



## UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN

## UNMIS

Media Monitoring Report, 07 January 08

(By Public Information Office)

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## **Highlights**

### **UN/ Agencies**

#### **Al Bashir receives phone call from Ki-moon**

(*AlSudani*) President al Bashir received on Saturday 5 January a telephone call from the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, during which they discussed a number of key issues, progress in implementing the hybrid operation, achieving peace in Darfur and implementation of the CPA.

President al Bashir clarified Sudan's position on these issues. He emphasized the need for commitment to giving priority to African troops for the hybrid operation as stated in Resolution 1769 before seeking military elements from other countries.

Al Bashir renewed the commitment of his government to a peaceful solution for the Darfur issue.

He called on the UN Secretary General to bear pressures on the rebel factions so that they can join the peace process.

Al Bashir agreed to meet Ki-moon at the sidelines of the African Union Summit which will be held in Addis Ababa end of January.

The UN Secretary General said he is pleased to know that the CPA partners have overcome the crisis and are proceeding in implementing the CPA.

### **NA Speaker meets SRSG Ashraf Qazi, National Assembly demands UN to support elections**

*(AlSudani)* The National Assembly Speaker, Ahmed Ibrahim al Tahir, said the bill of the elections law will be tabled soon at the National Assembly. He demanded the UN to provide support to Sudan in order to facilitate the forthcoming elections.

Following his meeting yesterday with the SRSG Ashraf Qazi, al Tahir said the bill is now in the final touches at the Constitutional Review Commission (CRC). He explained that the elections represent a big change in Sudan as it will be conducted at the Presidential, national, GoSS and state levels.

### **Minister of Cabinet Affairs Meets UNAMID Co-Envoy**

*(SMC – 6 Jan.)* Minister of cabinet affairs Pagan Amum met at his office yesterday with UN-AU co envoy Rudolf Adada and UNAMID spokesman Nur AL Dein Al Mazani. The minister discussed with UNAMIS envoys the joint effort of AU and UN in Darfur besides bilateral relation between the government and the two organizations.

### **GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)**

#### ***On Miseria incident:***

### **16 Miseriya are killed in latest clashes with south Sudan army [on Friday]**

*(Sudan Tribune.com – 5 Jan. KHARTOUM)* 16 persons had been killed and 9 injured in renewed clashes between the Sudan People's Liberation Army and the Miseriya tribe, a tribal leader said.

Mukhtar Babu Nimer, the Emir of the Miseriya tribe on Saturday was quoted as saying that 16 persons were killed and nine others wounded in the clashes, which took place on Friday at al-Garafe.

He said that the SPLA was gathering forces north of 1956 border between northern and southern Sudan, area that the Miseriya used to move their cattle in search for green pasture.

The clashes happened only hours after a visit paid by a government delegation led by minister of defence Abdelrahim Hussein and minister for cabinet affairs Pagan Amum in order to mediate the dispute between the two sides.

### **Bashir authorizes Defence and Cabinet Ministers (Hussein and Amum) to deal with al Meram events**

*(AlSahafa)* President al Bashir has asked the Minister of Defence Abdelrahim Mohamed Hussein and Minister of Cabinet Affairs Pagan Amum to shoulder the responsibility

of dealing with the Al-Meram events (SPLA-Miseriya clashes) which resulted in killing and injuring tens of people.

### **Dialogue only way for resolving conflict between Miseriya, SPLM, Defence Ministers**

(*Sudan Vision, Khartoum Monitor, SudaTribune.com*) Minister of Defence First Lt. Gen. Abdulrahim Mohammed Hussein has underscored dialogue as the sole avenue for resolving the present crisis between Misericia and SPLA, which he described as intricate.

At the joint conference he held yesterday with SPLM General Secretary and Cabinet Affairs Minister, Pagan Amum, the Minister of Defence affirmed that the two partners are keen on not returning to war which will lead to the collapse of the peace process.

He revealed that the Government of National Unity has formed a committee, presided over by Amum, to deal with the crisis.

He further stated that the armed forces and SPLA will within this week effect simultaneous withdrawal from the oil regions and South Kordofan and the Blue Nile areas, remarking that SPLM is keen on withdrawing to a distance that is deeper than the administrative borders. Hussein ascribed the problems that occurred to lack of effective authority in those regions added to the widespread carrying of arms along contact areas.

For his part, SPLM General Secretary, Pagan Amum, considered the clashes between South Kordofan and North Bahr-al-Ghazal States as one of the challenges of peace, pointing out that intricacy of the problem arises from the fact that the conflict between contact regions dates a long way back.

He also held delay in border demarcation as a direct cause for triggering the fighting, added to the weak power of the state in some regions that are dominated by tribal authorities. All these factors have offset several adverse phenomena, Amum said. He described the fierce fighting that broke out in those regions as a serious development resembling more than anything else a north-south border struggle.

Amum signaled an alert to the government and media bodies on the gravity of the situation, calling for countering it as a challenge for all parties since it impedes the peace process.

"There should be mechanisms capable of managing crises. The SPLM has no interest in confronting tribes," Amum said, adding that peace building is the responsibility of all citizens rather than the Government of National Unity alone.

### **SAF, SPLA began redeployment from oilfields**

(*AlRai AlAam*) Minister of Defence General Abdelrahim Mohamed Hussein said, in a press conference held yesterday jointly with Pagan Amum, GoNU Minister of Cabinet Affairs, that the SAF and the SPLA began redeployment from the oilfields. The Minister said that SAF would not intervene in the Miseriya-Dinka clashes. He

concluded by saying that the preparedness of the SPLM to take positive measures will enable the CPA partners to find solutions for the problems in the Al-Meram area and defuse tensions.

### **Sudanese president appoints three new governors**

(*AlSudani, BBC Mon* – 6 Jan. Sudanese Radio) The president of the republic, Field Marshal Omar al-Bashir, has issued a presidential decree appointing three new governors as follows,

1. Salah Ali Adam, [new] governor for Kassala State, [eastern region]
2. Dr Ahmad Majdhub Ahmad [new] governor for River Nile State, [northern region]
3. Adil Awad Sulayman [new] governor for Northern State.

### **Joint NCP-SPLM committee for implementing agreed calendar of pending CPA issues**

(*AlSudani*) The NCP and SPLM have set up a joint committee to supervise the work of their committees on the implementation of the agreed calendar of the CPA pending issues. The committee will perform the duties of the NCP-SPLM six-member committee and Executive committee.

The SPLM membership of the committee is as follows:

Malik Agar, SPLM Deputy Chairman  
Pagan Amum, SPLM Secretary General  
Deng Alor, SPLM  
Yasir Arman, SPLM Deputy Secretary General, Northern Sector  
Dr. Luka Biong, GoSS Minister of Presidential Affairs  
Michel Kong, SPLM

The NCP has yet to name its members in the committee.

Following a meeting with the NCP Deputy President Nafie Ali Nafie, Dr. Riak Machar said they discussed the NCP-SPLM partnership, Darfur, elections law and preparations for celebrating the CPA anniversary.

### **Wau ready to celebrate peace day**

(*Khartoum Monitor*) Chairman of communications committee of celebration marking the third anniversary of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Western Bahr Al Ghazal State, Mustafa Biong asserted the state's readiness to hold the celebrations in Wau the capital city of Western Bahr Al Ghazal State which will convene on January 14th.

Biong expected participation from federal level. Governors of southern states, friends of Intergovernmental African Development (IGAD), and African States.

## **Peace agreement not working, Eastern rebels tell Eritrea**

(*The Citizen*) The Eastern Front is in Eritrea to tell the former rebel backers that the peace agreement is hanging by a thread.

The Eastern front delegation, headed by Musa Mohamed Ahmed, yesterday arrived to Asmara Airport. The delegation, which included the Dr. Amna Dirar and Secretary General Dr. Mubarak Mabrouk, was received by the Eritrean Front executive member, Abdallah Jabir.

The EF leader Dr. Mohamed Abu Amna attacked GoNU saying that it is not a government of national unity as the National Congress Party has the majority in the parliament. He added that the Front representatives are completely neglected and have no real missions or responsibilities to do.

“Asmara agreement has done nothing to marginalized people of the East, and our people there are still suffering from ignorance, diseases and poverty”, he lamented.

Abu Amna concluded by saying that the policy is to ‘divide and rule’ and this is actually what is being done in the East.

## **Chadian troops 25 kms far from Geneina**

(*AlRai AlAam*) SAF said yesterday that three Chadian military Antinovs have bombed at the early hours of Sunday morning the area of Wadi Rati near Mistry town (28 kms south western Geneina).

The attack resulted in the killing and injuring of some civilians. SAF Spokesman said the Sudanese army is ready to repulse any aggression. The Manager of the Office of the SAF spokesman said the Chadian troops and artillery are only 25 kms far from Geneina.

## **Presidency discusses today Abyei**

(*AlAyam*) The Presidency will meet today to discuss the situation in South Sudan, areas of ethnic interaction and pending issues, especially Abyei.

## **Kuwait extends \$212m loan for Sudan’s Roseiris Dam**

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 6 Jan. KHARTOUM) A USD 212 million loan agreement was signed on Sunday between a Kuwaiti fund for development and the Sudanese government to finance the additional projects of Roseiris Dam in eastern Sudan.

The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) will extend Sudan a 58-million Kuwaiti Dinar loan for heightening the Roseiris Dam, located on the Blue Nile about 500 kilometers south-east of the Sudanese capital.

The agreement was signed today in Khartoum by Sudanese Minister of Finance al-Zubeir Ahmed al Hassan and KFAED Chairman and Director General Abdellatif Youssef Al-Hamad. **Read more** <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25467>

## **Council of Ministers Decided Expansion of Saturday Holiday all over States as of January 26**

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 7 Jan. KHARTOUM) The Council of Ministers, chaired by the President of the Republic, Omer Al-Bashir, decided expanding the holiday of Saturday in all Sudan states as of Saturday, January 26, for a period of six months for studying and assessment of this project.

In its regular meeting Sunday, the Council of Ministers approved a recommendation forwarded by the State Minister at the Council of Ministers and chairman of the committee assigned to study determination of the work days every week, Kamal Abdul-Latif, on fixation of the work days as five days weekly, taking into consideration a number arrangements to compensate time and orienting it to enhance the productivity.

## **Sudan says it is ready for any attack by Chad**

(*AFP* – 6 Jan. KHARTOUM) Sudan will repel any attack by neighboring Chad, its armed forces said on Sunday, the day after Ndjamena threatened to pursue Chadian rebels into Sudan where they have allegedly sought shelter.

"All military bases in western Sudan are ready to deal with any attack launched from Chadian territory," armed forces spokesman Mohammed Otham al-Aghbash was quoted as saying by the official SUNA news agency.

"The Chadian government continues to threaten to attack Sudan saying it is hosting the Chadian opposition... which is not true because our government has no interest in doing that," Aghbash said.

Chadian President Idriss Deby Itno on Saturday threatened to pursue and strike Chadian rebels inside Sudan, repeating charges that Khartoum is trying to destabilize his country.

Deby claimed his forces had already driven out the rebels from Chad and said: "We're going to destroy them in their nest inside Sudan... We're going to make them eat dust inside Sudan."

## **Sudanese parliament to resume sessions on 7 January**

(*BBC Mon* – 6 Jan. Sudanese radio) The National Assembly will resume its regular sessions on Monday [7 January]. Among the issues to discuss include reports by various committees. The defence and security and the justice and legal committees will be among the committees to submit their reports.

## **GoSS**

## **Sudan should probe rebel leader's death- Machar**

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 6 Jan. JUBA) An investigation into a helicopter crash that killed south Sudan's first president John Garang should be re-opened to clear up doubts over his death, the region's Vice President Riek Machar has said.

Machar told Reuters in an interview late on Saturday that many top officials in the (SPLM) believed their former rebel leader had been murdered. "When we look at such a situation it may be best for us in the SPLM to reopen the investigation so that once and for all we put it to rest," said Machar. "We do not want anything connected to Dr. John Garang to divide our party."

## **Darfur**

### **Sudan reiterates adherence to African nature of hybrid force in Darfur**

(*Xinhua* – 6 Jan. Khartoum) Sudanese President Omer al-Bashir has reiterated his country's adherence to an African nature of the hybrid peacekeeping force deployed by the United Nations and African Union (AU) in Darfur, Sudan's Akhbar Alyaum daily reported on Sunday.

The Sudanese president reiterated the stance during a telephone conversation with UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon at Saturday night, according to the report.

"The president stressed the necessary of adhering to the African nature of the UN-AU hybrid operation as what had been stipulated by Resolution 1769," the report said.

"The African countries should be given the priority of taking part in the hybrid force before taking about the forces from countries outside the continent," al-Bashir told Ban.

Al-Bashir also reiterated his government's commitment to a peaceful solution of the Darfur issue, calling on the UN secretary general to exert pressure to force the rebel movements in the restive western region to join the peace process.

### **Voluntarily Organizations Distribute Food inside Abu Shok IDPS Camp**

(*SMC* – 6 Jan.) World Food Program (WFP) and other voluntarily organizations have stated distribution of food materials to about 45.000 IDPS living in Abu Shok camp in north Darfur state.

Head of Abu Shok camp Ibrahim Shiekh Al Dein told (smc) that about 700 tons of sorghum besides other variety of food has started be distributed inside the camp. The camp manger said a number of families left the camp voluntarily under repatriation program coincided with harvesting season.

### **Sudan is ready to deal with any attack by Chad - army**

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## **Miscellaneous**

### **Austrian tourist arrested in Port Sudan on espionage allegations**

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 6 Jan. PORT SUDAN) Sudanese authorities have arrested an Austrian tourist in the coastal city of Port Sudan and accused him of spying because he has in possession of some internet articles about the Beja Congress Party, Sudan Tribune has learned.

Thomas Hirschvogel, an Austrian tourist was arrested on December 31 by the Sudanese security services while traveling to visit the Red Sea hills from Port Sudan. Hirschvogel was initially charged with violating immigration laws because he did not obtain a travel permit prior to visiting the hills.

However the charge was upgraded to spying when Sudan's security services discovered articles about the Beja Congress party in his bag. They also found out that Hirschvogel met with Beja Congress officials in the region.

The Beja Congress party signed a peace deal with the Sudanese government and joined the cabinet last year. However a Port Sudan based dissident faction rejected the deal and Khartoum remains suspicious of their political activities.

Hirschvogel, who worked for an organization assisting illegal foreigners in Austria, is confined to his Saffa hotel room and is under close security surveillance. He was also not allowed to contact his family.

It is not clear if the Austrian consulate in Khartoum is aware of Hirschvogel's situation.

The 20 years old Austrian is on a one year tour to Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia, Yemen, Oman, Iran, and Turkey.

### **Kenya demands Sudan's help to end political crisis**

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 6 Jan. KHARTOUM) Sudan has received a demand from the Kenya asking to intervene in order to persuade the chief of the Kenyan opposition to accept a peaceful settlement to the ongoing political crisis in the neighboring country.

The Sudanese foreign minister received a demand from his Kenyan counterpart to meet the Sudanese president and to deliver a message from President Mwai Kibaki to President Omer al-Bashir asking him to convince the opposition leader to accept political solution and to stop violence in the country.

Raila Odinga, who received financial support from Khartoum to conduct his electoral campaign, has good relations with the ruling National Congress Party. Before the elections, Kibaki supporter criticized Odinga for pushing Kenya to import Sudanese oil in 2001 when he was minister for energy.

### **Authorized sources to SUNA: investigations into the killing of the American official have made considerable progress**

(*SUNA* – 7 Jan. KHARTOUM) Authoritative sources told the Sudan News Agency that the team of investigation from the American Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has been working in full coordination with the Sudanese investigation committee into the killing of the American diplomat, John Michael, and not in a separate or independent manner from the Sudanese committee as was carried out by some news reports.

The sources added that the two sides were fully satisfied with the on going cooperation between the two of them on this issue. The sources affirmed that the investigations have made considerable progress in revealing some important lines that could lead to the apprehension of the perpetrators.

### **Presidential aide urges holdout Darfur rebel groups to join peace process**

(*BBC Mon* – 5 Jan. Sudanese TV) [Presenter] As part of his inspection tours of Darfur's provinces, Senior Presidential Adviser Mani Arkoi Minawi discussed in Nyala with the leaders of Southern Darfur State, headed by Governor Ali Mahmud Muhammad the humanitarian, security, and economic conditions, the requirements for development projects, voluntary repatriation efforts for the internally displaced and reconstruction of villages, and the role expected of the [Abuja] signatory movements in supporting the peace process. Minawi called on the non-signatory movements to join the peace process. He announced the start of implementation of the security arrangements to establish peace in Darfur [incorporation of Minawi's forces in the Sudanese Army].

## **Editorials**

### **Stop the bloodshed in Abyei**

(*AlAyam* – 6 Jan.) *AlAyam* Editorial focused on clashes in Al-Meram area and urged the NCP, the SPLM and the tribal chiefs of the Dinka and Miseriya to stay a bit longer in the area in order to assess the situation on the ground and defuse current tensions.

The editorial called for redeploying all troops from the area and replacing them by the JIUs and opening of pasture routes to facilitate the movement of the nomads.