



## UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN

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### **UN/ Agencies**

#### **Darfur: UN, African Union envoys in Sudan to reinvigorate peace process (UN)**

13 January 2008 – Arriving today in the Sudanese capital Khartoum, the United Nations and African Union (AU) Special Envoys for Darfur began a weeklong mission to infuse new momentum into efforts to bring peace to the war-ravaged region.

Jan Eliasson and Salim Ahmed Salim plan to meet with officials from the Sudanese Government as well as rebel movements.

While in Sudan the envoys will assess the commitment of the parties to the political process and will appeal to them to exercise maximum restraint and to cease hostilities.

Mr. Eliasson and Mr. Salim also seek to gauge how ready the Darfur Movements are to participate in a UN-AU meeting to resume substantive negotiations with the Government.

#### **UN Security Council: A toothless lion! (ST)**

By Dr. Mahmoud A. Suleiman, January 13, 2008 — Frustrated by its lack of action, the UN was seen as "a toothless lion" at best at present. Many analysts thought the only way it would survive as a body capable of maintaining world peace was to amend its charter. Global Policy Forum (<http://www.globalpolicy.org/>) which advocates on vital issues of international peace and justice says that from influential member states come sombre warnings that the UN must "reform or die."

A decade ago the UN failed to protect the Tutsis from being massacred. At the beginning of the Millennium, world is failing its entrance exam to protect people of Darfur by deploying UN operations that can be relevant to the genocide prevention mission including the "preventive deployment" of troops, such as the 1995 deployment of blue-helmeted peacekeepers (mostly American) to contain the spread of war and ethnic cleansing in the Balkans and the deployment of "interposition" forces, such as the French and UN troops sent to patrol a buffer zone between Côte d'Ivoire's warring parties in 2004. Nonetheless, the UN Security Council has succeeded in producing a series of resolutions on Darfur since 2003, including

Resolution 1706, passed in August 31st 2006, which specifically connects the responsibility to protect to Darfur — the first time the Security Council invoked the principle in relation to a particular conflict.

The Security Council has also authorized a ban on Sudanese military flights, referred indicted war criminals to the International Criminal Court (ICC) in March 2005, and created a pathway for sanctions on certain financial interests of the Sudanese leadership. So far, none of the authorisations of the Resolution 1706 have been implemented due to non-compliance of government of Sudan. The Security Council has passed lots of resolutions, but the government of Sudan ignores them.

On Jan the 8th 2008 Reuters reported that the Sudanese Army soldiers had ambushed UN/AU (UNAMID) peacekeepers' supply convoy that was taking food and fuel to a UNAMID outpost near the town of Tine close to the western border of Darfur with Chad. One civilian Sudanese driver was left in a critical condition after being shot seven times. UNAMID said in a statement. UNAMID added that a diesel truck and a UNAMID armed personnel carrier were damaged in the attack. Furthermore, Fresh news reported by JEM in Sudanese online Website indicated that on January 8th 2008 Government of Sudan (GOS) distributed arms to Geneina civilians to defend their city. Observers say the international community tries to be flexible, but the government of Sudan takes advantage of that. Adam Ateem, director of peace-building and protection activities for the ecumenical Darfur Emergency Response Operation said that the U.N. force will fail unless it learns a lesson from the African Union's experience.

The AU/UN Hybrid mission in Darfur (UNAMID), will operate under Chapter 7 of the U.N. Charter, which grants them the right to use force to protect civilians. Yet they will have no authority to seize weapons from belligerents, nor is there any provision for sanctioning the Sudanese government if it continues its non-compliances with U.N. Security Council resolutions. The mission lacks critical equipment, such as at least 18 helicopters to move the troops around in the vast Darfur area, and no contributors have offered any. Khartoum, meanwhile, has banned several countries from contributing troops and know-how.

Many disillusioned observers say as the track record of UN on protecting civilians is patchy, The United States and the other permanent UN Security Council (UNSC) members should support a recommendation for the permanent Security Council members to withhold the use of the veto in the case of dire humanitarian need, except when their own vital national security interests are at stake. Such an informal agreement would remove another obstacle to early Security Council action. The resolution 1706 was rendered impotent and after the threat of sanctions was removed and reports of government-backed killing continued. The UN is perceived by many like a toothless lion that only roars loudly in its den.

A human right organisation said “Blaming the Darfur rebels for starting the crisis, as some Western governments are now doing, is like holding the Jews of Warsaw, who rose up against the Nazis, responsible for the Holocaust”!.

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

### **Kiir, Taha address thousands on CPA day (The Citizen)**

FVP Kiir and VP Taha will today address thousands of people who have arrived in the city (Wau) to mark the third anniversary of the CPA. Officials started arriving last week.

### **Consultations between Miseriya and Dinka to guarantee mutual interests in Bahr al Ghazal, South Kordofan and Unity State (Akhbar AIYom)**

Northern Bahr al Ghazal and Miseriya leaders revealed that they are making consultations with each other so as to reach an understanding on the issues that have resulted in the recent events between the two parties. The objective is to guarantee the mutual interests between the Dinka in Northern Bahr al Ghazal and the Miseriya in South Kordofan. According to the Miseriya Union leader Musa Hamadain the consultations may include organizing grass-root conferences for the people in South Kordofan, Northern Bahr al Ghazal and Unity States. Musa explained that the meeting of the committee representing the two parties agreed on the need to overcome the impact of the Dinka-Miseriya crisis.

On his part, the SPLM representative in the National Assembly for Northern Bahr al Ghazal Angoy Deng Deng said their meeting with the Miseriya representatives was held following an initiative from the Miseriya. Angoy said that the two parties will present their recommendations to the GoNU team in charge of addressing the problems in the area.

### **Miseriya group in JEM stops fighting, signs agreement with government (AISahafa, Akhbar AIYom)**

The Government of South Kordofan State organized yesterday a public celebration on the occasion of the return of 200 Miseriya to their home area after defecting from JEM. The ex-rebels agreed to stop fighting and terminate their membership in JEM. The Government agreed to compensate the ex-rebels for their heavy weapons, provide jobs for the people of the area, provide medical treatment to the wounded and recruit the ex-rebels in the regular forces.

### **One student killed, five injured in clashes between students of al Gazeera University (AIRai AIAam)**

Clashes between members of two political movements in al Gazeera University (Wad Medani) resulted yesterday in the killing of a student and causing injuries to five others.

### **Salva Kiir writes to Justice Minister to take legal measures against Alltibaha daily (Alltibaha)**

The FVP and GoSS President Salva Kiir has asked the GoNU Minister of Justice to take measures against Allintibaha newspaper for publishing two articles inciting hatred and racism. Kiir ordered the GoSS Minister of Presidential Affairs Luka Biong to write to Justice Minister to take appropriate action against the newspaper.

### **Sudanese presidential aide discusses Darfur Hybrid Operation with UN-AU envoy (BBC Monitoring)**

*Text of report by state-owned Sudanese TV on 12 January*

(BBC Monitoring), [Presenter] Senior Presidential Assistant and head of the Darfur Transitional Authority, Mani Arkoi Minawi, has affirmed that the people of Darfur are capable of coexisting peacefully if there are sincere intentions. At a meeting with the Joint UN UN-AU Envoy Rodolphe Adada, Minawi said that implementing the Darfur Peace Agreement was a joint responsibility between the citizen and the Government. The meeting dealt with progress in the implementation of the agreement in the light of the start of the hybrid operation.

### **US threatens to scrap plans for new embassy in Sudan (ST)**

January 13, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — The US administration said it may call a halt to the construction of a new embassy building in Sudan unless Khartoum releases equipments blocked by custom authorities.

The daily Al-Sharq Al-Awsat published in London reported that Sudanese officials said that they will not release the equipments unless the US administration to unfreeze its assets in the US.

Sabir Mohammed Hassan, governor of Sudan Central Bank, asked the visiting US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Linda Thomas Greenfield, specifically to return money confiscated following a ruling by U.S. court that ordered Khartoum to pay some \$8 million to the families of U.S. sailors killed in the bombing of an American naval destroyer seven years ago in Yemen.

The newspaper said that Greenfield turned down Sudan's request and said that Washington will abandon the new embassy project which incurred \$60 million in costs to date.

Hassan on his end vowed not to give the US embassy equipments any special consideration. He told the US official that the Sudanese embassy in Washington gets audited on a regular basis which costs Khartoum over \$3,000 monthly.

The US has been working on constructing a new embassy south of Khartoum for over 2 years. Last year a standoff occurred between Washington and Khartoum over 400 containers that were blocked by Sudan's treasury because of non-payment of customs fees.

However Sudanese president Omar Hassan Al-Bashir issued a decree granting an exception to the containers from custom fees. It was reported at the non-payment of

customs to Khartoum was due to the US sanctions imposed prohibiting financial dealings with the Sudanese government.

It is not clear how the deadlock over the embassy equipments would be resolved. Last March the London based al-Hayat newspaper said that the new embassy will include a regional center for the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) with spy equipment directed to East Africa in the context of the increased cooperation between the CIA and the Sudanese intelligence services.

A US official told Sudan Tribune last April that Washington told Khartoum that it is in their interest to facilitate the construction of the new embassy or “it will take another 10 years” and will continue the inconvenience for the residents of the area surrounding the current location of the US embassy in Khartoum.

(ST)

### **Interior Ministry announces new regulations on foreign presence (Sudan Vision)**

**By: Zulikha Abdel Razig,** Ministry of Interior has allowed foreigners residing in Sudan until the 31st of the current January to harmonize their conditions, instead of the 31st of December as previously announced.

Police Maj. Gen. Tarig Osman, Assistant of the General Director of Passports, Immigration and Civil Record in the Ministry of Interior, stated at a press conference he held yesterday that the Interior Ministry has adopted the new policies for regulating foreign presence in the country and to enable foreigners residing illegally to harmonize their conditions within the deadline set or leave the country.

The Ministry of Interior warned it would take legal action against foreigners, recruitment firms and citizens who do not abide by these directives, indicating that the measures also include professional and non-professional footballers and foreign students.

Maj. Gen. Osman reiterated that his Ministry is bent on tackling the issue of foreign presence pursuant to an integrated vision and in coordination with all the concerned parties. He revealed that the Interior Ministry has obligated companies, business owners and employers of foreign workers to open an immigration file at the Immigration Department by the end of February at the latest, adding that visas will be granted at entry ports only to foreigners who come from countries where Sudan has no diplomatic representation or in emergency cases, providing that an application for the visa is submitted within a time span of not less than 72 hours.

He further explained that entry work visas will only be granted by virtue of a provisional work permit issued by the Ministry of Labour, affirming that foreigners staying under visit visas will not be allowed to work with or without pay. He revealed that recruitment firms are not authorized to conclude contracts between foreigners, on the one hand, and citizens and employers on the other. Their role, he said, is restricted to finalizing recruitment procedures on behalf of the party in possession of the foreign recruitment permit.

Maj. Gen. Osman stated that nationals of neighbouring countries do not have the right to move to other parts of the country excepting the border areas indicated in their passes, provided they return to their original starting point within two weeks. He enjoined both Sudanese citizens and foreigners to carry their identification documents at all times, disclosing that his Ministry will issue electronic passports during the coming March.

Meanwhile, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Labour, Dr. El-Tayeb Mukhtar, reviewed his Ministry's plans for address the issue of foreign presence in the country, underlining that foreign labour has had an adverse social and economic impact and pointing out that the true objective of foreign investment is to create job opportunities. He ascribed the rising unemployment rates in the country to the fact that foreign investment had primarily centered on the services sector.

### **[Sudan's envoy to the UN, a carbon copy of Iraq Al Sahaf \(ST\)](#)**

(ST), By Peter Lokarlo Marsu, January 13, 2008 — Khartoum's latest diplomatic faux pas is basically an ordinary episode in the long string of blunders being committed by the country's rulers.

Humour had it that when Saddam Hussein was already standing on the trap door of the gallows, after refusing to wear the hood over his problematic head, seconds ahead of his execution, Al-Sahaf attempted one desperate appeal to the Americans, adding to his classic droll show, saying, "you have captured the wrong man, I assure you, this is not Saddam Hussein, I demand for his immediate release without pre-conditions".

This hilarity depicts the culture or ethos of standard denials widely and forlornly practiced among Sudanese leaders and diplomats. Today Khartoum's rulers have characteristically outdone and outmoded Mohammed Saeed al-Sahaf, the Iraqi former Minister of Information, in the government of Saddam Hussein, who stunned and sent ecstasy to the whole Arab World that American forces in Iraq were already surrounded and awaiting final annihilation, while in fact American tanks were already rolling in the streets of Baghdad restoring order after the defeat of the Iraqi Army.

In the World of mendacity and twirls, Khartoum conceivably excels all the other countries in the region and there is hardly any shortage of ambassadors of disinformation and falsehood serving the country. Last week Abdelmahmoud Mohamad, Sudan's Representative to the United Nations had the audacity to tell the world that his ostracized government in Khartoum had nothing to do with the savage and unprovoked attack on the UNAMID force in Darfur, making a clown of his personality as well as ridiculing the government of Omar Al Bashir. He instead accused the Justice and Equality Movement's freedom fighters of being responsible for the assault.

"They were not the government. Why we would do something like that? I can assure you that Sudan government forces did not do that at all. We have no relationship whatsoever with that attack." Observed Al Sahaf of Khartoum on 10 January 2008.

Minutes later, Abdel Rahim Mohammed Hussein, another charlatan and NCP's firebrand, who heads Sudan's Defence Ministry, hastily contradicted the Ambassador, admitting that indeed Sudan Armed Forces did launch the attack on the UNAID Peace-Keeping convoy in Darfur, hence pulling the rug under Abdelmahmoud Mohamad and revealing the duplicity in Sudan's politics of denials.

Sudan's Ministry of foreign Affairs has not lagged behind either; it has long and consistently denied any genocide in Darfur or South Sudan before the signing of the CPA. The National Congress Party has recently started conducting proxy or surrogate war in South Sudan's Bahr El Ghazal Region, through the so-called Islamic Holy Warriors, (Mujahedin) and other militia forces including the NCP's regular army in disguise that Khartoum is heavily relying upon in the current skirmishes and any forthcoming military confrontation with South Sudan. Yet disreputable and untrustworthy NCP has more often painted a different and false and counterfeit picture to the outside world, maintaining that South Sudan army was fighting the tribal militia forces. Albeit Khartoum's lunatic counterfactual art of deception might appeal to the outside world the veracity is always bound to show up.

### **Ministry of Health & IFAD Agree to Control AIDS on Borders with Sudan (SMC)**

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and ministry of federal health has agreed to combat AIDS at common borders of Sudan with neighboring countries.

"The program to combat AIDS should be funded by world Bank," said the ministry of health.

National AIDS control program manager Dr Mohamed Ahmed Abdel Hafiz told (smc) there is general policy adopted by the state to expand preventive medicine services to control AIDS. Meanwhile he said the ministry of health plans to arrange training programs targeting health workers in providing health services to AIDS affected population.

## **GoSS**

### **Committee to investigate on development projects contracts in South Sudan (AIRai AIAam)**

The GoSS Legislative Assembly Speaker, James Wani, said a committee has been set up for investigations on all development contracts signed by the GoSS and private companies. Wani said any corrupt official will be held accountable for abusing public funds.

### **South Sudan decides to strengthen trade ties with the north (ST)**

January 13, 2008 (JUBA) — The Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) has decided last week to resort to northern Sudan for the supply of the commodities rather than

depending on neighbouring countries. This decision comes as direct result of the severe shortage of food commodities and fuel after the Kenyan political crisis.

Political violence in Kenya is choking off supplies of fuel and petroleum products to neighbouring countries such as Uganda and Burundi but also eastern Congo and south Sudan. They all get fuel from Kenyan ports, where supply lines have been interrupted by the chaos that has followed the disputed re-election of President Mwai Kibaki.

The GOSS's Minister of Presidential Affairs, Luka Biong, told Al-Sahafah daily newspaper that the government of the region had agreed on a set of short, middle and long term solutions to counter the crisis of food and fuel shortage and the exorbitant price increases. He indicated that this crisis was the result of chaos that occurred in Kenya.

Biong said that 40 percent of the south's goods for consumption, including fuel, arrive through Kenya. He said this had led to the great increase in prices which were now five or six times higher than in the North.

He further said that the southern Sudan cabinet had discussed the issue in its last session on Friday and directed to form a ministerial committee from the ministers of Energy and Mining, Roads and Transport, and Trade to find out a solution for this crisis.

He stressed that the focus on cooperation with the northern Sudan will be at the forefront of solutions rather than reliance on Kenya and Uganda on the flow of all essential goods and petroleum products. This is in addition to improving road and river transport between north and south.

Biong further added the fact that the south was not connected to the north and that privatization of river transportation had a negative effect and had obliged the oil-producing south to import oil from neighbouring countries. He said that as a result, southern citizens were now paying a much higher price than their northern counterparts for the same commodity.

The minister added that the long-term plan is to establish oil refinery in the south, indicating that the ministerial committee will send a technical team to meet with the Government of National Unity to discuss ways to provide essential goods, including petroleum products.

(ST)

### **SPLM ready to reopen investigation on Garang death, Machar (Sudan Vision)**

**By: Al Sammani Awadallah**, SPLM Deputy Chairman, Dr. Riek Machar, has stated that their communications with NCP have resulted in stepping up membership of the permanent joint committee between the two parties from five to seven members. Dr. Machar told Sudan Vision that the permanent committee will hold its first meeting on the 24th of the current January,

to be co-presided over by Machar and Vice President Ali Osman Mohammed Taha for

the Congress Party. He noted that the committee will look into contested and pending issues for bolstering NCP-SPLM partnership during the coming phase.

He further indicated that SPLM is ready to reopen investigation on Garang's death, revealing that they had not perused the final report prepared by the investigation committee. He said SPLM Political Bureau will go over the report to keep abreast of information and facts it disclosed to later decide on them.

In another development, Machar said those who raised doubts about the facts of Garang's death may be right under the consideration that they have read the final report of the investigation committee, adding that, after it has read the report, the Political Bureau can decide on the matter.

Machar ascribed the commodity and fuel crisis in the South to the recent events in Meram area after members of Miseeriah tribe had block Meram road. "The government is now seeking to reopen that road so that goods can flow into the South," he said.

## **Darfur**

### **Armed group attacks Buram Prison, frees prisoners (AlSudani)**

An unidentified armed group attacked the Buram Prison in South Darfur and freed 90 prisoners. They took with them 8 prisoners.

### **Sudanese parties have to decide when to begin Darfur talks - envoy (ST)**

January 13, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — African Union Special Envoy to Darfur, Salem Ahmed Salem, on Sunday stressed that Sudanese have to decide when to start peace talks and do their best to end the ongoing conflict in Darfur region.

The African Union and United Nations Special Envoys for Darfur, Salim Ahmed Salim and Jan Eliasson, arrived in Khartoum on Sunday to begin a week-long mission aimed at providing fresh momentum to the Darfur Peace Process.

In a press statement issued upon their arrival in Khartoum, Salem said that the AU and the United Nations could help facilitate the peace process in Darfur.

"The parties involved in the conflict, however, should decide when to start the peace talks and to see to the success of the talks for the interest of the people in Darfur, Sudan and the region," he was quoted by the statement as saying.

The Special Envoys will meet with Government of Sudan officials and representatives of the Movements in Darfur. During their visit, they will assess the parties' commitment to the political process and urge all parties to exercise maximum restraint and to cease hostilities.

Salem hoped that the year of 2008 "should be a year for finding peace in Darfur."

The AU envoy said that the Darfur rebel movements have been given time and would be given more to conduct and deepen their consultations among themselves in order to come and forge a common platform for the peace talks.

"We sincerely hope that they have used that time and now may be in a better position to engage not only with us but in the actual peace process," Salem said.

He said that the parties concerned would be ready when the substantive negotiations begin.

"We are keen to have those negotiations begin as soon as possible but there is no point in insisting on having negotiations when the parties concerned have not get themselves ready," he said.

He said the situation in Darfur was deteriorating every day and the people there continued to suffer, adding that the overall security situation in Sudan and particularly in Darfur had a detrimental effect for the region and for Africa as a whole.

"But I think as Africans, as international community we have vested interests in doing everything possible to expedite the process of negotiation so that a durable peace and justice could be achieved in Sudan," he added.

The latest attempt of Darfur envoy to organize new round for peace talks between Khartoum and Darfur rebel groups had failed due to the lack of consultation with the main rebel groups. Also, Darfur movements rejected the choice of Libya as venue for the talks.

(ST)

*Some information for this report provided by Xinhua*