to pass judgment".

"It is a big challenge for the council," he added.

UN needs for \$1.8 billion in Sudan aid*

(*AFP* – 19th Dec. **Khrt.**) Sudan's humanitarian and development needs will reach a whopping 1.8 billion dollars in 2007, by far the largest share of the global funds demanded by UN chief Kofi Annan, the United Nations said Tuesday.

"Sudan will require more than 1.8 billion dollars to fund humanitarian, recovery and development projects in 2007," said a UN press release.

A "UN work plan for Sudan" conceived jointly by the world body, NGOs and Sudanese government institutions was unveiled Tuesday in Khartoum.

** Please find in separate attachment the full text of the OCHA Press Release on the Work Plan 2007*

UNHCR, IOM sign agreement for the return of 340,000 refugees

(*AlHayat*) The UNHCR and the IOM have signed an agreement of cooperation to assist Sudanese refugees and IDPs to return to their homes.

UNMIS said over an email message* that there are 340,000 Sudanese refugees in neighbouring countries waiting to return home and about 3 million southern Sudanese IDPs within Sudan. The mission said also that there are about 16,000 refugees from neighbouring countries in southern Sudan.

On the other hand, the Governor of Blue Nile State, in a joint meeting with UN agencies, called upon the relevant parties to facilitate the return of refugees and to adopt "flexible measures" towards that end.

In another development, *BBC Monitoring Service* reports that the UNHCR has resumed repatriating Sudanese refugees from the CAR to Western Equatoria State (WES) after the exercise was suspended in April.

Quoting the Sudan Radio Service, the agency said that the Deputy Governor for the WES told the SRS from Yambio that about 200 people have been repatriated from the CAR since the repatriation exercise resumed last week. He said the repatriation exercise was suspended due to a disagreement between the Central African Republic and the UNHCR.

Deputy Governor Joseph Ngere said Western Equatoria State authorities are working with United Nations agencies to reintegrate the returnees in the state.

Government extends Darfur moratorium to 2008

(*Khartoum Monitor*) The Minister of Humanitarian Affairs announced yesterday that the GoNU has extended the Darfur Moratorium until 2008.

Addressing the 2007 UN and Partners' Work Plan launched at the Friendship Hall, Minister Kosti Manibe described the Moratorium and government's cooperation with the UN as part of government's commitments and contributions to save lives in Darfur.

He revealed that the government has also contributed \$66 million and continues to render material contributions.

The minister admitted that there are problems challenging the smooth flow of humanitarian work in Darfur but pointed out that these problems will be resolved collectively and not individually.

CPA

V.P Taha promises to implement Protocol of Security as soon as possible.

AllIntibaha reports that V.P Ali Osman Mohammed Taha promised yesterday to start the implementations of the Security Arrangement Protocol as soon as possible in Kordofan to guarantee security and stability in Kordofan.

He said during his meeting with Kordofan State Legislative Authority that the security protocol tops the to-do list.

Taha also called the NCP and the SPLM to work cooperatively to set a rational political model in the State.

Taha further told the regional legislative body that he is in Kadugli to witness the ratification of the Interim Constitution of South Kordofan State and will remain in Kadugli until that issue is resolved alongside the other differences the partners to the CPA face in that region.

A military committee meets GoSS to disarm southern militias

(AlRai AlAam, AlAdhwaa et al) The Joint Defence Board will issue a memorandum to the Presidency of the republic requesting the Presidency to issue resolutions on payment of arrears for the JIUs SPLA elements.

The arrears are estimated at \$18 million.

The JDB has also asked the SAF and the SPLA to expedite the formation of JIUs in the other areas of southern Sudan, especially the oil-rich areas, before 22 January next year when the JDB will be holding in Juba its 7th meeting.

Meanwhile the Minister for Presidential Affairs at the GoSS has revealed that 6 SPLA officers have been brought under arrest awaiting military investigations on suspicions of their role in the recent uproar in Juba.

On the other hand, the Official Spokesman for the SAF has denied reports over the detention by the SPLA of 15 members of the SAF in Juba following the incidents that occurred in the area of Gomba, last October.

The Sudanese army official pointed out that following that attack on the area of Gomba by militias of the Lord Resistance Army, fifteen members of the Armed Forces who hail

from that area went to check out what had happened to their families there, but upon arriving there they found that the SPLA troops were deployed and were subsequently arrested.

However on the intervention of Lieutenant General Salva Kiir they were released and were taken back to their respective units in the Joint Forces in Juba.

Southern Sudan

NGOs urged to return to southern Sudan clash-hit area

(SRS via BBC Monitoring - 19 Dec. **Malakal**) Evacuation of humanitarian workers from Malakal following recent clashes between Sudan Armed Forces-allied militias and the Sudan People's Liberation Army is hampering humanitarian efforts to help those affected by the fighting, says UN Resident Coordinator Meredith Preston McGee as she appeals to NGO's to resume their work in Malakal.

She said she will be discussing with NGOs as required with their head offices if they need advice from the UN again in consultation with UN security and with UNMIS but added they will be urging them to come back as the situation normalizes over the next couple of weeks.

She pointed out that support from these NGOs is critical as they do such good work in Malakal and added they are eager to have them back on the ground as soon as it is safe for them there.

Ms McGee added that some UN humanitarian workers have resumed work even without the protection of UN forces in Sudan.

Sudan: National NGOs call for disbanding militias

(SRS via BBC Monitoring - 20 Dec. **Nairobi**) A consortium of indigenous non-governmental organizations operating in Malakal is calling on the GoSS and the UN to tighten security around the areas of Dolieb Hills, Nagdier, Canal, Khorflus, Kaldak, Atar, Fangak, and Meluth.

In a statement posted to Sudan Radio Service, the consortium also appealed to the GoNU and GoSS to disband all militia groups, as well as speed up the redeployment of Sudan Armed Forces to northern Sudan as stipulated in the CPA.

The consortium also requests that the GoSS form a commission to assess damage and losses to citizens of Upper Nile state during the recent clashes in Malakal and compensate them accordingly. The consortium further called on humanitarian organizations to resume their work to assist the victims of the fighting.

The consortium of indigenous NGO's consists of Women Action for Development, Youth Agency for Relief, Rehabilitation and Development for Southern Sudan and Fashoda Youth Forum.

Darfur

Mustafa Osman says GoNU hasn't received formal note to postpone Asmara talks

(*AlRai ALAam*) Presidential Advisor Dr. Mustafa Osman Ismail says the government in Sudan has not received any formal communication from Asmara for a postponement of envisaged talks with DPA non-signatory groups.

The presidential advisor said that Khartoum and Asmara are still in contact and preparations are ongoing for a new round of negotiations.

Dr. Nafei Ali Nafei, another Presidential Advisor, also pointed out that both the GoNU and the non-signatories of the Darfur Peace Agreement have welcomed Eritrean mediation for talks between them.

Nafei who also doubles up as President Bashir's deputy at the helms of the National Congress Party said that the government delegation is ready for the talks.

Rebel leader AbdulWahid denies reports on meeting with US Bush

(*AllIntibaha*) AbdulWahid has denied recent reports of a meeting between him and President Bush of the US during a trip to Washington.

He pointed out that he had been cut off in Eritrea for months and that such fabrications are the workings of the National Congress Party security and intelligence machine.

National Redemption Front acknowledges gross loss in Seah North Darfur.

(*AllIntibaha*) Following recent clashes involving NRF factions and the Chadian armed opposition on the one hand and the Chadian opposition on the other, the Chadian government has summoned Dr. Khalil Ibrahim over a suspected JEM role in the events, *AllIntibaha* reports.

On the other hand and against the background of reports of a growing rift within the NRF's military command, the General Coordinator of the NRF, Ali Shogar, said that what is happening is an expression of differences in views. He assured that the NRF is capable of bridging these differences.

AU urges Sudan to secure the release of Kidnapped peacekeepers

(*SudanTribune.com* – 19 Dec. **Khrt.**) The Acting Head of the African Union Mission in the Sudan (AMIS), Monique Mukaruliza met with Sudanese officials at the Foreign Ministry

to secure the release of two AU military officers and a vehicle hijacked on 10 December, 2006 in el-Fasher by unidentified armed men.

Mukaruliza requested the Government “in whose jurisdiction the incident took place” to step up the ongoing search for the AU officer. She reiterated that AMIS will continue to cooperate with the concerned authorities to ensure a well coordinated operation.

** Please find in separate attachment the full text of the AMIS Press Statement issued in the wake of the incident*

Nearly 40 killed in Sudan’s Janjaweed attack- Chad

(via SudanTribune.com) Nearly 40 people were killed in clashes between Chad’s security forces and Arab raiders on horseback who attacked two eastern villages, burning homes and mutilating their victims, the Chadian government said on Tuesday.

It said the attackers, who struck at the weekend, gouged out and carried off the eyes of eight government soldiers they killed and disembowelled one of 15 Chadian civilians also slain.

Five Sudanese refugees from a nearby U.N.-run refugee camp were also killed during the raids on Aradibe and Habile, which escalated into clashes with the Chadian army on Dec. 16 and 17, the government added.

"The two villages were partially burned down," Communications Minister Hourmadji Musa Doumgor said, adding that nine of the attackers were killed and four taken prisoner.

He identified the raiders as Janjaweed, a term which loosely signifies "devils on horseback" in Arabic. It is used to designate Arab militiamen who have killed and raped civilians and plundered villages on both sides of Chad’s eastern border with Sudan’s conflict-torn Darfur region.

Foreign humanitarian workers said the attacks took place close to a refugee camp, Goz Amer, run by the UNHCR and housing over 18,000. Civilians displaced by the fighting sought refuge in the camp, which houses mostly Sudanese refugees from Darfur.

"With the attacks so close to the Goz Amer refugee camp, which has over 18,000 residents, the refugees are understandably tense and concerned for their security. They are afraid to work their fields," UNHCR said in a statement.

The violence occurred just days before UNHCR chief Antonio Guterres was due to visit Chad on Thursday and Friday for talks with President Idriss Deby’s government. He would also visit eastern Chad, which shelters some 232,000 Sudanese refugees.

For full text of this story from Reuters, please click on the link below
[Nearly 40 killed in Sudan’s Janjaweed attack- Chad](#)

Eastern Sudan

Eastern Front splinter groups threaten East Sudan Peace Agreement

(The Citizen) Sources from the Beja Congress, speaking on condition of anonymity, told the *Citizen* that there are attempts by some expelled members of the Beja Congress to form tribal militias in the eastern Sudanese states of Kassala, Gedharef and Red Sea.

The source says groups opposed to such a militia allege that Eritrea is backing the formation of these militias.

Eastern Sudan rebels prepare to demobilise

(via SudanTribune.com) Former rebels operating in eastern Sudan have begun assembling ahead of demobilisation or integration into the national army under a peace deal that ended 12 years of insurgency, officials said Tuesday.

An estimated 1,800 former Eastern Front rebels are gathering at positions close to government-held Sudanese territory, one inside Sudan and the other in western Eritrea, in line with the October agreement, the movement's deputy chairwoman, Amna Dirar, told AFP in Asmara.

"Part of them are in the Eritrean area, and part of them are in the free area in Hamesh Koreb (in Sudan)," Dirar said, adding that these forces would enter government-controlled territory "probably in the coming few days."

For full text of this story from the AFP, please click on the link below
[Eastern Sudan rebels prepare to demobilise](#)