

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS**Media Monitoring Report, 24 February 08

(By Public Information Office)

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UN/ Agencies

[UNMIS organizes workshop on CPA and role of UNMIS](#)

(Ray Al-Shaab) UNMIS's PIO organized 20-21 Feb. 2008 at University of Juba a Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop for 70 students from the various faculties on the CPA and role of UNMIS.

The students were familiarized with the six protocols of the CPA as well as the mandate of UNMIS's each unit.

Every student in part II of the workshop presented part of one of the protocols to ensure his/her understanding to the contents of the CPA and role of UNMIS.

Rai Al-Sha'ab Daily reported Sunday that PIO staff, led by Head of Media Special Campaigns, Mr. Jordan Dakamseh, thoroughly facilitated the students' presentations. Certificates of attendance were distributed to the participants of the workshop, in the presence of the Students Dean, who highly appreciated the role being played by UNMIS in promoting the understanding of CPA among the students.

Mr. Dakamseh thanked the University for its understanding to the PIO mandate pledging that UNMIS would spare no effort in assisting the different segments of the Sudanese people to be sensitized with the provisions of the CPA and the role UNMIS is supposed to do in Sudan.

He assured that PIO is organizing similar workshops with NGOs and CBO's for the same purpose.

Interviewing a number of students participating in the workshop, the paper said the students expressed their satisfaction over the benefit they gained from the workshop, appreciating highly the facilitation rendered by the PIO.

Students Union's Cultural Secretary Michal Christopher told the paper that the workshop's activities reflected the student's belief on the comprehensive peace issue and their readiness to defuse the CPA's spirit among the Sudanese population in the North and the South as well.

[Destruction in West Darfur town shocking, reports UN refugee agency](#)

22 February 2008 – United Nations refugee agency staff participating in a joint assessment of the West Darfur town of Sirba, which came under air and ground attack from the Sudanese Government and allied militia groups earlier this month, say they were shocked at the level of destruction they witnessed.

A joint UN humanitarian mission involving the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) as well as the World Food Programme (WFP), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and Ameerah Haq, the UN Humanitarian Coordinator for Sudan, visited Sirba yesterday, as some locals drift back to the town in the wake of the deadly attack on 8 February.

For now, the UN can provide humanitarian assistance, “but the clear message obviously is that what the people really want is protection. They are looking for security,” Ms. Haq said. “The ability to provide that - whether from the government or the international community – is still a long way away.”

Women and girls face being raped when gathering firewood in the Wadi, and the Humanitarian Coordinator appealed to both the international community and Khartoum to recognize the need for the speedy deployment of the joint UN-AU hybrid peacekeeping mission, known as UNAMID.

“If UNAMID continues to lack the full capacity required for it to fulfill its mandate, the people will continue to be vulnerable and exposed to the types of attacks that happened here in Sirba, with houses being burnt down, children disappearing, girls being raped,” she noted. “This will continue and the story will repeat itself. Village after village the destruction will spread.”

The residents who stayed or returned pleaded with the assessment mission for help in securing their town and nearby villages from further attacks, UNHCR spokesperson Ron Redmond told reporters today in Geneva.

The residents also warned that fleeing across the nearby Chadian border was dangerous because of the continuing conflict in the area and the widespread banditry, and they voiced concern about their compatriots who have been living in eastern Chad since the attacks on Sirba and on the villages of Sileah and Abu Suruj.

UN agencies have been distributing emergency items such as food and shelter material since the attacks, while the Sudanese Government has also provided tents.

More than 200,000 people have been killed and over 2.2 million others displaced since 2003 because of fighting across Darfur, an arid region on Sudan's western flank, between Government forces, allied militia groups and rebels.

UNAMID has been dispatched to the region to try to quell the violence and humanitarian suffering, but the most recent UN report on its deployment found that the worsening security situation in West Darfur was undermining basic aid distribution efforts.

WFP has lost 28 of its trucks to thieves and bandits so far this year and 14 of its drivers remain missing as a result of the robberies and abductions.

The agency issued an urgent appeal to all parties to improve security and road conditions so that its capacity to feed up to 3.2 million Darfurians with emergency food aid is not restricted.

Worsening situation in West Darfur jeopardizes aid efforts – UN report

20 February 2008 – The security situation in West Darfur has deteriorated so sharply in the past two months that the United Nations' efforts to bring humanitarian relief to those in need is being severely undermined, a new UN report says, calling for an immediate cessation of hostilities and warning that the region needs many more peacekeepers.

The latest report of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on the hybrid UN-African Union peacekeeping mission to Darfur (UNAMID) says the “slow pace” of deployment is making it difficult for the forces that are in place to provide “even a modest level of protection to civilians.”

Just over 9,000 troops and police officers have been deployed so far, even though UNAMID is supposed to have more than 26,000 uniformed personnel in Darfur when it reaches full capacity. Less than a quarter of the mission's authorized number of civilian staff have also been deployed.

“The mission will not be in a position to effectively fulfil its mandate or meet the tremendous expectations of Darfur's civilians with the meagre human and material resources currently in the mission area,” Mr. Ban writes.

“We need to urgently demonstrate to the conflict-affected population of Darfur that UNAMID will bring a material improvement to their daily lives, or risk losing their confidence at this critical juncture in the life of the mission.”

The Secretary-General calls for all troop and police contributors to UNAMID to expedite the deployment of any units or assets they have pledged, and he appeals to Member States to provide those units that are still outstanding – such as key military helicopters – to ensure the mission is at full operating capability.

A month after the transfer of authority from the previous AU peace force (known as AMIS), UNAMID still lacks one heavy and one medium ground transport unit, three military utility aviation units (18 helicopters in total) and additional attack helicopters.

In the absence of pledges from Member States, one option being explored is the transfer of aviation assets from other UN peacekeeping missions.

In addition, the report notes that the speed of the deployment of UNAMID depends on resolving any remaining issues with the Sudanese Government about its composition, and stresses the need to “ensure the removal of impediments” to the force's operation.

Mr. Ban stresses the need for a cessation of hostilities in the conflict in Darfur, which has pitted rebels against Government forces and allied militias since 2003. More than 200,000 people have been killed and at least 2.2 million others forced to flee their homes.

He says such an agreement must also include “effective mechanisms for monitoring compliance and violations,” and adds that all sides should cooperate with the UN and AU Special Envoys to convene fully-fledged peace negotiations as soon as possible.

Condemning cross-border attacks, the Secretary-General urges both Sudan and neighbouring Chad to respect each other's territorial sovereignty and to implement existing non-aggression accords.

The most recent fighting in West Darfur state has led 10,000 Sudanese or more to flee across the volatile border into eastern Chad, but the security situation is so poor that the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) had to withdraw its staff to a safer area earlier this week.

The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) is delivering medical supplies, blankets, jerry cans and plastic sheeting to those in need in West Darfur, according to a statement released by the agency. It is also treating and restoring water supplies in those towns and villages attacked by militiamen or hit by aerial bombing.

UNICEF Executive Director Ann M. Veneman said the recent upsurge in fighting was only adding to the hardships and dangers faced by vulnerable children and women in the region.

"Efforts to provide urgent assistance to children and women in dire need are hampered by the violence, and further displacement of civilian populations puts even greater pressure on camps that are already overcrowded," she said, calling for aid workers to have unrestricted access to those in need.

[Darfur civilians are frustrated by 5 years of insecurity - UN official](#)

(ST) February 23, 2008 (KHARTOUM) – UN humanitarian coordinator in Sudan, has urged to speed the full deployment of international troops in Darfur saying civilians are frustrated by the lack of security since five year.

Ameerah Haq, during her visit to Sirba in West Darfur, where Khartoum recent attacks have left a trail of civilian casualties and destruction, stated that "the people are clearly frustrated and they told me it has been five years since they have been asking for this and we have not been able to respond and we see the results of where we are now."

"I think a situation likes this just means donor capitals and Khartoum and everyone must realize that troop deployment has to take place very rapidly." She added.

She said that the UN can provide humanitarian relief to the population in the affected areas. However she stressed "But the clear message obviously is that what the people really want is protection. They are looking for security. The ability to provide that - whether from the government or the international community – is still a long way away."

Recent attacks by government forces and armed militia on Abu Suruj, Sirba and Silia have left destruction, displacement, and civilian casualties. In Jebel Moon, North of Genina, the toll of civilian casualties is expected to rise due to the ongoing fighting. Civilians and IDPs fleeing the initial fighting are believed to be caught in the cross-fire.

UNAMID and humanitarian agencies still lack access to the Jebel Moon area. The peacekeeping mission has communicated to the government its concern for the safety of civilians and expressed its desire to open a safe passage for humanitarian relief in Jebel Moon, at the soonest possible time.

The UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Sudan, Ameerah Haq, escorted by UNAMID peacekeepers, led a team of UN humanitarian agencies to Sirba, on Thursday February 21, in an effort to further coordinate response to the humanitarian crisis in the affected areas North of Genina.

The UN official seemed angered by the continuing violence and the lack of strong action from the international community to curb this escalation of violence.

GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

[African Union appoints special envoy for Sudan's CPA](#)

(ST) February 23, 2008 (ADDIS ABABA) - The Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Alpha Oumar Konare, on Friday, February 15 appointed the Nigerian diplomat Oluyemi Adeniji, as his Special Envoy for the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA).

Sudanese government and the former rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) signed in Nairobi , on January 9, 2005, a peace agreement ending 21 years of civil war in the country. the AU supported the negotiation process that led to the signing of the CPA.

This move is a follow-up to the decisions of the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) of 24 August and November 2007, which requested the commission to take all necessary steps to fully support the implementation of the CPA, including the appointment of Special Envoy, AU said. Ambassador Adeniji was Nigeria's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Interior, respectively from, 2003 to 2007. During his diplomatic career, he also served as Nigeria's ambassador to several countries.

Furthermore, from 1988 to 2002, he successfully, served as the Special Representative of UN Secretary General in the Central African Republic and Sierra Leone.

In his capacity as Special Envoy, Ambassador Adeniji will work closely with the Government of National Unity (GONU) and the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS), as well as with relevant members of the international community, to ensure that the AU fully accompany the parties in their efforts towards the successful implementation of the CPA and the promotion of lasting peace and reconciliation in the Sudan, the AU said.

In addition, and in pursuance of the above-mentioned PSC decisions, the Commission has taken steps to establish an AU Liaison Office in Khartoum, with an office in Juba, to ensure the day to day follow up of the implementation of the CPA and AU's effective participation in the various organs provided for under the agreement.

Following transfer of authority from its mission (AMIS) in Sudan to the hybrid operation UNAMID, the African Union has opened an AU Liaison Office in Sudan in February 2008.

The AU Office shall be based in Khartoum and Juba. Temporarily it will be headed by Boitshoko Mokgathe, Senior Political Officer and Officer-in-Charge, pending the arrival of Ambassador Mahmoud Kane, former Head of the Darfur Integrated Task Force (DITF), who has been appointed Head of the new AU Liaison Office in Sudan.

[Dr. Nafie and Dr. Mutrif Sidik to speak at SUNA Forum Sunday \(SUNA\)](#)

Khartoum, Feb. 23 (SUNA)- The Press Forum of Sudan News Agency is to host at 01:00 p.m. Sunday Assistant of the President of the Republic and Deputy Chairman of the National Congress for Political and Organization Affairs Dr. Nafie Ali Nafie and Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr. Mutrif Sidik. The two officials will speak on the hybrid operation following the signing of the status of forces agreement between the government and the joint United Nations and African Union mission on February 9. All press and media institutions are invited to attend the forum

[National Constitutional Review Commission delays approval of Public Elections Act](#)

Khartoum, Feb. 22 (SUNA) - The National Constitutional Review Commission (NCRC) has postponed its meeting, scheduled to be held Saturday to endorse issues of differences in the draft Public Elections Act, to a later date in order to give room for more consultations over the proposed act. It is to be noted that the NCRC has given the two partners of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement a period of two weeks to forward their points of view over the issues of disagreement in the proposed Public Elections Act.

[President of the Republic briefed on visit of the government delegation to the United States, Alor says American Peace Envoy to Sudan visit Khartoum shortly \(SUNA\)](#)

Khartoum, Feb. 21 (SUNA)- The President of the Republic Field Marshal Omar Al Bashir was briefed on Thursday about the recent visit by the government delegation to the United States of America which included the Presidential Advisor Dr Mustafa Osman Ismail and the Minister of Foreign Affairs Deng Alor as well as a number of officials and diplomats. The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Deng Alor pointed out in a statement following the meeting with the president at the council of ministers on Thursday that the American administration has shown readiness to remedy all issues of differences between the two countries. The Minister said the American Peace Envoy to the Sudan Richard Williamson will visit the country on Sunday carrying a message on issues of differences. He said the American official will meet with the president of the Republic and with Dr Nafie Ali Nafie, the President Assistant and with Dr Mustafa Osman Ismail the President Advisor, the Minister of Foreign Affairs Deng Alor and the Minister for Cabinet Affairs, Pagan Amum. He will also pay a field visit to Darfur to be briefed on the situation on the ground and will also go to southern Sudan where he would be meeting with the First Vice President of the Republic and President of the Southern Sudan government, Salva Kiir Mayardit. The Minister for Foreign Affairs said their meetings with the American officials included the Secretary of State, and her Deputy John Negroponte and her Assistant for African

Affairs. He said the two sides have also reviewed questions related to Sudan view on lifting its name from the list of countries considered sponsor of terrorism, American economic sanctions imposed on the country beside the bilateral relations and questions related to the Status of the Sudanese embassy in the United States, the American stands towards implementation of the CPA and the Abyei protocol, the question finding a peaceful resolution to Darfur question beside the bilateral relations and other issues related to the containers relative to the construction of the US embassy in Khartoum. Alor said he considered the visit a beginning of a serious dialogue between the United States of America and the Government of National Unity to resolve all the pending questions of differences. He described the visit as successful and useful. He said the delegation has reviewed with Negroponte the question of the Sudanese nationals detained at Guantanamo and that the American official has promised to take action on the issue shortly, as this was a humanitarian question. MA/MA Khartoum demands a copy of Sima Samar report before it is presented (Rai Al-Aam)

[Reports say Washington supports Bashir's election for a new term \(Al-Wohda\)](#)

(Al-Wahda) Unofficial US reports said US Administration officials have advised influential SPLM leaders last year to work for overcoming differences with NCP to secure necessary stability for the CPA implementation. These officials are of the view that occurrence of crises would jeopardize the CPA. They said that from their close monitoring of events in the Sudan they concluded that Al Bashir represents the best alternative for the achievement of goals of the interim period.

They added that despite Al Bashir's stance on many issues particularly peacekeepers in Darfur and the International Community, he is the appropriate man for the interim period. Observers saw these statements as clear support from US Administration to Al-Bashir's election for another term.

[Khartoum demands a copy of Sima Samar report before it is presented](#)

(Al-Rai Al-Aam) The Special Rapporteur of Human Rights, Sima Samar, will arrive in Khartoum on Wednesday on a visit during which she will meet with officials in Khartoum and Darfur.

An informed source told the newspaper that Khartoum demanded to know the contents of the report Samar intends to present to a session of the Human Rights Committee in March to verify the extent of Samar's commitment to the remarks made by Khartoum in the past.

The source said Samar intends to visit Port Sudan and Kajbar but Khartoum said such visit would be futile. The source said Samar requested to meet with a number of GoNU Ministers but the source ruled out meetings between Samar and other Ministers apart from the Minister of Justice.

[Sudan Forum for Support to Prophet organizes anti-Danish demonstration on Wednesday](#)

(Al-Rai Al-Aam) The Sudan Forum for Support to Prophet Mohamed, led by Dr. Hassan Sulaiman Abu Saleh, decided to stage a massive demonstration on Wednesday to denounce the insult to Prophet Mohamed by the Danish newspaper – publishing of cartoons. The Forum has called upon all Sudanese States to stage simultaneous demonstrations on Wednesday. The Forum will deliver petitions to UN and EU.

[JEM moves to Darfur-CAR border areas](#)

(Al-Rai Al-Aam) The Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), led by Dr. Khalil Ibrahim, instructed its field commanders to move to the border areas between South Darfur and the Central Africa Republic after receiving support from Chad.

According to SMC, a group of JEM has actually begun moving toward this area after receiving heavy weapons and military equipment from Chadian government in a bid to shift its activity to that area.

[FVP makes sensational statements](#)

(Akhbar Al-Yom Feb 23) The First Vice President Lt. Gen. Salva Kiir, said NCP is to blame for escalation of situations in Abyei adding that it is the NCP which provided arms to the Messeriya.

He said Southern Sudan would maintain its relations with the Arab countries even if secession occurs.

With regard to oil revenues, he said they do not know the accounts, as they are not represented in the administration of the oil fields.

Regarding SAF redeployment from the south, he said SAF withdrew from the South except oil areas. “If unity does not realize the goals of our people, they have the right to secede”, he added.

GoSS

[Government of Uganda and LRA sign ceasefire](#)

(Al-Sudani) Government of Uganda and LRA signed a permanent ceasefire agreement yesterday, a major step towards final peaceful settlement of one of Africa’s longest wars.

UN envoy Joaquin Chissano described the agreement “an end to war”. The ceasefire agreement was signed in Juba, mediated by the chief negotiator and Vice President of the Government of Southern Sudan Dr. Riek Machar.

[GoSS approves \\$57 m for southern constitution development fund](#)

(Al-Intibaha) GoSS Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning sanctioned \$57 millions for the Constitution Development Fund of the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly.

The Chairman of the Economic and Financial Committee Prof. Bari Wangi in statement to MirayaFM said the committee has actually received \$19 m out of the total amount adding that the balance would be made available in June.

[War erupts between Tabosa and Dinka in Kapoeta \(Al-Intibaha\), Tens killed in fresh confrontation between Dinka and Messeriya in Abak area](#)

(Al-Intibaha) Tension snowballed between Dinka and Tabosa tribes in the Eastern Equatoria State, blocking all roads leading to the town of Kapoeta. The Tabosa gave the Dinka 24 hours to leave the town at a time when SPLA soldiers raided a commercial complex belonging to JIUs in Malakal, detaining its workers.

According to eyewitness statements to the newspaper, leaflets were distributed in the town of Kapoeta calling for the departure of the Tabosa tribe, accused of being remnants of northern colonization.

The source expected the situation to explode any time.

On the other hand, fierce clashes took place yesterday between Messeriya and SPLA in the area of Abak (40 km south of Meiram) where tens of persons were killed. Those wounded on the part of SPLA were evacuated to Aweil and Wau and those injured on the part of Messeriya were taken to Meiram and then to Higlig.

Messeiriya said they had been provoked by the SPLA which also prevented Messeriya from grazing their animals.

Darfur

[Chinese Envoy for Darfur visits Sudan on Sunday \(ST\)](#)

February 23, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — China's special envoy on Darfur, Liu Giujin, will begin a five-day visit to Sudan on Sunday during which he will be calling on senior government officials and will pay a field visit to Darfur region.

The Chinese official will hold talks with the Sudanese officials on the development of the question in Darfur with regard to the political process and the hybrid operation.

Liu Giujin will sign a document on delivery of the fourth shipment of the Chinese Humanitarian aid to Darfur region.

China is considered to have influence over Sudanese leaders because it buys two-thirds of the northeast African state's oil exports, sells weapons to its Islamic government and defends it in the U.N. But China has attracted criticism from the U.S. and other nations, who accuse it of not doing enough to bring violence to an end.

During a visit to the British capital, the Chinese envoy Liu Guijin said that Beijing wasn't satisfied with progress made on sending a hybrid force of African Union and U.N. peacekeepers to Darfur, and that it was quietly pushing behind the scenes to encourage Khartoum to collaborate with the international community.

"We are ready to work with the U.K. and the rest of the international community and contribute to the resolution of the Darfur issue," he said.

According to the Chinese envoy who will visit Chad also, Beijing is trying hard to find a "practical solution" to the Darfur problem through quiet diplomacy, which it sees as the most suitable route.

"We're going to urge the government of Sudan to show more flexibility, and to be more cooperative," he said.

However, he deflected the oft-raised criticism that China's arms sales to the troubled nation were partially responsible for aggravating the violence.

Liu said that in 2006, only 8% of weapons imported by Sudan came from China. However, that figure is at odds with data from the U.N. which show transfers of military weapons and small arms from China to Sudan stood at \$23 million in 2005, making China the largest reported supplier of such weapons to Sudan.

[Egypt proposes creation of a Vice President post for Abdul Wahid](#)

(Al-Rai Al-Aam) Informed sources revealed yesterday that the statement made by SPLM Secretary General Pagan Amun to the effect that SPLM will have no object to the review of CPA to bring Darfur on board was actually a proposal made by Egypt during the FVP visit to Cairo recently.

The sources told the newspaper that the proposal called for creation of a Vice President post (Third Vice President) for SLM chairman Abdul Wahid Mohamed Nour.

However, the deputy chairman of the SPLM, James Wani, said SPLM would stick to CPA, adding that any talk about reviewing the CPA is personal.

Miscellaneous