

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS**Media Monitoring Report, 09 January 08

(By Public Information Office)

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## Highlights

### UN/ Agencies

#### **Sudan attacked UN hybrid force in Darfur – Ban Ki-Moon, UN convoy ambushed in West Darfur**

(*The Citizen*) reported that a United Nations Mission in Darfur Supplies convoy was attacked Monday night on its way from Umm Baru to Tine in Western Darfur. The road convoy was on a re-supply mission to UNAMID team sites in the area which has witnessed violent clashes between the government of Sudan and rebel movements and where UNAMID air operations have been restricted due to the security concerns.

UNAMID did not return fire and no UNAMID casualties were incurred during the attack.

A diesel truck and a UNAMID Armed Personnel Carrier were also damaged.

UNAMID is currently maintaining a High state of alert. Investigation of the incident is underway and the UNAMID leadership is in direct consultations with Sudanese authorities in Khartoum and el Fasher over the matter.

Meanwhile (*Sudan Tribune.com*) reported that the UN chief has condemned today attack by the Sudanese army against a supply convoy for the hybrid peacekeeping force last night in western Darfur and lodged a protest with Khartoum.

"The Secretary-General condemns this attack in the strongest possible terms and stresses that, for the joint African Union-United Nations peacekeeping Operation to be able to perform its mandated functions, the Government of Sudan has to provide unequivocal guarantees that there will be no recurrence of such activities by its forces." Ban Ki-Moon said.

He further added "In this connection, the United Nations is lodging a protest with the Government of Sudan." **Read more** <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25496>

(*AI Rai AIAam*) SAF's Official Spokesperson Office denied that SAF intentionally attacked the hybrid forces.

The UN condemned Tuesday night's attack, the first against the peacekeepers since their mission began this month.

A spokesman said the UN had protested to the Sudanese government that "a clearly marked supplies convoy was attacked by elements of the Sudanese Armed Forces, while on its way from Um Baru to Tine in West Darfur".

## **Sudan, UN agree on stepping up joint humanitarian work in Darfur**

(*Sudan Vision*) Sudan Government and the UN have agreed on the programs and work directives for the joint committees that activate humanitarian work in Darfur and South Sudan.

After his meeting yesterday with the UNSC Special envoy to Sudan, Ashraf Qazi, the minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Haroun Dawal, quoted the international official as underscoring the close cooperation between the UN, UNAMID and the Sudanese government for purpose of instating peace in Darfur. Dawal said his meeting with Qazi had further reviewed progress of implementation of the peace agreement and the role to be undertaken by the UN during coming stage, indicating that he had conveyed to the Special Envoy the government's seriousness in actualizing peace in Darfur.

## **UNMIS Spokesperson leaves Sudan end of week**

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 8 Jan. KHARTOUM) The spokesperson for the UN mission in Sudan (UNMIS) Radhia Achouri announced that she will leave the post by the end of this week.

“I was privileged to be part of the UNMIS build-up when the Mission was at it advance stage” Achouri said in a statement sent by email.

The announcement came as a joint African-United Nations force (UNAMID) took over peacekeeping duties in Darfur last week and existing AU forces switched their green berets to the UN blue ones. The transfer of authority has been largely symbolic.

The Tunisian born UN officer was frequently subject to a hostile media campaign and threats by government agencies including the Sudanese army.

The Sudanese government has been irritated by Achouri's statements on issues such as obstacles facing humanitarian access in Darfur and lack of compliance by northern troops on withdrawal from the South.

Last May the Sudanese justice Minister Mohamed Ali Al-Mardi warned Achouri not to go down the same road of the expelled UN Special Representative to Sudan Jan Pronk. The latter was expelled by Khartoum in October 2006 for exposing information on the performance of the Sudanese army in Darfur.

Achouri was considered close to Pronk during his time in Sudan.

The UN spokesperson said that she had an “enriching experience” in UNMIS which was mandated with supporting the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) between the North and South signed in 2005.

Some observers who spoke to Sudan Tribune last year noted that the UNMIS has been severely weakened since the expulsion of Pronk. They also said that UN leadership in New York was not adequately supporting the mission in face of Khartoum's intimidation.

Nonetheless Achouri said that she wishes that the year 2008 “would be the year of comprehensive peace in Sudan, for the people deserves it”.

(*AlWatan*) The Spokesperson of the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS), Radhia Achouri, announced that she will be leaving Sudan for good end of this week. She said in a message to journalists who cover UNMIS activities “I was privileged to be part of the

UNMIS build-up when the Mission was at it advance stage”. She described her experience in the Sudan as enriching. Achouri said thank you to all those who supported her during her term of office in Sudan. I wish the year 2008 “would be the years of comprehensive peace in Sudan, for the people deserve it”.

### **Al Mahdi agrees with the possibility of UN Mission monitoring ceasefire**

*(Khartoum Monitor)* While speaking at a press conference yesterday, Umma Party leader Al Sadig Al Mahdi said that all parties must commit to a ceasefire otherwise the UN mission may monitor the ceasefire.

To end the conflict between the Miseria tribe and the SPLM, the SPLA and the SAF must withdraw from the borders existing upon independence, said Al- Mahdi.

He added that further relief must be provided to all the people in that conference. A Mahdi called for a provisional administration to be installed in Abyei.

We carried the issue of Abyei to all parties whose response was quite reasonable, he said.

*(AlSudani)* reported that al Mahdi called for ignoring the ABC report on Abyei and seeking a new solution to stop violence and resolving the Abyei issue. He said the ABC experts have violated their mandate and their report became part of the problem.

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

### **President Al-Bashir reaffirms commitment of the government to Comprehensive Peace Agreement**

*(Al-Ray AlAam, SUNA)*- President of the Republic Field Marshal Omer Al-Bashir has reaffirmed the commitment of the Government of National Unity to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, calling on arms holders in Darfur to join the peace process. Addressing a huge mass rally at the Peace Square at Sharq Al-Nil Locality in Khartoum State Tuesday, President Al-Bashir said Sudan wants to solve all its problems to pave the way for effecting development.

The President, speaking in a celebration of launching half a million health insurance cards in Khartoum State as part of the country's celebrations of the Peace Day, lauded the efforts of Khartoum State in the field of health insurance, saying that the experience of health insurance in Sudan that covers all sectors has become a model for tactful (social solidarity).

The celebration was also addressed by Wali (governor) of Khartoum State Dr. Ismail Al-Mutaafi, who pointed out that the project of comprehensive health insurance coverage comes as part of the government support to the poor categories, lauding the institutions that work to make the project a success, namely the Zakat Chamber, the Ministry of Finance of the state and Students Support Fund.

The occasion was also addressed by Commissioner of Sharq Al-Nil Locality Hassan Mohamed, who pointed that the celebration coincides with the country's celebrations of the Peace Day.

## **SPLA completes redeployment from Southern Blue Nile**

(*AlSudani*) The SPLA has confirmed that it has completed the redeployment of its troops from areas in the Southern Blue Nile State since last week. SPLA Deputy Chief of Staff (Operations), James Hoat, said the SPLA has begun the process of redeployment from South Kordofan State towards the south during the last five days.

## **Cabinet Sets a Plan for Drafting Laws Not Exceed 30th of Next July**

(*SMC – 8 Jan. Khartoum*) Council of minister has set working plan to complete 23 draft of Acts, and make it ready be tabled to the parliament. Cabinet secretary general Omar Mohammed Salih told (smc) that according to the plan these acts should be drafted in a period not exceeding the 30th of next July maximum - to comply with the interim constitution. By completing the plan the cabinet becomes has fulfilled commitment it made regarding legislations for all concern sectors.

## **North Sudan troops complete southern withdrawal: Ex-rebels**

(*Sudan Vision*) North Sudanese troops have completed their withdrawal from oil rich areas of the south, a southern general said on Tuesday, heading off the latest brewing north-south crisis.

“They have gone “Major General Mai Hoth, Deputy Chief of the southern former rebel Sudan People`s Libration Army, told AFP.

“The equipment and the headquarters will be handover to us tomorrow. He said only a handful of northern troops remained as they had not been able to find transport home.

## **Mujlad Citizens Protest against SPLA Offensive**

(*SMC – 8 Jan. Al Mujlad*) Popular forces at Al Mujlad town in south Kordofan state launched huge masses procession protesting continuous SPLA offensive against Missariyah areas where tenth of innocent lives of nomads were claimed at Maram area.

Member of the 50 man youth council of south Kordofan western sector engineer Hussain Al Haj Bakar told (smc) that protestors have delivered a memorandum to Mujlad locality acting commissioner Ibrahim Mohammed Al Hassan. The deputy commissioner however promises to submit the memo to both government of the state and central government.

The key speakers confirms their full support to peace process however they urged government maintains its obligation toward the regrettable incidents. In the same development the protestors oppose SPLA killing of innocents. The protestors call for withdrawal of SPLA troops south ward of 1956 border line immediately in response to what has been stated in security arrangements protocol. The speakers however accused SPLA that is warts imposed Abyei experts report by force and that was the main reason for their aggression against nomads in Maram area.

## **GONU Venue Opens at Amarat Neighborhood of Khartoum**

(SMC – 8 Jan.) Presidential advisor Dr. Mustafa Osman Ismail confirms that opening of the venue established for parties participating in the Government of National Unity GONU at Amarat neighborhood of Khartoum represents a natural political development in the relationship of the respective parties. The new venue should be exploited as apolitical forum where these parties may offer advices to the GONU on national issues and how to handle challenges and conspiracies planned against the nation.

## **Bush urges rigorous effort to preserve Sudan peace deal**

(Sudan Tribune.com – 8 Jan. WASHINGTON) President George W. Bush said Tuesday that a rigorous effort should be made to fully carry out a fragile 2005 peace agreement in Sudan that ended a 21-year civil war between the ethnic African south and the Arab-dominated government in the capital Khartoum.

In a statement marking the third anniversary of the accord on Wednesday, Bush specifically said a nationwide census should be conducted immediately to allow national elections to be held on time next year.

"The work of Sudan's border commission also must be invigorated to redeploy troops away from disputed border areas to reduce the chances of a return to violence," Bush said.

Bush said he had asked his new special envoy for Sudan, Richard Williamson, "to continue the US strong involvement on north-south issues to help find solutions to these challenges." *Read more* <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25502>

## **European Union calls on Sudan's partner to work for peace implementation**

(Sudan Tribune.com – 8 Jan. BRUSSELS) On the occasion of the third anniversary of the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) the European Union urged the two partners to work together for peace implementation and successful democratic transition.

The EU encouraged the National Congress Party (NCP) and the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement (SPLM) to achieve the objectives of the CPA. It said that Sudan's peace partner should keep in mind that "the achievement of a peaceful, democratic, prosperous and united Sudan goes beyond the relations between the North and the South of Sudan."

In a statement issued in Brussels on Tuesday, the EU said "The CPA stands out as a historic achievement of the people of Sudan.....With its provisions for a peaceful and democratic transformation it marks the way forward for the whole of Sudan."

*Read more* <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25497>

## **Chad reiterates determination to pursue rebels in Sudan**

(*Al Ray AlAam, Alwan Sudan Tribune.com* – 8 Jan.) Chad's government declared Tuesday it had a right to pursue Chadian rebels hiding in the Darfur region of neighboring Sudan, following the bombing of rebel bases across the troubled border.

The Chadian air force carried out the bombing raids over the past two days, targeting the positions of rebels opposed to Chadian President Idriss Deby Itno, in power since 1990.

"If they (the rebels) come from Sudan it is not surprising that that we hit them where they come from," said government spokesman Hourmadji Moussa Doumgor when asked by AFP about the bombings, without elaborating further.

"We are in a state of alert... and our air force is monitoring the border from one end to the other to be prepared for any eventuality," he added.

The Chadian government in a statement Tuesday again accused Khartoum of "arming and training" the Chadian rebels in Sudan and of "actively preparing new aggressions against Chad."

"Chad maintains the right not only to respond to any attack from where it is launched, but also to use its legitimate right of pursuit" against those who threaten its sovereignty, the statement said. *Read more* <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25499>

## **GoSS**

### **Children mortality remains high in southern Sudan – charity**

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 8 Jan. LONDON) A British-based international charity, Save the Children, said today that rates of children mortality remain high in southern Sudan. It further warned that thousands of children are still facing death.

Since the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, three years ago, health care conditions for children reach crisis point. One in four children in Southern Sudan dies before the age of five, mainly from easily preventable diseases such as malaria or diarrhea; said Save the Children.

It added that tens of thousands of families still have very limited access to basic healthcare, with just one trained doctor for every 100,000 people.

The international charity called on southern Sudan government to commit more funding to building up education, health and protection services. Also it urged fundraisers to give more money and advice to the South Sudanese government to protect children. *Read more* <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25498>

### **Kenyan paper says chaos affecting Southern Sudan**

(*BBC Mon*) The current political crisis in the country [Kenya] is having severe ripple effects in the region. According to the Southern Sudan minister for Regional

Cooperation, Dr Barnaba Marial Benjamin, rebuilding efforts in the country are being hampered by lack of essential supplies most of which are from Kenya.

Kenya is Southern Sudan's largest trading partner accounting for 40 percent of the country's total trade. The minister said usually his country receives at least 1,000 trucks full of supplies a day, but the number has reduced considerably due to the skirmishes.

Elsewhere, officials from the International Conference on the Great Lakes region have also expressed concern over the political standoff in the country. Executive secretary Dr Liberata Mulamula said there was an acute fuel shortage in Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The Southern Sudanese minister said the crisis had also affected more than 10,000 UN peacekeepers in Sudan since their supplies are running out and are not being replenished on time.

"The more than 100,000 Kenyans helping in the rebuilding of our country are now uncertain of what is happening back home," said the minister.

Speaking at a news conference yesterday [Monday 7 January], Dr Marial expressed concern that the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) would also be affected as people will now not see tangible evidence of the pact.

Southern Sudan celebrates its third anniversary of signing the CPA tomorrow [Wednesday 9 January]. "We are worried of the effect of the skirmishes in Kenya," he added. He was accompanied by Mrs Rebecca Garang the Presidential advisor on Gender and Human Rights.

He said he had delivered two letters from President Salva Kiir Mayardit to President Kibaki and ODM leader Mr Raila Odinga urging them to dialogue.

Mrs Garang said the people of Southern Sudan owe a great deal to Kenyans for saving their lives, and would not like to see Kenya get into a similar conflict. Sudan has been at war for at least 39 years. She said that if Kenyans destroyed their country, it would take them at least 50 years to rebuild it.

## **Darfur**

### **Nafie blames talks delay on Darfur movements**

(*Khartoum Monitor*) president Assistant, Dr. Nafie Ali Nafie of the National Congress Party denied the fixing of dates for the upcoming rounds of talks between the government and Darfur rebels in Sirte. He ascribed the delay in the resumption of talks to attempts underway to make rebel movements come to a common platform to facilitate the talks. He added that the government is ready to attend talks anytime anywhere.

That came in a joint press conference with the governor of North Kordofan, Faisal Hassan Ibrahim.



## **Chad Exploits Darfur Movements in War against Opposition**

(SMC – 8 Jan. El Geneina) Western Darfur state announces readiness to counter any Chadian aggression against the state. It said the state is capable to silence any playing with fire to violate the security of the state by Chadian army or by Darfur rebel movements.

Governor of the state Abu Al Gasim Imam Al Haj told (smc) that allegation of Chadian army that it operations to chase opposition elements inside Sudanese territories are unfounded. He said the Chadian army wants to draw attention away from what is happening inside Chadian collapsing regime.

## **Chad reiterates its right to pursue rebels into Sudan, Alore says Sudan has right to retaliate**

(Al Ray AlAam, Alwan) Chad's government Tuesday declared it had a right to pursue Chadian rebels hiding in the Darfur region of neighboring Sudan, following the bombing of rebel bases across the troubled border. The Chadian air force carried out the bombing raids over the past two days, targeting the positions of rebels opposed to Chadian President Idriss Deby Itno, in power since 1990.

“If they (the rebels) come from Sudan, it is not surprising that we hit them where they come from,” said government spokesman Hourmadji Moussa Doumgor when asked about the bombings, without elaborating further.

“We are in a state of alert... and our air force is monitoring the border from one end to the other to be prepared for any eventuality,” he added. Khartoum has denounced the bombing raids, claiming civilians have been killed in the attacks and has lodged a protest with the UN Security Council.

On his part, Minister of Foreign Affairs Deng Alore regretted acts carried out by Chad against Sudan, stressing that though Sudan has the legitimate right to retaliate, it at present exercises self-control.

Briefing United Nations Special Representative (SRSG) to Sudan Ashraf Qazi on the current crisis between Sudan and Chad, Alore said the meeting reviewed the progress of the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and the schedule agreed upon between the two partners to CPA to end the crisis including redeployment of troops.

He stated that he discussed with the UN official issues of the population census, borders' demarcation and the security deterioration the area between South Kordofan and North Bahrel- Ghazal states witnessed and the role of UN in assisting the Government of National Unity in the CPA implementation and resolution of the conflict over Abyei area. Alore pointed out that the meeting also tackled the arrangements for the coming elections, referring to the government endeavor to arrive at an accord with the political forces on the election act, affirming the two partners' commitment to hold the elections on the set date.

In a separate development, the European Union (EU) highly praised the progress made so far as regards the political dialogue with European countries.

EU Special Representative to Sudan expressed, during meeting with Foreign State Minister Alsamani Alwasila satisfaction on this regard, stressing the importance of activating the political European dialogue for the sake of the mutual interest.

The two sides also discussed developments in Darfur region and progress of the implementation of the CPA.

### **Armed Movements Deal in Drugs on Borders with Chad**

(SMC – 8 Jan. Khartoum) Holding back of international assistance from Darfur rebel movements enforce them deal in drug business at common border between Sudan and Chad.

Local authorities at Al Tina locality arrested a group loyal to JEM found dealing in drugs at market wearing civilian dresses.

Reliable sources told (smc) that arrested elements knowledged that many other rebels are dealing in drugs in Chad to compensate losses of assistance held back by western countries.

They noted that the armed factions which they do operate military activities from inside Chad are now suffering sharp shortage of funds. As consequence according to arrested elements members of movements are frustrated very much in deed from this bad financial situation.

### **Situation in Geneina is calm, State Deputy Governor**

(SMC – 8 Jan.) Western Darfur state deputy governor AL Sanousi Bashir Musa confirms stability of situation in the state. Musa told SUNA by telephone from Ginana capital of the state there is no threats against the capital and rest of towns in the state as consequence of Chadian bombing.

The deputy governor however describes rebel's statements that they were approaching near Ginana as propaganda.

### **US Bush says "deeply troubled" by events in Darfur**

(Sudan Tribune.com – 8Jan. WASHINGTON) U.S. President George W. Bush said Tuesday he was "deeply troubled" by the unending crisis in Darfur and called for rapid deployment of an effective peacekeeping force and dialogue to end the turmoil.

He made the statement in conjunction with the third anniversary on Wednesday of the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Sudan, which ended 21 years of civil war in that country.

"I am deeply troubled that innocent civilians continue to fall victim to the scourge of government- and rebel-led attacks in Darfur," Bush said. "I remain firmly committed to the rapid deployment of an effective peacekeeping force coupled with serious

political dialogue between the parties to help end the crisis and the suffering of the innocent people of Darfur," he added.

*Read more* <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25501>

## **Miscellaneous**

### **Sudan frees Austrian tourist without charges**

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 8 Jan. KHARTOUM) The 20 year old Austrian tourist who had been arrested in Post Sudan last week over allegations of spying by the Sudanese security service is released without charges.

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.

"No charges were filed against him," Austrian Foreign Ministry spokesman Peter Launsky-Tieffenthal said in Vienna, adding the 20-year-old was free to move around and would probably leave the country on his own accord in the near future, the AP reported today.

Thomas said Khartoum ordered the security services in Post Sudan to release him after the publication of his story.

The security services upgraded charges against him to spying when they discovered articles from Sudan Tribune in his bag and he had contacts with the Beja Congress party.

In his last contact with the Sudan Tribune, he said he intended to pursue his tour and travel to Ethiopia through Gadaref state.

Since his first contact, Thomas communicated his blog to Sudan Tribune but for his safety we preferred to not mention it in our newspaper because the security service were not aware of his access to the internet and it was the unique way to communicate with outside world.

However some journalists published his blog without any consideration for his safety and the fact that his live was still at risk because his country wasn't aware of the detention.

Thomas said he was angered by the publication of his blog by news agencies. Further, his access to the internet was banned immediately after the disclosure of his bolg.

The Austrian tourist said the Sudanese police treated him well and they were friendly, despite his fears about the outcome of the investigations. He added that it was a fruitful experience for him and for his understanding of freedom in troubled states.