

UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN
UNMIS
UNMIS Media Monitoring Report 16th January 2007
(By Public Information Office)

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IN THE NEWS TODAY:

UN

UN military staff officers second group leaves for Darfur.

All press; ST Jan 14, 2007 (KHARTOUM) The Tripartite panel, on the implementation of the UN support to AU peacekeeping force, agreed today to deploy 10 military experts in Darfur, a AU-UN joint statement said.

The joint mechanism committee, which comprises AMIS, UNMIS and the Government of Sudan, decided today in its fourth meeting to deploy on 15 January a group of 10 UN military officers to Darfur to support African forces.

This second group comes in addition to the 17 UN military staff officers and 19 UN police advisers who are already in Darfur.

Ambassador Sadiq Al Magli, the Director of the Peace Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said that the officers are from Bangladesh, Egypt, Nigeria, Rwanda, and Tanzania.

On 11 January, UNMIS announced that it handed over the first batch of equipment and supplies to African Union Mission in Sudan, including night vision goggles, generators, tents and other supplies, as part of the first phase of UN support to AMIS.

The UN mission in Sudan said today in a news bulletin that UN is coordination efforts with Au to finalizing phase two of support. Phase two of UN support to AU force in

Darfur will consist of a Heavy Support Package, including additional staff and equipment.

The fifth meeting of the tripartite mechanism will be held on 24 January at UNMIS headquarters in Khartoum. (ST)

75 youth and development organization submit a memo [over children rape] to the UN representative in Khartoum.

Allintibaha Organizations of Youth and Development Network, which include 57 youth organizations, had submitted yesterday a memo of protest to the UN representative in Sudan.

The memo condemns the sexual abuse committed by the UN members in south of Sudan. It demands government of Sudan to hold those responsible accountable and to take measures in order to prevent reoccurrence of such crimes.

Darfur

SLM and JEM sign a political protocol to resolve the Darfur situation.

Alwan; yesterday, the SLM- Minnawi and Justice and Equality Movement “signatories to the DPA” had signed in SLM centre in Omdurman, a political, military and security protocol. The protocol calls on all the non- signatories groups to join the DPA for the unity of Darfur region.

Majzoub el Khalifa met the SLM classic yesterday.

Alwan; The Presidential Advisor, Dr. Majzoub el Khalifa had met yesterday the SLM- Abu el Gassim. The meeting was in the context of cooperation regarding the DPA implementation. Issues of security arrangements and refugees camps have been discussed during the meeting.

The parliamentary committee for finding facts passes its final report

Allintibaha The National Assembly will hold today a meeting including, fact-finding delegation, which had been formed to investigate the security situations in Darfur. “The fact finding delegation will pass its final report over the security situation in Darfur in order to be submitted to the National assembly” head of Security and Defence Committee Jalal Tawer said.

Free Will movement completes lists of nominees for security authorities.

Allintibaha Free Will Movement had announced yesterday the completion of its list of nominees for Security Authorities. The list is supposed to be submitted to Government of Sudan during the coming days. “A military and political coordination have been completed between all the DPA signatories except the SLM” Head of Free Will movement el Tayeb Ahmed Ibrahim said to SUNA.

S. Darfur Government rebuffs Justice Minister Statement [over number of casualties in the tribal conflict W. and S. Darfur]

Alwan reports that South Darfur authorities have rebuffed Minister of Justice's statement over numbers of casualties in Darfur last tribal conflict. Deputy Governor of S. Darfur and Minister of Information Dr. Farah Mustafa described the figures given by Justice Minister as being disappointing and exaggerated.

China says no pressure on Sudan following US envoy visit.

ST Jan 14, 2007 (KHARTOUM) A Chinese high ranking official who is currently Khartoum, Said his country would not exert any pressure on Sudanese government following a US envoy visit to Beijing last week.

The Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister for Africa, Zhai Jun has pointed out following his meeting with the State Minister for Foreign Ministry, Ali Kurti, that china would not express any pressure on Sudan in place of other not now and not in the future.

Jun, has stressed that there was no link between his visit to the Sudan and the recent visit of the US President envoy to Sudan, Andrew Natsios, to Beijing reaffirming that there was no pressure whatsoever via his country against the Sudan., the official SUNA reported.

The Chinese official has stressed the keenness of his country for a peaceful solution to the Darfur question adding that his visit to the Sudan was aimed at consultation with officials in Khartoum on bilateral relations and the possibilities of developing them further in the various domains and that it was never conducted on a signal by the American Envoy.

Jun told reporters that the solution of the question of Darfur should be based on the respect of the sovereignty Sudan and the safety of the Sudanese soil. The official pointed out to the progress made in finding a peaceful solution to the Darfur question pointing out to the briefing he received from the State Minister, Kurti.

He stressed that the policy of his country was a peaceful independent policy that calls for establishing relations with all states based on the peaceful co-existence, pointing to the good relations between his country and the United States of America but stressed these relations have not been at the expense of other countries.

Deputy Foreign Minister of China start visit to Sudan

All Media, Minister of State at the Foreign Ministry Ambassador Ali Karti met in his office yesterday the visiting Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister; Hu Jiwan .the two high level diplomats discussed bilateral relations between the two countries and Darfur crisis.

Ambassador Karti briefed the Chinese official on the different measures taken by the Sudanese government to resolve Darfur problem, assuring his government's keenness to bring an end to this problem.

Khalil Ibrahim rejects Sudan chairmanship of AU next summit.

Alltibaba; Leader of Justice and Equality Movement Dr. Khalil Ibrahim have rejected the Sudan chairmanship for the AU during the next African Summit in Addis Ababa.

He said if that happened there was no way the AU could mediate talks or keep its around 7,000 struggling peacekeepers in Darfur.

"Then we terminate our relations with the AU," said Ibrahim. "The AU would become part of the problem of Darfur."

Chinese President to visit Sudan in February *All Media*

ST Jan 15, 2007 (**KHARTOUM**) Chinese President Hu Jintao will visit Sudan in the beginning February in the context of the distinguished relations between the two countries, the Sudanese government announced Monday.

The spokesperson of the Sudanese foreign ministry, Ambassador Ali Al-Sadik, said in a press statement that the visit of the Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister for Africa, Zhai Jun, to the country comes in the framework of preparations for the visit of the Chinese President.

The Sudanese president met with his Chinese counterpart in Beijing during the China-Africa Cooperation Forum, which was held in the Chinese capital in November 2006.

This will be the first visit by a Chinese president to Sudan.

NRF demands on international mediator (without AU)

Rai AlShaab reports that the National Redemption Front insists on the presence of a neutral international mediator in any future talks with Government of Sudan without the participation of the African union.

Darfur rebels divided over proposed 60-day truce *All Media*

ST Jan 15, 2007 (**KHARTOUM**) A proposed ceasefire between Darfur rebels and the Sudanese government has exposed cracks in the fragile military alliance between insurgents in Sudan's west, highlighting the long road ahead for peace talks.

The ceasefire was negotiated by U.S. governor of New Mexico Bill Richardson in a visit last week and the 60-day truce was to begin on dates fixed by the African Union and the United Nations jointly which are mediating peace efforts.

Richardson said he had met Darfur rebel leaders who had agreed to the ceasefire. Many Darfur rebel commanders who rejected a May peace deal with the government

formed a new alliance called the National Redemption Front (NRF) and renewed hostilities with the government in June.

On Monday Jar el-Neby, a commander from a faction of the NRF called the G-19 which rejoined SLM-Abdul Wahid al-Nur, said he would abide by the truce.

"We do agree with the truce," he said. "Others in the NRF say they don't agree, but we do agree to it."

But leaders from another NRF faction, the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) said there was no ceasefire.

"This declaration of ceasefire is unilateral by the government. There is no coordination with JEM at all," JEM leader Khalil Ibrahim told Reuters from Darfur on Monday.

Other commanders from the NRF also said they would not abide by the truce.

The divisions show the fragile NRF alliance is a military convenience, analysts said, but politically the groups have very different views, a major obstacle to the previous peace talks and one likely to dog any new negotiations.

Rape, pillage and murder has killed an estimated 200,000 and driven around 2.5 million from their homes in four years of violence called genocide by Washington.

GoNU/ CPA

NCP accuses SPLM of fuelling situations in Abyei and calls for urgent meeting of presidency to settle Abyei issue,

All Media General Secretary of the Miseria tribe Mohamed Ahmed Mosaad said that the situation in Darfur is deteriorating. He added that a memo will be submitted to President of the Republic to resolve the problem as soon as possible. "These situations are signs of civil war" He said. Meanwhile the NCP accuses the SPLM of fuelling situations in Abyei.

Sudan Communist Party criticizes NCP economic policies

The Citizen, Sudan Communist Party member and economist Dr. Farouq Kododa .in a statement to Citizen yesterday ,contended that the Salvation regime's economic policies has brought no development to the mass of the Sudanese people, maintaining that the government targeted people with its policies ,while excluding those opposed to its totalitarian visions.

He reiterated his party's opposition to the July 2006 presidential announcement of the campaign within the National Congress Party premises, where he pledged an

allocation of SD313 billion for the campaign, 60% of which would be government's contribution, while the balance 40% would be donated by banks.

NCP evaluates CPA implementation

Rai AlShaab The National Congress Party (NCP) conducted a meeting for the evaluation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) implementation. It was a joint meeting of the four political secretariats of NCP namely National Congress Party, Greater Equatorial National Congress Party, and Greater Upper Nile National Congress Party and Bahr el-Ghazal.

Speaking to journalists yesterday after the meeting, the president's Advisor, Dr. Mustafa Osman Ismail, said that, the meeting was the continuation of the meeting held in the past days for the evaluation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) implementation, and the relations between the National Congress Party and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement party, the partners in the government of the National Unity.

Darfur focus makes south Sudan secession more likely

ST Jan 15, 2007 (**KHARTOUM**) (Reuters) Secession by southern Sudan has grown increasingly likely, in part because conflict in the country's Darfur region has distracted attention from the task of helping the south recover from decades of war.

The international community got a wake-up call as tensions between the north-south peace partners ruined celebrations last week marking the second anniversary last week of the peace deal which ended Africa's longest civil war.

"With everyone concentrating on Darfur, the (north-south deal) seems to be drifting off the international community's radar screen," said Patty Swahn, a regional director for the U.S.-based International Rescue Committee.

"The slow progress in implementing the agreement is extremely worrying; if there isn't active support for the peace process, there is a real risk of renewed fighting," she added in a joint press statement from five international aid agencies.

The north-south deal ended a civil war which claimed 2 million lives and drove more than 4 million people from their homes. It created a semi-autonomous southern authority, a national coalition government, separate north and south armies and enshrined wealth sharing and democratic transformation.

By 2011 the south can choose in a referendum whether or not to secede, a move analysts said was most likely now.

Instead of celebrating peace on Jan. 9, south Sudan president Salva Kiir attacked his northern partners, the National Congress Party (NCP), listing violations of the 2005 deal. President Omar Hassan al-Bashir made a defensive response.

LRA

Kenya advises Uganda's LRA to continue talks in Sudan's Juba; Parliament of southern Sudan calls on LRA to continue talks with Ugandan government

Sudan Tribune.com; Allintibaha Kenya's deputy parliament speaker has advised the Ugandan rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) to continue talking peace from Juba in South Sudan.

Kenyan deputy parliament speaker, Samuel Poghisio, described the current demands by LRA to change the venue from Juba to Nairobi as a tactic aimed at delaying the signing of the peace agreement.

Poghisio, who is also the regional chairperson of the Great Lakes Parliamentary Forum on Peace (AMANI Forum), told journalists at parliament yesterday that the forum would not support any act that delayed the peace process.

He observed that the prolonged conflict between the Government and the LRA had not only hindered the stability and growth of Uganda but also that of the Great Lakes Region.

Poghisio's comments come after the LRA high command recently demanded that the talks be shifted to either Kenya or South Africa, saying the Sudanese authorities had become unaccommodative.

Accompanied by other forum members, Poghisio also presented a petition to the Speaker of parliament, Edward Ssekandi, urging parliament to pass a resolution supporting the peace talks and individual parties at the talks.

They asked Parliament to compel the Government to send a diplomatic observer mission to the talks.

Amani also demanded that the Government involves the African Union and the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development in the talks.

Sekandi promised to present the Amani petition to parliament. He also assured the group of parliament's commitment towards the peace process.

30 killed in Sudan's Eastern Equatoria after Ugandan LRA attacks

Sudan Tribune.com Eastern Equatoria State has witnessed for the second time in New Year simultaneous ambushes on cars and villages along Magwi Nimule and Torit – Juba roads by Ugandan rebels, Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) that left 35 people dead and 30 seriously wounded.

In Grievances against LRA addressed to First Vice-President Riek Machar Teny, who is also the chief mediator of peace talks between Ugandan Government and the rebel LRA, Eastern Equatoria State Governor, Brigadier Aloisio Emor Ojetuk urges the top

leadership of GOSS to urgently address LRA atrocities on the innocent people in his state.

Governor Ojetuk accused the LRA of uprooting cassava and simsim in and around Magwi area after chasing the people from their own homes.

The petition further stated that the populations of Magwi are now living in great fear of LRA's frequent infiltration and abduction, unless the GOSS takes urgent military action on LRA, there will be no free movement in the affected areas of Magwi and Torit -Juba road, remarks Governor Ojetuk.

The Governor said the operations by both the Ugandan army (UPDF) and the rebel LRA in his territory is a clear violation of the cessation of Hostilities the warring parties claimed to have signed recently in Juba, the capital of southern Sudan. Otherwise, he says, the people of Eastern Equatoria state are bearing the consequences of LRA and UPDF present in their state. Yet the warring Ugandan parties were both permitted to use Eastern Equatoria Territory by the current ruling GONU government! Therefore the same people who allowed the LRA and UPDF present in southern Sudan should take the leads in ensuring peace in the LRA affected states.

Governor Ojetuk emphasized that LRA frequent infiltration through Sudan-Uganda border prompted UPDF to pursue and attack LRA position at Hulai, and the fleeing LRA unleashing their anger with enormous atrocities on civil population in Magwi, Ikwotos and Torit Counties.

The grievances petition was copied to President Salva Kiir Mayardit, SPLA Chief of Staff, and the Minister of Interior in the Government of Southern Sudan. But the LRA delegations pulled out of peace talks on Friday, January 12th 2007, claiming their security was threatened by hosting GOSS and Sudanese president Omar al Bashir.

Available statistics of people killed by LRA and UPDF from 1993 to January 10th 2007 in Greater Equatoria state stood at 5200, but LRA leader, Joseph Kony has denied killing any southern Sudanese. However, his spokesman at Juba peace talk, Mr. Obonyo Olweny has admitted that the victims were killed in crossfire. Nevertheless, he demanded for details prove on those claimed to have been killed by their forces.

Yet additional 21 equatorians have either limbs or ears chopped off and 111 girls abducted by the same LRA and are the living example of LRA brutalities on innocent civilians of Equatorians.

Meanwhile the UPDG killed seven and the government of Uganda has accepted to compensate family of the victims through construction of either health or school in Eastern Equatoria state. But the Gulu RC5, Mr. Norbet Mao said in an interview that the question of compensation will have to be forwarded to Africa Union because, he said, there were also many Ugandans who died alongside with SPLA during southern liberation struggle.

AIRai AIAam reports that the LRA leader Kony Joseph Koni had left yesterday south of Sudan accompanied with a group of his forces. Koni moved to Gramba Forest in CAR.

Other Developments

Rebels attack town in Central African Republic

Sudan Tribune.com More than 100 rebels attacked a northwestern town in Central African Republic Monday, sparking the first fighting with government troops in more than a month, a presidential spokesman said.

The attack occurred in Paoua, about 400 kilometers northwest of the capital, Bangui.

The rebels, led by a renegade army lieutenant, are allied with another insurgent group which launched a wave of attacks late last year in the country's northeast.

"Fighting still continues as I speak to you," presidential spokesman Cyriaque Gonda told The Associated Press early Monday. He said the army had succeeded in pushing back the attackers, although the skirmish continued.

The northwestern rebels, calling themselves the Popular Army for the Restoration of Democracy and the Republic, have been active in the area since last year. Their leader, Lt. Ndjadder Mounoumbaye, defected from the army in 2004.

The group has said it's fighting because President Francois Bozize has allegedly misruled the country. They are demanding he step down, or agree to share power. Rebels in the northeast, led by Diego Albator Yao, have issued similar complaints.

The Central African Republic has been wracked by coups and army mutinies since wresting independence from France in 1960. Recent fighting has prompted concern that conflicts in Sudan and Chad could be spilling over its borders.

Addis Ababa shows concern over presence of Ethiopian rebels in Sudan

Sudan Tribune.com Ethiopian authorities expressed worry to Sudan over presence of rebel elements who reached Sudan from Eritrea. But the outcome of the investigation has shown that the Ethiopian rebels had just passed through the Sudan.

A joint fact-finding commission, formed after a protest formulated by the Ethiopian government to Sudan over activities of Ethiopian rebels on the joint borders between the two countries, didn't find any Ethiopian rebel presence in eastern Sudan.

According to the London based Asharq Alawsat newspaper, Ethiopia had alleged that elements from undetermined Ethiopian rebel group reached Bassinda, Bassalama and Wad Elhillo areas located between Gadarif and Kassala in eastern Sudan.

After receiving the Ethiopian complaint, Sudan formed secretly a joint Ad hoc commission with Ethiopia to probe on the issue. The commission visited the mentioned areas and investigated the accuracy of information provided by the Ethiopian government.

According to the finding of the commission, the Ethiopian rebels were effectively in the areas but they had withdrawn back to the Eritrean territory.

Addis Ababa is closely monitoring the rapprochement between Asmara and Khartoum and fears that it could lead the Ethiopian armed opposition to operate from eastern Sudan.

Chad summons Sudan Ambassador over recent Chadian rebels' attacks on Adre.

AIRai AIAam Chad protested to Sudan on Monday after it said Sudanese military aircraft flew over army positions in the violence-torn east and it accused Khartoum of continuing to back rebels in the remote region.

Chadian Foreign Minister Ahmad Allam-Mi summoned the Sudanese ambassador to strongly protest at the flights to the east of the town of Adre, on the border with Sudan and more than 800 km (500 miles) from the capital N'Djamena.

Chad accuses Khartoum of supporting rebels who are fighting a low intensity war in eastern Chad to oust President Idriss Deby. Sudan denies the claims4- Chad protests to Sudan over military flights