



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN UNMIS

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(By Public Information Office)

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UN/ Agencies

Radhia Achouri says no date fixed for Eliasson visit

(*AlKhartoum*) UNMIS Spokesperson Radhia Achouri says UNMIS has been informed by New York that Jan Eliasson will be coming here in February but does not have information on the specific date he is expected in Khartoum.

The spokesperson stressed that Eliasson's mandate does not cover discussions on the 3-phase programme on Darfur or any other issue pertaining to peacekeeping. She said that these issues are to be handled by the higher authorities at the UN and the African Union and in coordination with the Sudan government at every stage.

She added that Eliasson's impending visit will basically focus on revitalizing political talks on the issue of Darfur. UNMIS, she added, will have no part in the issue and its role will basically concentrate on assisting Mr. Eliasson in his mission.

Achouri declined to go into details on the issue of the support package, the levels of implementation and discussions on the issue between the UN and the government. She said however that the government did give its response on the Light Support Package but has not formally responded on the Heavy Support Package.

3-fold increase in violent attacks on relief workers

(*AlAyaam*) *AlAyaam* issues highlights of an OCHA Press Release issued on 2 February in New York in which Acting United Nations Acting Emergency Relief Coordinator Margareta Wahlström reported a 3-fold increase in attacks on relief workers in the year 2006.

She said that this 67% increase has turned Darfur into the most dangerous place for relief workers.

She called upon all parties to the conflict in Darfur to end the attacks and bring the perpetrators to justice.

She also said that direct targeting of the civilian population has led to the displacement of over 500,000 last year and over 250,000 in January this year.

She also expressed deep regret over the closure of major supply routes in North and West Darfur and pointed out that this has forced relief agencies to use aircraft which is a more expensive means of supply.

She said that 13,000 relief workers are trying to provide relief to 4 million lives including 2 million IDPs in Darfur.

UN staff warned against high risk of terrorist attack in Sudan

(ST) The *SudanTribune.com* says that the United Nations has warned of an imminent threat against western interests in Sudan.

The agency quotes a UNDSS advisory issued on 31 January 2006 as alerting staff of an imminent attack against western interest from an extremist group in Sudan. And requested all staff in Khartoum to remain vigilant.

The agency also says that the US Embassy in Khartoum, on receiving the advisory, also alerted Americans in Sudan in a warden message on the possible threat.

Presidency contemplating measures against IRC

(*AlSahafa*) Reports say that the Presidency of the Republic is contemplating measures to suspend the activities of the International Rescue Committee in Sudan following accusations of involvement in numerous spy activities.

Reliable sources reported yesterday that the competent authorities have uncovered a series of violations of the mandate by the organisation that was supposed to operate in the health and water domains but instead went on to drafting intelligence and political reports on Sudan.

The sources further point out that the evidence uncovered contains detailed and documented reports of incidents that happened within the country. They point out that the authorities therefore decided to refer the issue to the Presidency of the Republic and predict that the organisation may be suspended of activities in Sudan.

Further information points out that the IRC is in a shaky position with the government following a Memorandum of Understanding it signed with the ICC in which it commits to operating on behalf of the ICC by bringing in witnesses before investigations teams in Darfur.

Government accuses international relief agencies of siding with Darfur rebels

(*AlIntibaha*) Ahmed Mohamed Haroun, the state minister for humanitarian affairs, has accused some international aid agencies of siding with the Darfur rebel groups in destabilising Darfur.

Speaking to Egypt-based *AIOsbou* in Cairo, the state minister pointed out that the rebels raid agency trucks and vehicles without these agencies raising a protest. He pointed out that this is in line with the policies of the US and European countries not to protest against these groups.

The Transition Debate

Security Council to hold consultations on Sudan

(*AlSahafa*) The President of the Security Council says that the Secretary-General of the UN will tomorrow brief the Council on his trip to Addis and the African Union summit meeting.

The UNMIS Bulletin issued yesterday reveals that also on the Security Council agenda is discussions on Sudan to be held on 16 February.

GoNU

Bashir gives strong response to UK threats on Darfur

(*Akhbar Alyaum et al*) This major headliner appearing in most major newspapers (*with the Akhbar Alyaum, as usual, going the whole length and providing a full text transcript of the President's speech*) covers President Bashir's address yesterday at the inauguration of the National Records House in Khartoum.

The president's counter-threats to the UK over recent UK threats (*see UNMIS Media Monitoring Report, 4 February 2007*) that the Sudan would face dire consequences should it continue to reject a hybrid deployment in Darfur, featured prominently in his speech and was reflected in the newspaper stories.

The president reminded the UK of the fate of colonial-time Gordon Pasha. He pointed out that the Sudan is being targeted time and again because of its noble history but added that his regime will not hand the country over to any "greedy party".

He said that the UK and the US should be ashamed of the looting and killings they carried out in Iraq. The president said he welcomed any possible confrontation with these countries saying that Sudan will repeat the historic defeat.

Salva Kiir reaffirms SPLM faith in the unity of Sudan

(*ST, the local press*) This headliner featured prominently in today's papers and is the lead story in most. It covers the speeches made at the first ever general conference of the SPLA leadership in northern Sudan. The VPs statements has generally gone down positively in the press with most focusing on his support for unity. But some, such as *AllIntibaha* saw the statements in a different light. Below are highlights of both versions.

The First Vice-President and Chairman of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement has affirmed the faith of his movement in the unity of the country and refuted allegations that the SPLM seeks secession of the south. He said that the general trend he sees is in favour of unity.

On the GoNU, he said that there is a "group of evil" standing behind him and President Bashir who seek to derail the CPA.

The first vice-president and president of the government of southern Sudan has also ruled out the re-emergence of war in southern Sudan and said that the next battle will be through the ballot box – reference to forthcoming elections.

The conference would be discussing the organizational structure of the SPLM in the north and that the executives and legislatives in the northern sector will exchange views with the SPLM leader. The conference's slogan is Building, Change, Democracy, Unity and Diversity.

Under the headlines: “Salva Kiir accuses northerners of backing the secession option”, *AlIntibaha* daily said that Salva Kiir branded northerners as secessionists and accused them of backing their southern Sudanese counterparts against the SPLM/A.

He also said that there are some northerners who plot to throw southern Sudanese out of Khartoum.

AlSahafa daily takes another angle to the story and points out that Salva Kiir has announced he is ready to step down as leader of the SPLM should thus be the wishes of the general conference of the SPLM.

Salva Kiir also ordered the brass band that played the SPLM/A anthem as he made his entry not to repeat this “unintended error” again but to play instead National Anthem.

AlWatan daily writes however that the VP had ordered the brass band not to play the National Anthem but play instead the SPLM/A anthem.

Three southern universities to be relocated

(*Khartoum Monitor*) The Federal Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Prof. Peter Nyot, said the three southern Sudanese universities with five new proposed technical colleges will be relocated to South Sudan soon.

He was speaking yesterday at his residence, while receiving the Deputy Governor and minister of Education of Lake State. Hon. David Nok Marial.

Suwar-el-Dahab committee to seek meeting with VPs Kiir and Taha

(*AlSahafa*) The executive committee of the Committee for Reunification of National Ranks seeks to hold talks with VPs Kiir and Taha as part of efforts to crystallize the vies of the political parties on the political situation and the conflict in Darfur.

A spokesperson for the committee said that the committee will approach the two VPs in the coming few days.

Southern Sudan/ GoSS/ SPLM

Uganda describes as “diversionary” rebel demand to move peace talks; Kenya refuses to host talks

(ST) Uganda has described rebel LRA demand to move the peace talks from southern Sudan as diversionary while Kenya has clearly rejected the rebel demand to host the negotiations.

President Museveni has reiterated the Government position that the venue and the mediator cannot be changed, describing the LRA demands as diversionary, the Ugandan *New Vision* reported.

During a talk-show on Mega FM radio in Gulu on Saturday, the President said getting new mediators would mean starting the peace talks afresh. He added that the move would lead to unacceptable delays as the new mediators would first need to study the problem.

On the other hand, The Kenyan government on Sunday rejected calls by Uganda’s Lord’s Resistance Army to host peace negotiations between them and the Ugandan government, the Kenyan radio said.

In a statement, Foreign Affairs Minister Raphael Tuju said Kenya does not want the talks delayed by distractions of "venue or forum shopping".

“After consultations with the Ugandan government and the U.N. special envoy for the conflict, Kenya would not offer to host the talks,” Tuju said.

“President Museveni, therefore, strongly called on all leaders in Acholi sub-region to advise Kony and his group to go back to Juba and resume peace talks and stop playing games of trying to fail the peace process”, said a press statement from State House.

Museveni noted that “such tricks would neither help Kony and his group nor anybody working with them.”

He also warned that if Kony and his group did not want peace, the Government would also not withdraw the ICC indictments and that they would be answerable for their acts.

The President assured the people of Acholi region that total peace would prevail in their area with or without the peace talks.

Fire gulps 60 rooms in South Sudan Hotel

(*Khartoum Monitor*) South Sudan Hotel was last Sunday ablaze with flames as fire gulped up about 60 rooms destroying property worth about \$6 million.

The hotel manager expressed shock over the event saying that it was very unfortunate the hotel had no fire extinguishers. He also blamed the government for not equipping the

Civil Defence Force adequately – the Juba Fire Brigade arrived at the location after the western block of the hotel was reduced to ashes.

Citizens did their best to salvage some of the hotel furniture but the rest was burnt beyond recognition.

UNMIS police effectively participated in the fire fighting operations.

Please see also separate attachments on southern Sudan.

Darfur/ DPA

DPA non-signatories complete preparations for conference

(AlSahafa) DPA non-signatory factions have concluded preparations for a conference in which UN and African Union representatives are also expected to attend.

African Union aircraft ferried leaders of the different factions to the site of the meeting which they have refused to disclose.

The conference will focus on re-uniting the factions.

Khartoum has meanwhile called upon the African Union and Eritrea to unify the initiatives seeking to bring together the Sudan government and the DPA non-signatories for talks.

Konaré says Darfur crisis could only be resolved through diplomatic means

(AlSahafa) African Union Commissioner Alpha Oumar Konaré has called for an end to the human suffering and violations of human rights in Darfur.

he stressed that the crisis in Darfur could only be resolved through diplomatic means and through the return of all parties to the negotiations table to sign a peace agreement.

Konaré who was speaking to Radio Sawa also called upon the African Union and the international community to find solutions to the crisis in Darfur.

Sudanese interpreters working with the African Union threaten strike

(AlWatan) More than 100 Sudanese interpreters working for the African Union have threatened strike within the next two days.

A memo they submitted to the African Union included a number of demands such as life insurance and work contracts to replace existing letters of employment.

They also complained about the delay in payments for the three last months.

The African Union is yet to meet their demands.

Council of Darfur Lawyers calls for unity and an end to hostilities

(AlAyaam) The Council of Darfur Lawyers revealed in a press release yesterday contacts with the DPA non-signatories with the assistance of the African Union and the International community to attain a decisive settlement for the Darfur issue.

The Council has called upon all parties to stop hostilities and concentrate more on the issues faced by the people of Darfur and called upon Darfurians to unite to end the humanitarian crises in Darfur.

The council accused the Government of Sudan of rekindling tribal conflicts in Darfur to cover up for its attacks on Darfur and to prove to the international community that the Darfur conflict is only a tribal one.

The council warned that situation is deteriorating in Darfur and that the Government of Sudan is still attacking villages in North Darfur.

Other Developments

Nuba Mountains diocese release of 9 priests arrested by the SPLA

(AlWihda) Karim diocese in the Nuba Mountains has called for the release of 9 of its priests arrested earlier by the SPLA.

A press released issued by the Karim centre in Nuba Mountains stated that the priests on false charges and were being mistreated - all violations of the CPA.

Copies of this statement have been sent to the V.P, President of GoSS and the commander of the peacekeeping force in in S. Kordofan.

World Bank launches initiative to promote Sudan's civil society action

(ST) The World Bank has launched an initiative to promote Sudanese civil society projects for peace and development, a press release said.

The World Bank Sudan Country office launched "Sudan Development Marketplace (DM) for 2007" initiative to identify innovative development ideas for delivering results, engage directly with stakeholders working at community level, create a forum of knowledge sharing and dissemination and build partnerships with and between other development actors.

The initiative aims to support the recovery and reconstruction efforts in the country through pro-poor and pro-peace initiatives working towards consolidating peace and

supporting the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) signed on January 2005.

Chad will try the Sudanese hijacker - report

(ST) Chad reportedly has no intention to extradite to Sudan the hijacker of a Sudanese aircraft. N'djamena said would try him according to Chadian laws.

The Sudanese ambassador to Chad, Abdallah al-Sheikh, has said there are no signs indicating that the Chadian government will hand over the hijacker of the Air West plane to Sudanese authorities for trial.

The ambassador told al-Sudani newspaper that Chadian authorities had told him that the hijacker was a criminal and was being questioned.

He said he had not received any official rejection regarding the handing over of the aircraft's hijacker from the Chadian officials. "They are talking of trying him according to Chadian law," he added.