

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN
UNMIS**

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(By Public Information Office)

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IN THE NEWS TODAY:

All newspapers received by PIO focus mainly on the issue of child sexual abuse by UN troops in south Sudan

- **UN**
 - UN troops in south Sudan raping children, UN investigates, Government of Sudan threatens to take measures regard to the issue of child sexual abuse. *All Press*
 - UN probes child abuse allegations against staff in Sudan *Agence France-Presse English Wire Date*
 - UN chief denounces child abuse in Southern Sudan *SudanTribune.com*
 - Report on Child Abuse in Sudan. *Aljazeera.net*
 - UN removes 4 peacekeepers from Sudan after abuse *SudanTribune.com*
 - Ban Ki-moon to meet UN, AU envoys on Darfur *SudanTribune.com*
 - UNMIS condemns Government of Sudan bombardment of Villages in Darfur. *Khartoum Monitor*
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 - 4 killed and injured by armed group in Allair near Juba. *AlAyam*
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IN THE NEWS TODAY:

UN

UN troops in south Sudan raping children, UN investigates, Government of Sudan threatens to take measures. All Press

Akhbar Al-Yom—Minister of Justice, Mohamed Ali Almardhi, said from a pure legal and technical point of view this is rape and the responsibility lies on the UN, not only on the individuals who committed this crime (employee and employer responsibility). Further, the Minister said, “I am surprised after this incident that the UN is still talking about deploying international troops in Darfur to stop rapes while its troops are raping and practicing homosexuality in South Sudan”. The issue is under the responsibility of the GoSS which I trust will not hesitate to consider this issue seriously, the minister concluded.

Akhbar Al-Yom quoted sources from south Sudan as saying that **40 children** have been raped by the civilian and military staff of the UN.

Dr. Riak Machar, the GoSS Deputy President, said, according to the newspaper, that he had toured all Unity State and will visit all parts of Southern Sudan to evaluate the alleged reports on UN personnel raping Southern Sudan children. Machar explained that the GoSS will not remain silent if reports turned to be true. We will condemn acts of rape and will ask the UN to carry out investigations with the accused UN civilian and military staff.

Akhbar Al-Yom reported that, according to a southern official source, some of the children who had been raped are now in **Juba Hospital**. The source appealed to the GoSS to take this matter seriously and emphasized the importance of carrying out investigations with the UN civilian and military personnel who committed these crimes.

UN Spokesperson to Akhbar Al-Yom- The UN official Spokesperson did not refute rape reports. In a statement to Akhbar Al-Yom, the UN Spokesperson, **George Somerwill**, said the UN has established a committee to investigate and find out if these reports are true or false. He added by saying that this is a serious issue and as such cannot be denied before proper investigation. According to Somerwill the investigation committee will tour all south Sudan and will listen carefully to the individuals who claimed that they had been raped by the UN civilian and military staff. When investigations are completed, a press conference will be held to announce the findings of the committee.

*GoS Concerns—*Al-Ayam reported that the GoS expressed concerns in regard to alleged reports on rape of southern children by UN staff. A Spokesperson at the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs** said the government will follow up this issue. According to **Alsudani** the Spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Ali Alsadig, described reports on rape as very disturbing and inciting anger. He said the GoNU will investigate on this issue.

Alsudani-- The *Minister at the Presidency*, Dr. Luka Biong Deng, said, in a press statement issued yesterday, that the President of the GoSS, Salva Kiir, has instructed beginning of immediate investigations on rape of children by UN peacekeeping military personnel. The Minister informed that a committee comprising the Ministers of Women Affairs, Social Affairs, Religious Affairs, and Humanitarian Affairs Commission will carry out investigations on these allegations.

A *UN source* told *Al-Ayam* that a UN committee began investigations on these allegations in Juba. This committee, the source explained, is not part of UNMIS. The source argued that the UN takes such reports seriously. He revealed that the UN had carried out investigations in similar allegations in 2005.

Aljazeera TV and Aljazeera.net provided long reports on sexual abuse of children in South Sudan by UN staff. It interviewed Ali Mahdi, a child rights activists and President of the Arab Actors Union. Mahdi said all institutions concerned with child rights are now discussing appropriate action to be taken. He mentioned that the GoSS and GoNU are already aware of this problem and that steps on taking action began on 2 January 2006. Mahdi explained that this is a serious issue which should be considered in deploying international troops including in Darfur. The background features included arrival of first batch of peacekeepers in Sudan last year as well as recent deployment of military and police advisers in Darfur.

(*SudanTribune.com, AlSahafa*) UN peacekeepers from Bangladesh work in Juba, Sudan (Reuters). The newspaper in a story posted on its website, said it had gathered accounts from more than 20 young victims in the town of Juba of UN civilian and peacekeeping staff forcing them to have sex.

The abuse allegedly started when the UN, which has around 10,000 personnel in the area, moved in two years ago to help reconstruction after the end of a 23-year civil war, the Daily Telegraph reported.

But the UN has not publicly acknowledged that there is a problem and when contacted repeatedly by this newspaper UN headquarters refused to comment.

The telegraph understands that the Sudanese government, which is deeply opposed to the UN troops to Darfur, has also gathered evidence, including video footage on Bangladeshi UN workers having sex with three young girls.

But there are no medical reports confirming that the children have been abused. The limited local medical services and the children poverty and fear are thought to explain why doctors have not been involved.

UN probes child abuse allegations against staff in Sudan, Agence France-Presse English Wire Date

(AFP) UNITED NATIONS - The United Nations is verifying reported allegations that UN staff has sexually abused children in southern Sudan, officials said Wednesday.

UN officials said the world body is checking whether the allegations reported in the Daily Telegraph are new or already under investigation.

The daily reported Wednesday that UN staff and peacekeepers in southern Sudan have been accused of sexually abusing children as young as 12.

"We are deeply concerned by press reports of allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse by UN personnel in Juba (in southern Sudan)," said Michele Montas, the spokeswoman of new UN chief Ban Ki-moon.

"The UN standard on this issue is clear -- zero tolerance, meaning zero complacency and zero impunity," she said.

"In cooperation with the UN Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS), we are looking into the substance of the press reports to determine if the allegations are new or are existing cases already under investigation."

Initial claims of abuse emerged within months of the UN's arrival and an internal report was reportedly compiled on the issue in 2005.

Jane Holl Lute, the UN assistant secretary general for peacekeeping operations, said it was "not at all clear" if the allegations in the Daily Telegraph are new.

Several UN diplomats and officials found the timing of the allegations "odd," she told AFP.

"But we want to get to the bottom of it," Lute said. "We want to find out if these are new allegations or if this is a restatement of cases that are already under investigation."

The United Nations has urged the Sudanese government for several months to allow the deployment of a UN force in its strife-torn western region of Darfur.

Sudan, which has opposed the UN troop deployment, called the allegations "very disturbing."

The report had a "negative effect on the Sudanese who had the idea that the United Nations is present in their country to help bring peace here," Sudanese foreign ministry spokesman Ali Sadek said in Khartoum.

"We reject such behavior, which seems to accompany UN forces on some of their missions," he added, an apparent reference to similar accusations against peacekeepers in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Agence France-Press English Wire Date

UN chief denounces child abuse in Southern Sudan

SudanTribune.com (UNITED NATIONS) Voicing deep concern at media reports that United Nations peacekeepers in southern Sudan have engaged in sexual exploitation and abuse of locals, including children, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon soundly denounced the practice while pointing out that the world body's own investigations have already resulted in the dismissal of four blue helmets there.

In a statement released by his spokesperson, Mr. Ban emphasized that "the UN standard on this issue is clear – zero tolerance, meaning zero complacency and zero impunity."

He said the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) was examining the substance of the press reports to determine if the allegations are new or refer to existing cases under investigation.

"It is the UN's policy to treat credible allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse as serious offences to be investigated by the Office of the Internal Oversight Services (OIOS)," the statement said.

The statement added that OIOS already has a team based permanently in Sudan and that four UNMIS peacekeepers have been sent home over the past year as a result of the Office's investigations.

"The UN is working closely with local authorities and all operational partners, including our troop-contributing countries, to ensure that UN personnel adhere to the highest standards of accountability. When necessary, strong disciplinary action will be taken." (UN News)

Report on Child Abuse in Sudan.

Aljazeera.net, Aljazeera TV provided yesterday long reports on sexual abuse of children in South Sudan by UN staff. It interviewed Ali Mahdi, a child rights activists and President of the Arab Actors Union. Mahdi said all institutions concerned with child rights are now discussing appropriate action to be taken. He mentioned that the GoSS and GoNU are already aware of this problem and that steps on taking action began on 2 January 2006. Mahdi explained that this is a serious issue which should be considered in deploying international troops including in Darfur.

The background features included arrival of first batch of peacekeepers in Sudan last year as well as recent deployment of military and police advisers in Darfur.

UN removes 4 peacekeepers from Sudan after abuse

SudanTribune.com (UNITED NATIONS) Four U.N. peacekeepers in southern Sudan have been sent home in the past year following investigations of alleged sexual abuse and the United Nations is looking into reports that more than 20 children were raped and abused, the U.N. spokeswoman said.

Michele Montas said Wednesday the United Nations was "deeply concerned" by a report in a British newspaper alleging that U.N. personnel in Juba, the capital of southern Sudan, were involved in sexual exploitation and abuse and was trying to determine whether the allegations were new or involved existing cases already under investigation.

The Daily Telegraph, citing an internal report by the U.N. children's agency along with interviews with more than 20 victims of the purported abuse, reported that the alleged abuse began two years ago when the U.N. Mission in Southern Sudan, known as UNMIS, arrived to help maintain peace in the region after a more than two-decade civil war.

"The first indications of sexual exploitation emerged within months of the U.N. force's arrival and The Daily Telegraph has seen a draft of an internal report compiled by the U.N. children's agency UNICEF in July 2005 detailing the problem," the paper reported on its Web site. "Evidence suggests that UNMIS staff may already be involved in sexual exploitation."

A 14-year-old boy identified only as Jonas told the newspaper "I was sitting by the river the first time it happened." A 13-year-old boy told the paper he was lured to a U.N. car with the offer of cash, abused and dumped by the side of a road.

Montas told reporters the UNICEF report "did not talk about sexual abuses from U.N. peacekeepers."

"They spoke about sexual abuses on the part of the Sudanese military," she said.

Nonetheless, Montas said, "the U.N. is very concerned about this issue and over and over again repeated its determination to end sexual abuse by peacekeepers."

"The U.N. standard on this issue is clear - zero tolerance, meaning zero complacency and zero impunity," she said.

The Office of Internal Oversight Services, the U.N.'s internal watchdog known as OIOS, has a team permanent based in Sudan, where over 11,000 peacekeepers, police and international civilian staff are based and it investigates all allegations of abuse. OIOS also has teams in Congo, Liberia and Haiti where the U.N. has other large peacekeeping operations.

"Over the past year, as a result of U.N. investigations, four UNMIS peacekeepers have already been repatriated," Montas said. The nationalities of the peacekeepers were not released.

While allegations of abuse have dogged peacekeeping missions since their inception over 50 years ago, the issue was thrust into the spotlight after the United Nations found in early 2005 that peacekeepers in Congo had sex with Congolese women and girls, usually in exchange for food or small sums of money.

Jordan's U.N. Ambassador Prince Zeid al Hussein wrote a report several months later that described the U.N. military arm as deeply flawed and recommended withholding the salaries of the guilty and requiring nations to pursue legal action against perpetrators. It said abuses had been reported in missions ranging from Bosnia and Kosovo to Cambodia, East Timor, West Africa and Congo.

The U.N. peacekeeping department instituted a new code of conduct for peacekeepers, new training for officers and all U.N. personnel, and reinforced messages against sexual abuse.

U.N. Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Jane Holl Lute said Tuesday night that the allegations could be true, but "these environments are ones in which it is difficult to ascertain the truth."

She said she has personally spoken to the force commander and chief of staff in the U.N. mission in southern Sudan "and I know they are very well briefed on what U.N. policy is and have taken steps to implement that policy across the board in that mission."

"But we don't have the facts yet in this case, and we need to ascertain the facts and follow it through to appropriate resolution and take action if necessary," she said.

Lute, who served in the U.S. Army for 16 years, said vigilance on this matter has to be "a constant factor of life when you're rotating through 200,000 troops in as diverse environments as we do." (AP)

Ban Ki-moon to meet UN, AU envoys on Darfur

SudanTribune.com (UNITED NATIONS) UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said today he may hold a meeting as early as Friday with envoys from the United Nations and the African Union (AU) about the continuing humanitarian and security crisis in the Sudanese region of Darfur.

Ban spoke with his Special Envoy on the issue, the former General Assembly president and Swedish foreign minister Jan Eliasson, at UN Headquarters in New York this morning to discuss Eliasson's work so far and his plans for the weeks and months ahead.

A spokesperson for Ban said the Secretary-General suggested a meeting be held with Eliasson and the AU Special Envoy for the Darfur conflict, Salim Ahmed Salim, possibly as soon as Friday.

Ban has already spoken by telephone with Salim and with AU Commission President Alpha Oumar Konaré since taking office on Monday, and he told reporters yesterday that resolving the crisis in Darfur would be one of his top priorities.

UNMIS condemns Government of Sudan bombardment of Villages in Darfur.

Khartoum Monitor United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) roundly condemns the subsequent bombing of Darfur villages location where the DPA Non-signatory meeting was held, noting that it represents a seriously disturbing development, which has potential to derail current efforts to re-energize the political process which aims to make the DPA more inclusive of all Darfurians, according to UN news Bulletin.

It noted that on 30 December the chairman of the Darfur Ceasefire Commission, Major – General Luke Apreize, issued a statement condemning the bombing of two North Darfur villages, Anka and UmRai, on the previous day. The bombing was carried out by GOS Antonov aircraft.

Pronk accuses Government of Sudan of delaying peace process.

AlSudani, reports former SRS to Sudan Jan Pronk has accused GoS powered centred of delaying the DPA and the move back to pre- peace agreement.

There is still only one Sudan controlled by a single northern value based system. Pronk said

Pronk also pointed out that the executive authorities are more concerned with their economic interests.

Pronk described President Bashir as being able lead a life of conflicts and making balances drawing the attention that his aides curtails facts and that Bashir turns a blind eye and exerts no efforts to find facts.

GoNU

Sudan welcomes new UN chief's remarks on Darfur

SudanTribune.com (KHARTOUM) The Sudanese government on Wednesday cautiously welcomed remarks made by new UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on the current crisis in the western region of Darfur.

"We regard these remarks as positive," Foreign Ministry spokesman Ali al-Sadiq told Xinhua. "We hope that the new UN chief will work to give a stronger push for an agreement among the Sudanese government, the UN and the African Union (AU) on reinforcing the African (peacekeeping) mission in Darfur," he said.

Ban Ki-moon said on Tuesday that he would put the Darfur issue atop the list of priorities. "The crisis situation in Darfur is very high on my agenda. I will turn immediately my attention to this issue," he said.

In a letter to former UN chief Kofi Annan released last week, Sudanese President Umar al-Bashir expressed Khartoum's readiness to accept a UN-sponsored plan of supporting the AU force in Darfur, as agreed at two previous meetings among the three parties.

The Sudanese president, who has until now steadfastly rejected any large-scale UN troop deployment in Darfur, endorsed the three-phase plan, including deployment of a hybrid AU-UN peacekeeping force in the region. (Xinhua)

Bashir: coordination with DUP el Mirghani is ongoing.

Al Khartoum, President Omer el-Bashir has assured strong relation with the DUP el-Mirghani pointing out that the government makes continuous contacts and coordination with Mirghani.

President Bashir expressed appreciation for the positive role played by Mirghani in the peace talks in the East of Sudan.

Darfur

US sees forward movement on Darfur plan

SudanTribune.com (WASHINGTON) The U.S. State Department indicated skepticism Wednesday about Sudan's willingness to comply fully with a U.N. plan to end the suffering in Darfur, but it acknowledged that the process is moving forward.

"What we need to see now is the Sudanese government actually acting on what it is they said they might do," spokesman Sean McCormack said.

Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir said in a letter last week to former U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan that he had agreed to a three-phase U.N. plan that would deploy some 20,000 U.N. peacekeepers and police in the Darfur region.

Al-Bashir sent the letter days ahead of a Jan. 1 deadline for acceptance of the plan.

A meeting of the White House National Security Council is planned Thursday to evaluate Sudan's compliance thus far. Such meetings normally are attended by the most senior officials in government, including the vice president, the secretaries of state, defense and treasury, the director of national intelligence, the national security adviser and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, among others.

One benchmark for Sudan to meet under the U.N. plan would be to allow deployment before Jan. 1 of 60 U.N. troops and civilians from Khartoum to Darfur along with their equipment.

McCormack said that of the number, only 20 civilians have been deployed. Still, he maintained progress was being made on the U.N. plan.

The Bush administration has indicated it would favor tough measures against Sudan should it fail to fulfill its promises.

Rebels reject talks with Sudanese Government.

Khartoum Monitor A leader of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) has rejected to restart peace talks with the Sudanese government to end the four year conflict in western Sudanese region of Darfur, local daily Sudan Tribune reported Wednesday on its website. In an interview with the newspaper, SLM leader Abdul Wahid Al Nur reiterated his refusal of peace negotiations with the Sudanese government, saying he could not negotiate with a regime that committing genocide against the Darfur people.

12 killed in clashes between Turjum and Rezigat tribes south Darfur.

Alshafa 12 killed and 9 injured last Tuesday in clashes between Turjum and Rezigat tribes 47 klm west of Nyala, S. Darfur State.

The armed group attacked the area is suspected to belong to SAF boarder intelligence. The State's security committee is to visit the affected areas to hold talks with the tribes' leaders over the issue.

GoSS

13 civilians killed by Ugandan rebels in South Sudan – army

SudanTribune.com (KAMPALA) Ugandan army today said Lord's Resistance Army rebels killed 13 civilians in a series of attacks in southern Sudan since the beginning of this year, the Ugandan New Vision reported.

Rebels suspected to be LRA on Tuesday massacred eight people and forced hundreds to flee in Magwi, east of Juba on the Juba-Torit road.

The same day, three vehicles were ambushed on the Juba-Nimule road, killing five, including two Ugandan businessmen, and wounding eight others.

“We are confident that the killers are the LRA rebels,” said UPDF spokesperson, Maj. Felix Kulayigye.

It was not possible to get a reaction from the LRA representatives in Juba or members of the Ceasefire Monitoring Team.

The ambushes came just three days after the UPDF accused LRA rebels of attacking its liaison officer in Juba, Maj. Richard Otto, who survived by driving through the ambush.

In his new-year message on Gulu Mega FM radio, the deputy LRA commander, Vincent Otti, blamed the UPDF for their failure to assemble at Owiny Kibul in South Sudan, claiming that the army was attacking their fighters.

The army added that the on-going rampage is being carried out by the unit of Dominic Ongwen and Caesar Accellam, one of the three LRA groups in Eastern Equatoria State.

The chief government negotiator, Ruhakana Rugunda, said the incident constituted another reason why the peace talks should be expedited. (New Vision)

4 killed and injured by armed group in Allair near Juba.

AlAyam. reports that 8 armed men have attacked last Tuesday a civilian vehicle in Allair area, midway between Juba and Torit, killing an SPLA soldier and injuring 3 including one of the Joint Forces soldiers.