



## UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN UNMIS

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(By Public Information Office)

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## **HIGHLIGHTS :**

### **UN/ Agencies**

#### **Jan Eliasson and Salim Ahmed Salim expected in Khartoum next week**

(*AlAyaam*) The Security Council will today listen to a briefing Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon over his visit to Africa and his endeavours to seek solutions to the crisis in Darfur.

The Secretary-General has also announced that envoy Jan Eliasson and African Union's Salim Ahmed Salim will be travelling to Khartoum within the forthcoming week to speed up the peace process on Darfur.

#### **Justice Minister el-Mardi urges UN to prosecute peacekeepers over "sexual violations"**

(*AlQuwat AlMussalaha; Intibaha et al*) Speaker at a symposium yesterday on legal protection of children, justice minister Mohamed Ali el-Mardi called on the UN to retract a recent UNICEF report blaming the SAF of committing some crimes and to file a formal apology to the SAF.

He said that the UNICEF report was very damaging to the SAF's reputation that "represents the conduct of all the people of Sudan".

The minister pointed out that international statistics indicate a great number of violations and harassment of children, including by those who are supposed to protect them.

He called upon the UN to instead serve out maximum penalties to the UN soldiers allegedly involved in acts of misconduct in southern Sudan so that such acts are not repeated in Sudanese society.

On his part, the spokesman for the SAF pointed out that the UNICEF report was meant to cover up the allegations of misconduct committed by UN forces in southern Sudan. He said that the legal authorities in the country have not received any such allegations against the SAF.

### **UN and the US warn of security threat against western interests in Sudan**

*(All major local dailies)* The issue of a UN Security Advisory to her staff in Sudan has been picked up by all newspapers in the country and has featured as a major headliner and lead story in most dailies. Below are some excerpts.

*AlSudani* daily quotes Spokesperson Radhia Achouri as acknowledging yesterday that the UN has circulated a security advisory to her staff asking them to be vigilant because of potential threats targeting a number of western countries. She pointed out that this is an internal issue pertaining to staff security.

She pointed out that the UN has been issuing such advisories asking staff to be vigilant on a number of incidents including when public demonstrations are taking place.

She further pointed out that contrary to reports, the recent advisory did not say that UN officials have warned of an increasing threat from *AlQaeda* and Islamist groups against the western presence in Sudan.

Apart from mentioning Ms. Achouri declining to comment on the issue, *AlHayat* daily says that the UN renewed the security advisory yesterday warning staff of possible attacks by extremist groups on the UNMIS and western interests.

The paper goes on to say that the office of the spokesperson at the US Embassy in Khartoum issued a statement yesterday informing staff and UNMIS staff that it has received confirmed information on a terrorist cell in Sudan plotting against westerners in the country. The spokesperson at the US Embassy reportedly said that the US Embassy has received “half a dozen” letters of such threats since the beginning of this year.

But *AlSahafa* daily quotes Alio Ayang Alio, state minister for the Ministry of the Interior as having belittled these warnings as not worthy of comment. He pointed out that the “interests” referred to in the advisory are also the country’s interests and should be protected.

***On the other hand, Sudan's representative at the UN*** accused some departments within the UN of being “extensions of hostile western intelligence offices” in Sudan. He pointed out that these warnings of an imminent threat targeting westerners in Sudan are part of a clear plan intended to cause anarchy in Sudan.

Ambassador AbdelMahmoud AbdelHaleem expressed regrets that the relevant authorities within the UN would fall prey to such hostile western intelligence reports and called upon these authorities to form mechanisms to investigate such reports instead of depending on such reports aimed at fuelling anti-Sudan sentiments. He went on to say that such reports

of a threat to westerners in Sudan also reflects the hopes of these hostile parties that it would help realise their dreams for a UN force to be deployed in Darfur.

He advised the UN to desist from such statements.

***On its part, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs*** has expressed doubts over the veracity of such reports and says they do not reflect the facts on the ground and are based on wrong information.

MoFA spokesperson Ambassador Ali el-Sadiq pointed out that such reports only serve to increase the tensions on the security situation in Darfur and have adverse effects on the UN's work in Darfur. He also denied the presence of *AlQaeda* elements in Sudan.

He pointed out that the fact that the advisory does not contain details of what terrorist group or approximate dates for their attacks only magnify why these warnings should not be taken seriously.

### **Bangladeshi peacekeepers in Sudan begin rotation - paper**

*(New Age via BBC Monitoring)* The first rotation of Bangladesh battalion's UN peace keeping mission to Sudan began Sunday night.

One hundred fifty members of the Bangladesh troops, led by Lieutenant Colonel Fateh Alam Ibne Tabib, left for Juba, southern Sudan as part of the first replacement team.

A 12-member media team accompanied the first batch of BANBAT-2 to UNMIS to see the activities of the Bangladesh contingent.

One thousand, four hundred and thirty-seven Bangladesh troops will be replaced in the next few months. Since 2005, 1,997 peacekeepers of Bangladesh have completed their mission in Sudan. Now 1,453 peacekeepers are deployed in the African nation.

### **Indian leader sends off troops for DR Congo, Sudan UN peacekeeping missions**

*(PTI via BBC Monitoring)* President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, the supreme commander of the armed forces, Monday [5 February] administered oath to troops heading for Congo and Sudan as part of a United Nations peacekeeping mission.

As part of his six-point oath in Hindi, the president, who recalled Gen K. Thimayya's accomplishments as head of UN forces in 1964 in Cyprus, emphasized that high moral character leads to uniformity among troops and organization and that the peacekeepers should remain mindful of the fact that they represent India while on job abroad.

"You must realize that due to India's unblemished record as a dedicated and committed member of the UN towards world peace, India finds a unique place in the world community. I am sure the services rendered by you will further enhance the image of our

country in the international arena," he told the Africa-bound army contingent of 3,600 troops.

Kalam, who was impressed with the uniform of the peacekeeping mission, acknowledged conditions in Congo and Sudan demanded extreme professionalism, commitment and dedication.

In his address, army chief J.J. Singh said Kalam's six-point oath would be administered to all contingents heading for peacekeeping missions in future.

## **The Transition Debate**

### **NCP's Nafie reiterates government's total rejection to all forms of neo-colonization**

*(AlSahafa)* The Presidential Advisor, Dr. Nafie Ali Nafie reiterated the Sudan Government's total rejection to all forms of neo-colonization. He elaborated that Government of Sudan will never stand to be insulted or humiliated.

Addressing a public rally in Suakin yesterday, Nafie praised efforts exerted by the people of eastern Sudan to support the GoNU and for achieving development in many fields.

## **CPA**

### **Presidency of the Republic to meet today to discuss north-south boundary, amongst other issues**

*(AlSahafa)* The Presidency will hold meeting today to discuss a number of issues.

Among issues to be tabled are the north-south boundary, progress achieved in the circulation of the new currency particularly in south Sudan and donor commitment to the pledges made at the Oslo Conference.

### **SPLM politburo to discuss Abyei and borders**

*(The Citizen)* Dr. Luka Biong, the minister in the GoSS president's office, has announced that the Political Bureau of the SPLM will convene a meeting in Yei next Thursday.

Addressing the press at Juba Airport on arrival from Khartoum, the minister said that the meeting will discuss matters regarding the party and its future strategy, establishment of the Abyei Administration, the north-south boundaries, the Civil Service Commission and OAGs.

He also said that VP Kiir will later hold talks on these issues with President Bashir following the SPLM politburo meeting.

## **GoNU**

## **Speaker of the National Assembly meets representatives of the US Congress and pledges approval of Elections Law**

(*Khartoum Monitor*) Speaker of the National Assembly, Ahmed Ibrahim AlTahir, met a number of US congressmen and explained to them the “regulatory role” of the National Assembly on the executive organs of government and progress in the implementation of the CPA particularly with regards to legislature and the transition to democracy witnessed after the signing of the CPA.

AlTahir reviewed the achievements of the National Assembly including the approval of the Political Parties Law, adding that the Assembly will approve the Elections Law in the next session to reform the country for the elections within the frame of a political and peaceful process.

On their part Congress Representatives expressed the USA’s concerns over Darfur and the obstacles to peace there.

## **Southern Sudan/ GoSS/ SPLM**

### **Salva Kiir orders release of river barge**

(*AlHayat*) Vice-President Kiir has ordered the release by the SPLA of the river barge *Tabaldiya*.

The barge plies the Kosti-Juba route and had earlier been held by the SPLA in Bor while ferrying fuel and foodstuff to Juba.

The union of river workers ahs, as a result, called off their strike imposed earlier as a result of the stoppage of the *Tabaldiya*.

### **Misseiriya and SPLA clash in Unity State**

(*Allintibaha*) Armed Misseiriya tribesmen clashed recently with elements of the SPLA at Tour Abyadh, Unity State. Four people were killed as a result.

Informed sources report that the clashes came in the wake of cattle-rustling by the SPLA of Misseiriya cattle.

### **N. Bahr-el-Ghazal State asks IDPs to return for land distribution**

(*The Citizen*) Addressing the gathering in the IDPs camp in Haj Yusif, the Governor of Northern Bahr el-Ghazal State, Madut Bjaar; Maintained that the slow return of the IDPs delayed the survey of his state.

Governor Bjaar said that he cannot distribute land when many citizens are not present.

The theme of the gathering was “Let us return home” and was organised by state officials. The Governor also talked about reconstruction of roads. Asked about plight of the women detained in Khartoum charged with alcohol production and selling, the governor said that the only solution is to return to the south where the law doesn't prohibit alcoholic beverages.

### **LRA headed for the CAR**

*(Radio Miraya news brief @ 1300 hours today)* Reports say that thousands of LRA fighters have left their assembly points in Kabanga in the DRC and are headed for the CAR.

An UNMIS soldier said that they noticed last Sunday hundreds of LRA soldiers pass along the border areas between Sudan and the CAR.

The chairman of Azande Worldwide Association, Charles Kissanga, had also earlier issued a statement reporting such movement.

But a spokesperson for the LRA has denied such a move and asked “why should the Lord's Resistance Army head for the CAR instead of back home?”

He said that the Lord's Resistance Army will continue to remain at Owiny Ki-bul and Ri-Kwangba until the date set for a review of the ceasefire agreement they signed with the Uganda government.

### **LRA must leave Sudan's Eastern Equatoria - governor**

*(ST)* Eastern Equatoria State has requested the immediate departure of the Ugandan Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) from its territory accusing them of killing and terrorizing Equatorians.

The governor of Eastern Equatoria state, Brigadier General Aloisio Emor Ojetuk, today *(5 February 2007)*, said LRA must leave his territory immediately or else he will authorized state organized forces to evict them by force.

“I can no longer condone LRA continues killing of my people and at the same time refusing to negotiate for a peaceful solution to their grievances with Uganda ruling government” says the Governor.

He said the LRA have broken out of their designated assembling point at Owinykibul and are now terrorizing people in Magwi and Western Torit counties with impunity.

He went on to say that the rebels terrorise the people from evening harvesting the groups and say that the crops belong to them.

The rebels LRA claimed that food given to them by GoSS under the November 2006 ceasefire agreement, has been deliberately poisoned in order to finish them and that is why they are revenging on southern Sudanese citizens.

### **Meningitis epidemic break out in South Sudan**

*(SRS/ST)* A fresh outbreak of meningitis has hit the southern Sudan state of Western Equatoria as authorities in another state, Central Equatoria, imposed measures to contain its spread, the Sudan Radio Service (SRS) reported on 5 February.

In Mundri East County of Western Equatoria, commissioner Wilson Api, confirmed the new cases, saying four people had been admitted to a hospital in Lui town. The county experienced its first outbreak last month, which was thought to have been contained, but last week new cases were reported in the town.

The deputy governor of Western Equatoria, Joseph Ngere, said 49 people have so far died of the disease.

In Central Equatoria, authorities in Kajokeji County have banned public gatherings to contain the spread of the disease. The county's commissioner, Maj Oliver Mule, said health authorities had also started a mass vaccination campaign against the disease.

Meningitis has been reported in several parts of southern Sudan and the Koboko district in northern Uganda.

### **GoSS urges health workers to return to southern Sudan**

*(Radio Miraya news brief @ 1300 hours today)* The GoSS has urged health workers to return to southern Sudan to rebuild the health sector.

The regional health minister said that despite the budgetary constraints in the health sector, his ministry intends to establish 30 hospitals and up to 500 dispensaries in all parts of southern Sudan.

Of salaries to pay the health workers, the minister said he hoped that the spirit of solidarity will be more of an encouraging factor than pay package.

### **Acting Governor of Lakes State calls for returns**

*(Radio Miraya news brief @ 1300 hours today)* The Acting Governor of Lakes State who is also the region's legal advisor has called upon people who left their homes during the time of war to return and participate in developing their area.

He said it was time for a family reunion and pointed out that the government will specify the amounts required for returns for each of the states of southern Sudan.



He also pointed out that a census is coming up which will also assist in the earmarking of resources. He called upon the people to participate in the census.

On the other hand, the Police Commissioner for Lakes State has called upon citizens still in possession of small arms to hand them over to the authorities. He said that this is the only way to social peace in Rumbek.

He called for respect for the CPA.

### **British company shows interest in gold exploration in South Sudan**

(*ST*) A delegation of a British mining company met today with the governor of the Eastern Equatoria State. The company showed interest to explore gold in the state.

The governor of Eastern Equatoria state, Brigadier General Aloisio Emor Ojetuk held a consultative meeting yesterday with delegations of international investor from New Kush Exploration and Mining Company who have shown interest in mining gold from Kapoeta East County of Eastern Equatoria state.

Ben Loky, spokesman of the state said the two parties have agreed to meet again in a later date in the presence of GoSS ministry of mining in order to officially formalize the issuance of license to the company to start operating.

Charles Blackmore, Director and team leader of the New Kush Exploration and Mining Company said their company has a working capital of five billion dollars, and if given permission to mine Kapoeta gold, it will take them two years to start full operation.

New Kush Exploration and Mining Company are a merger of two companies-British and South Africa.

### **SPLM requests Erman and others to withdraw requests to pursue studies**

(*AlAyaam*) The conference of leaders of the north Sudan sector of the SPLM has requested Yassir Erman, Nhial Deng and AbdelRahman el-Hiloo to withdraw their requests to step down from political work in their endeavours to pursue higher studies.

The conference is in its second and final day.

### **Darfur/ DPA**

## **AU peacekeeper killed in militia attack in Sudan's Darfur**

(*SMC via BBC Monitoring*) One of the AU peacekeeping soldiers in Darfur has been killed in an attack launched by [rebel] Darfur National Redemption Front [NRF] on an AU car in North Darfur State.

A statement from a well-informed source told SMC [Sudan Media Centre] that a group of NRF militias have kidnapped the car which was working at Kasab [untraced] displaced camp of Sobi area, North Darfur State. [Passage omitted: repetitive]

## **Authorities arrest 5 key figures in Abu-Shouk camp**

(*AlAyaam*) Human Rights activists in N. Darfur have condemned the arrest recently of 5 key figures in Abu-Shouk camp. The five were arrested “pursuant to the emergency laws”.

The activists have presented a memo to the Human Rights Advisory Council and the Security Committee of N. Darfur State.

## **NCP premeditated Darfur killing before 1989 coup – rebel leader**

(*ST*) In a bid to explain why he keeps calling for a strong military intervention in Sudan’s troubled Darfur region, a Darfur rebel leader accused the ruling party of premeditating “the final solution” against Darfur people even before their 1989 coup d’état.

The Chairman of the Sudan Liberation Movement, AbdulWahid al-Nur, told Sudan Tribune that the Sudanese regime had planned this “final solution” by supporting the militia attacks against villagers in the past years, and the second step is to regroup this population in concentration camps, and then kill them all in these camps.

*The full text of the interview is attached separately*

## **Rebel NRF criticizes China’s position on Sudan’s Darfur**

(*ST*) The Darfur holdout National Redemption Front (NRF) has criticized the Sudan visit by Chinese President Hu Jintao which ended on Friday 3 February. It described China’s position on the crisis in the province as «farcical”.

The NRF said in a statement issued from its headquarters in the Eritrean capital, Asmara that "the Chinese records with regard to Sudan and its Darfur crisis have been all along farcical.

The front, which comprises rebel groups opposed to the Abuja Agreement, accused the Chinese government of total bias on Khartoum’s side, without paying attention to the genocide, war crimes, and blatant violations of human rights committed in Darfur by the regime.

It added that China was supporting the Government of the Sudanese President "without any qualms of religion or ethics -crimes that have shaken the international conscience except the Chinese Government which still viciously defends the Regime at the UN Security Council".

### **Darfur rebels deny attack on NGO convoy**

(*ST*) The National Redemption Front has denied reports that its elements attacked an aid worker in North Darfur.

In a joint press statement, Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and the National Redemption Front dismissed vigorously any attack on an NGO convoy in Kaur near Kabkabya.

The pro-ruling National Congress Party, the Sudanese Media Center (SMC), reported, on 3 February that forces belonging to JEM have attacked a "NGO convoy at the tax collection point Kaur near Kabkaby".

The rebel groups said they had no any contact with any NGO convoy in the area. "Forces belonging to the NRF operate under a strict policy that forbids levying tax on individuals or organisations" they said.

"The allegation is totally false and is part of the pathetic and desperate media apparatus of Khartoum government." The statement said.

### **Other Developments**

#### **China sending mixed signals on Sudan - US**

(*Reuters*) US State Department spokesman Sean McCormack described Hu's visit to Sudan as a "mixed bag".

The Chinese president raised the issue of Darfur with Bashir but he also signed several economic deals with Sudan, including an interest-free loan of 100 million yuan (\$12.9 million) for Sudan to build a new presidential palace. He also wrote off up to \$70 million in Sudanese debts to China.

"There have been some mixed signals, obviously. On the one hand it is very positive that President Hu raised these issues but on the other hand there are other signals — Chinese investment and building a new presidential palace," said McCormack.

"China obviously has its own reasons for doing that but we are going to continue working closely with the Chinese as well as others to bring that diplomatic pressure on the Sudanese to allow in that AU-UN hybrid force," said McCormack.