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(By Public Information Office)

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UN/ Agencies

[Bangladeshi police unit with UN force in Darfur holds first long-distance patrol](#)

27 February 2008 – A Bangladeshi formed police unit (FPU) with the hybrid United Nations-African Union peacekeeping force in Darfur (UNAMID) has conducted its first long-distance patrol, aiming to both test its operational capacity and enhance the visibility of the UN Police in the war-wracked region of western Sudan.

The patrol covered about 200 kilometres during the journey from its base in Nyala, the capital of South Darfur state, to El Fasher, the capital of North Darfur and the headquarters of UNAMID, UN spokesperson Michele Montas told reporters today.

UNAMID Police Commissioner Michael Fryer said the patrol also provided an opportunity to assess the public response in Darfur to a UN Police presence in the region, where more than 200,000 people have been killed and at least 2.2 million others displaced because of fighting between rebels, Government forces and allied militia since 2003.

“We have a long way to go, but the officers are prepared to do their work and to make a difference,” Commissioner Fryer said, referring to the operations of UN Police in Darfur since the start of the year, when UNAMID took over from an earlier African Union peacekeeping force.

FPU are comprised of police officers who have received specialized training in high-risk operations, and the Bangladeshi unit operating in Darfur is the only FPU contingent currently in the region out of the 19 such contingents recommended for UNAMID.

GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA

[US special envoy snubbed by Sudanese official](#)

(ST) February 25, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — Sudan presidential adviser Ghazi Salah Al-Deen refused to meet with US special envoy Richard Williamson during his visit to Khartoum according to press reports.

The pro-government Akhir-Lahza reported that Al-Deen wanted Williamson to apologize for describing the Sudanese government officials in the past as “thugs”.

The newspaper quoted the Sudanese official as saying that Williamson “is not qualified to be dealt with unless he apologizes”.

The new US envoy has described the Sudanese regime as “thugs” who will “act like thugs as long as they are allowed to do so” in an article, he wrote in August 2005 in Chicago-Sun Times.

In the article he wrote, Williamson said, “bilateral and multilateral action must be taken” against Khartoum.

However, the former UN diplomat has maintained a low profile and avoided the media since he was tapped by Bush for the post In January.

Williamson met earlier this week with the Sudanese foreign minister Deng Alor as he began his first trip to the region since taking over for former U.S. Sudan envoy Andrew Natsios, who resigned at the end of last year.

Alor was quoted Monday, after meeting with U.S. envoy Williamson, as saying there was a timetable for normalizing ties that would include returning a U.S. ambassador in Khartoum, the lifting of at least some American sanctions, and removing the country from the U.S. list of state sponsors of terrorism.

However, the US State Department Deputy Spokesman Tom Casey dismissed any talk of a timetable.

"We expect for there to really be progress in our bilateral relations with Sudan by removing the existing obstacles, and cooperate fully with the deployment of the UNAMID force, the combined AU and the U.N. hybrid force, and that they'd also take the kinds of concrete steps to halt violence by the Janjaweed and others in Darfur," he said. "That's been set out, that's been a part of our policy for a long time."

But the top Sudanese diplomat seems to insist on the prospects for quick normalization of ties with the US.

Alor announced today that “technical teams” has been established between Sudan and the US to iron out the outstanding issues before the end of the year.

“Sudan has set a six months time frame to resolve all pending issues. We will work together to agree on a framework for the Darfur crisis and settle the remaining issues in the peace agreement” Alor told reporters.

The Sudanese foreign minister said that although there are some obstacles but “concessions are needed from both sides to achieve the six months timeframe goal”.

[Minister of Foreign Affairs announces setting up of technical committees to normalize relations with USA](#)

Khartoum, Feb. 27 (SUNA) - Minister of Foreign Affairs Deng Alor Wednesday announced the setting up of technical committees to discuss the issues between Sudan and United States of America within 6-month timetable with an aim to normalize the relations before the American elections. The Minister said in a statement to the press Wednesday that Sudan set a timetable of 6 months to solve all the pending issues between the two countries. He pointed out that the two countries would work together to map out a framework for the issue of Darfur as well as resolving the remaining issues of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. Answering questions by journalists, the Minister said the visit of the American Envoy to Sudan comes as part of USA's readiness for real and serious dialogue to normalize relations with Sudan. He referred to existence of some obstacles on this way, saying that the matter requires presenting some concessions by the two sides in order to see the relations normalized within 6 months.

[President Al-Bashir appreciates China's role in consolidating peace and development in Sudan](#)

Khartoum, Feb. 27 (SUNA) - President of the Republic Field Marshal Omer Al-Bashir has expressed Sudan's appreciation to the role being played by China in pushing forward peace and development process in Sudan. Receiving the Chinese Special Envoy to Sudan, Liu Guijin, at his office at the Republican Palace Wednesday, President Al-Bashir renewed Sudan's keenness to boost peace and stability in Darfur. Meanwhile, the Chinese Special Envoy appreciated in a statement to the press the efforts exerted by the Sudanese government to solve the issue of Darfur as well as its readiness to cooperate in the technical domains. Peace in Darfur is important not only to Sudan and China but also for the whole region and the African continent, said Mr. Guijin. He explained that when peace is achieved, the humanitarian situation would be improved and development and rehabilitation projects would be launched. The Chinese Envoy further said that China sees challenges that require exertion of concerted efforts by all the concerned parties towards the political process, urging the UN and African Union to exert more efforts and to make use of the mechanisms of coordination and consultations in order to overcome the challenges facing the realization of lasting peace in Darfur.

[President Al-Bashir receives memorandum from Sudan Forum for the Defence of Prophet Mohamed PBUH](#)

Khartoum, Feb. 27 (SUNA) - President of the Republic Field Marshal Omer Al-Bashir received a memorandum from the Sudan Forum for the Defence of Prophet Mohamed Peace Be Upon Him (PBUH). The message is received during the huge march organized Wednesday by the Forum in Khartoum containing the vision of the Forum on responding to the republishing by Danish newspapers of cartoons insulting Prophet Mohamed PBUH. Chairman of the Sudan Forum for the Defence of Prophet Mohamed Peace Be Upon Him Dr. Hussein Suleiman Abu-Salih said the act of the Danish newspapers represented the highest form of provocation, arrogance and deliberate humiliation to Muslims and their belief. Dr. Abu-Salih lauded the courageous decision

adopted by the government of boycotting Danish goods and personalities. Dr. Abu-Salih called on all heads of state and government of the Islamic countries to issue similar decisions in the defence of Prophet Mohamed Peace Be Upon Him. Representatives of Islamic organizations, associations, scholars, Sufi sects, addressed the huge procession, in which more than a million persons participated, denouncing the act of the Danish newspapers.

[Atem: SPLM, NCP agreed to hold elections on schedule](#)

(Khartoum Monitor) A prominent leader of Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and Deputy Speaker of National Assembly Atim Garang stressed SPLM's keenness to hold election on time. Atim said in an exclusive statement to Khartoum Monitor that SPLM and the National Congress Party's vision of the election time is concurrent. He went on to say all previous elections that took place in Sudan have witnessed turmoil. "There were wars in 1964, 1968 and also in 1986, and 1996 but these did not delay elections" said Atim.

[Beijing Protests politicization of its investment in Sudan](#)

(Sudan Vision) The Chinese government has underlined the transparency of its cooperation with Sudan which, it pointed out, had started before eruption of Darfur crisis. It further refused to engage in conflicts with western countries over the issue of its oil investments in Sudan.

Chinese envoy to Darfur, Liu Guijin, said western powers now criticizing China in this respect have undergone the same experience before, stressing China's rejection of politicizing its oil investments in Sudan.

At the press conference he held yesterday at the Chinese Embassy in Khartoum at the conclusion of his visit to Khartoum refinery, Liu expressed surprise that Sudan has managed to become an oil-producing country within a span of ten years only, indicating that this accomplishment will expedite the development process in Sudan.

The Chinese envoy further called on western countries to exert pressure on the rebel faction leaders to join negotiations in order to reach a peaceful settlement for Darfur problem.

"I am not saying that western powers are reluctant to use their influence. I am rather inviting them to make more effort to play a positive role in Darfur," Liu said, adding that western countries have to coordinate their efforts with the Sudanese government to arrive at a political solution for the region's strife. He revealed that the Sudanese officials he had met with had been complaining of lack of coordination, which offset many misunderstanding and further complicated problems. He praised the steps made by Khartoum for normalizing its relations with Washington. "This will eliminate doubts and help build confidence for reaching a political solution for the crisis," the Chinese envoy said, affirming China's readiness to build confidence bridges between Sudan and other countries.

He noted that China is closely coordinating on Darfur with the other Security Council members, citing his meeting with the US envoy during his last visit to Washington and the visit he intends to undertake to France within his country's efforts for resolving Darfur issue. He concluded by affirming that Sudan has the will power to solve Darfur crisis.

[Sudan bans humanitarian flights, over 80,000 without aid in Darfur](#)

(Juba Post) Thousands of IDPs in Sudan's war-torn region of western Sudan have no access to humanitarian aid because of the continuing ban on relief flights to the areas, according to the United Nations press statement on Tuesday.

According to the statement, the ban on all humanitarian flights to the northern parts of west Darfur State since last week has not been lifted.

The UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Sudan, Ms Ameerah Haq, and UNAMID JSR, Rodolphe Adada issued the statement.

[President Bashir: good news about Abyei soon](#)

(Al-Khartoum) The Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Mr. Atim Garang quoted the President of the Republic Omer Bashir as saying that there would be good news about Abyei soon. "The people will hear good news about the issue of Abyei soon," Atim quoted the President as saying.

According to Atim, the President said the issue of peace was a priority for GoNU and that the government was ready to sit with rebel movements for negotiations but the divisions within these movements represent a major obstacle.

Mr. Atim met with the President to deliver to him the Legislature's response to Al Bashir's speech delivered at the Parliament fifth inaugural session.

[Decision appointing political supervisor of National Congress in Abyei](#)

Khartoum, Feb. 27 (SUNA)- Deputy Chairman of the National Congress Party for Political and Organizational Affairs Dr. Nafie Ali Nafie Wednesday issued decisions appointing Zakariya Atim as Political Supervisor of the National Congress (NCP) in Abyei area, Rahama Abdel-Rahman Anour as Chairman of the NCP in Abyei area and Matib Ayoum as his deputy.

GoSS

[Southern Sudan Minister joins Jarch oil group](#)

(ST) February 27, 2008 (PARIS) — A US private investment company claiming rights over oil concessions in southern Sudan today said that a southern Sudan minister had joined its board of advisors.

Jarch Management Group Ltd announced in a press statement issued on Wednesday February 27, 2008 that Joseph Wejang, currently the Minister of Health of the Government of Southern Sudan, has joined the advisory board of Jarch Management Group, Ltd.

"Joseph has a tremendous amount of experience in the Greater Upper Nile region especially Unity State, a main hydrocarbon and mineral region, and brings this knowledge of South Sudan to Jarch." Jarch's statement said.

In November 2007 Jarch said that Paulino Matip Nhial, deputy commander-in-chief of the SPLA, has joined the advisory board of Jarch Management as vice chairman.

Phil Heilberg, the chairman of the US firm, which is registered in the Virgin Islands, alleges that on February 12, 2003 he signed with the SPLM contracts to explore and exploit oil in Block B in southern Sudan. He added that these contracts gave Jarch exclusive rights to all commodity contracts until 2009.

Jarch did not formulate any official demand to Sudan's National Petroleum Commission (NPC), the country's top decision-making body on oil matters.

This Block B was disputed pendant two years between the British White Nile and the French Total which remains the holder of the rights to explore and exploit oil in this block. The White Nile has been ousted by a decision adopted by the National Petroleum Commission on 17 June 2007.

Total teams are on the way to start very soon exploration activities and, and Sudan's First Vice President and southern Sudan President has personally directed to provide the French oil firm the necessary facilities to resume operations.

[Jonglei has no funds for Bor town survey – minister](#)

(ST) February 27, 2008 (BOR, Jonglei) — Government of Jonglei has no money or source of loan to fund roads demarcation in Bor town, minister of Local government and Law Enforcement has said. Meanwhile town residents remain in carpet or grass made tents, making living conditions very difficult and town less attractive.

Deputy governor Hassan Mar, also the minister of Local government, told audience invited for dinner by Nile Commercial Bank (NCB) that "the bank is empty and government has no other of loan" on Sunday February 24 at Diamdiam hotel, Bor town. "There is no source to borrow money and demarcation of roads in Bor town is therefore very difficult," he said.

To survey Bor town was put a priority last year, by the state government, but it efficiency rises doubts about the plan. People dwelling in the town then retorted to building temporally huts locally known as Tonton or Rakuba. This makes Bor town 'more of village' then expected, residents says.

Since Governor Kuol Manyang took Jonglei highest post in December 2007, his position as far the survey remain unclear. "I do not blame John Amuor (minister of land and physical infrastructure) for this slow move to survey the town. Neither do I blame those

who resist displacement from their homes,” he said referring to those who refuse leaving plots given to others during one the rallies he addressed.

The governor also says "there is no need to refuse when road or a public place displaces you from your home," a message interpreted as allowing one staying at his plot, so long as there are no such incidents.

A fee is paid to obtain a plot. Majority of the non-employees says it's favoring the working class and buying of land. Government call it 'facilitation.' This has caused a lot of questions in the system, subsidizing poor living conditions pre-survey.

However, on Tuesday February 26, a team from the ministry of Land and Physical Infrastructure entitled plots to returnees, and others who had non, at unoccupied part of Hai Tura, a Bor town suburb. This may be U-turn to the norm (what the majority wanted). Any continuity of the recent procedure, where empty plots are given to the needy, and one already occupied left for while, will be especially welcomed, Majok Ayuen, a Bor town resident said.

Should inadequate funding, for hiring bull dozers and other facilitations, be cause of the slow survey, most of the people promised to build better houses on 'surveyed or non surveyed' plots.

[GoSS lays down strategy to combat corruption \(Sudan Vision\)](#)

(Sudan Vision) The Anti-Corruption Commission in Southern Sudan has revealed a strategy to fight corruption. The Commission engaged in joint negotiations with some ministers in GoSS, these are ministries of trade, finance, industry, mining, education, science and technology and communication, post and telegram.

Head of the Anti-Corruption Commission in Southern Sudan, Pauline Riak, stated that all governmental bodies should cooperate in this fight.

Upper Nile State has transferred some top officials to the general prosecutor because they were involved in some financial scandals.

Darfur

[British ministers alarmed by recent Darfur attacks \(ST\)](#)

February 27, 2008 (LONDON) — British ministers expressed concern over recent violence in West Darfur state. They said this fighting caused huge suffering among innocent civilians and denounced aerial bombing that transgressing UN resolutions.

Since February 8, 2008, Sudanese government troops and Janjaweed militia backed by Antonov bombers and helicopter gunships have carried out a series of attacks that have killed hundreds of civilians. Also UNHCR said February attacks prompted about 12,000 more refugees to flee into eastern Chad.

The British Foreign Secretary, David Miliband, and the Secretary of State for International Development, Douglas Alexander, today expressed their deep concern about continued reports of ongoing violence in West Darfur.

"I am particularly concerned by reports of aerial bombardment by Government of Sudan forces, in contravention of UN Security Council Resolutions, and of violence by the Justice and Equality Movement, led by Khalil Ibrahim;" said David Miliband.

While the British minister for International Development urged to stop fighting to allow the delivery of humanitarian aid to the affected population.

"I join the United Nations Secretary-General and others in calling on all parties to act now to stop the violence, to allow immediate humanitarian access to the affected areas, and to respect their responsibility under international humanitarian law to protect civilians." Douglas Alexander said.

British foreign minister also called on Chad and Sudan to stop their support to rebel groups in the region. He said "This further fighting comes on the heels of violence in Chad and across the Darfur-Chad border that has caused a worsening in the humanitarian situation in Chad."

He also said these attacks underline the need for speedy deployment of the UN-AU peacekeepers to protect civilians and to work actively for a comprehensive negotiated solution for the five year conflict in western Sudan.

The new mission, the UN's largest, will eventually consist of 26,600 troops and police but only 9,200 such personnel are currently deployed.

International organisations estimate that 200,000 people have died since 2003 with more than a third of the six-million population displaced, although the Khartoum government puts the death toll at 9,000.

[Rights watchdog urges UN sanctions against Sudan over Darfur attacks](#)

(ST) February 27, 2008 (NEW YORK) – A rights watchdog today urged the UN Security Council to strongly denounce the Sudanese government's recent bombardment of civilian villages in West Darfur and impose targeted sanctions on those responsible.

Human Rights Watch warned that the Council's inaction has given Sudan a green light to continue attacking civilian targets, flouting international law and Security Council resolutions.

The rights group called on the Security Council to issue a presidential statement condemning Sudan's violations of international humanitarian law in West Darfur, the appointment of Janjaweed leader Musa Hilal as a 'presidential advisor,' and its refusal to cooperate with the International Criminal Court.

The Council should also order the UN Panel of Experts to immediately investigate the attacks in West Darfur, and should impose targeted sanctions on those responsible, HRW added.

"The Sudanese government's recent attacks take us back to the very darkest days of the conflict," said Georgette Gagnon, Africa director at Human Rights Watch. "The Security Council shouldn't stand by as though this is 'business as usual.'"

Since February 8, 2008, Sudanese government troops and "Janjaweed" militia backed by Antonov bombers and helicopter gunships have carried out a series of attacks that have killed hundreds of civilians. Tens of thousands of people have been displaced by the ongoing bombardments, which are also preventing life-saving humanitarian assistance from reaching some of the worst-affected areas.

The attacks are only the "latest manifestation of Sudan's disregard for Security Council resolutions and its obligations under international law," none of which have provoked a strong response from the Security Council. These include Sudan's repeated flouting of the UN arms embargo, failure to implement UN sanctions, and obstruction of the UN-mandated peacekeeping force.

"These horrific attacks on civilians show Khartoum's confidence that there will be no real consequences for its actions," Gagnon said. "It's time for the Security Council to prove them wrong."

[Abdul Wahid confirms opening an office for his movement in Israel](#)

(Al-Khartoum) SLM (Abdul Wahid) announced inauguration of an office in Israel. Abdul Wahid confirmed to Sudan Tribune on phone from Paris that his movement opened an office in Israel.

Abdul Wahid said SLM members who fled to Israel escaping GoS-sponsored killings opened the office.

"Our vision is that Israel should have an embassy in Sudan and Sudan should be a liberal and secular state," he declared.

[30 killed in an attack on Al-Sunta in south Darfur](#)

(Al-Sudani) an armed group attacked yesterday morning the town of Al-Sunta of Buram Locality, South Darfur.

According to Al-Sudani sources, at least 20 persons have been killed and others wounded.

Habaniya tribe chiefs told the newspaper yesterday that a group of people on backs of 150 camels and horses attacked the Sunta town in the east of Buram Locality. The group of armed men attacked the inhabitants of the area while performing dawn prayer, killing 20 persons among them the mosque's Imam, Sheikh Yousif Ibrahim Al-Zein.

Authorities in the Locality are tracking down the culprits.

Miscellaneous

[Denmark plays down Khartoum's boycott \(Alwan\)](#)

(Alwan) Copenhagen played down Khartoum's announcement of boycott of Danish goods and ban on entry of its nationals into Sudan.

“If Sudan boycott Danish products it means it will not remain a member of WTO, the boycott will have negative impact on them, that are the rules of the game,” reacted Danish Foreign Minister.