

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS****Media Monitoring Report, 20 January 08**

(By Public Information Office)

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Highlights

UN/ Agencies

Chief Mediators: Darfur factions preparatory meetings within 6 weeks (Sudan Vision)

By: Alula Berhe Kidani - Mona Al Bashir, The Darfur preparatory meeting for unifying the vision of Darfur rebel factions will most probably start in six weeks time with two main rebel groups consenting to join the Darfur peace process initiated by the African Union and the United Nation,. African Union Special Envoy, Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim, and UN Special Envoy, Jan Eliasson, informed the media yesterday

The Special envoy said they were encouraged in their efforts for peaceful resolution of the conflict in Darfur after meeting with rebels' military and political leaders both in Juba and Darfur. SLA Abdel Wahid Al Nour has further declared commitment to the peace agreement but expressed concerns about the security situation in Darfur. So, Dr. Salim and Eliasson have asked all parties to exercise the maximum constraint possible on military actions. On the question of sanctions on those who obstruct the peace process, the special envoys stated that this is the responsibility of other bodies, AU Peace and Security Council and UN Security Council, citing the statement of the UN Security Council President on 24 October 2007 that any party that undermines the peace process will be subject to sanctions. The place and time of the coming round of the peace negotiations will be subject to discussion with the parties concerned to reach a mutual agreement on this issue. The special envoys refuted strongly the accusations made by some rebel groups that they are partial to the government but expressed understanding that this is a situation which all mediators face everywhere in the world, adding that efforts to involve Abdel Wahid Al Nour of the SLA and Khalil Ibrahim of JEM will continue and both or one of them will meet with the JEM leader in the coming future. The tension between Sudan and Chad affects the security situation and peace process in Darfur. So, the special envoy called upon Sudan's and Chad's mutual friends to exert every effort to normalize relations between the two countries.

In their meeting with Sudan Foreign Minister, Deng Alor, the latter expressed Sudan's desire to normalize relations with Chad and the readiness of the government to see through the Darfur peace negotiations; a position that was also affirmed by Presidential Advisor, Dr. Nafie Ali Nafie. The special envoys also indicated that the deployment of UNAMID will help both in improving the security situation in Darfur if there is cooperation from all the parties concerned. In addition, UNAMID can play a critical role in monitoring any peace agreement to be signed in the future. They stressed that all the people of Darfur are calling for peace to end their misery. In another development, Official Spokesman of the Foreign Ministry, Ambassador Ali Al-Sadig, said the two envoys have concurred with the Foreign Minister, Deng Alor, that some factors, primarily the tense relations with neighbouring Chad, have adversely affected mediation efforts, adding that during the coming period Sudan's efforts will center on boosting its foreign relations, particularly with international organizations.

Eliasson and Salim have also sat with Presidential Advisor, Dr. Nafi Ali Nafi, who is in charge of Darfur file, to brief him on the outcome of their visit, including their mediation efforts with the Darfuri rebel movements.

Images for Peace photo exhibit opens in Wau

(ST)-January 17, 2008 (WAU) — A photographic exhibition showing negotiations for Sudan's Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) as well as progress made since it was signed opened in Wau on 15 January.

The exhibition — "Images for Peace" — formed part of celebrations for the third anniversary of the 2005 signing of the CPA. Organized by the Southern Sudan Peace Commission in conjunction with UNMIS and the UN Development Programme, the mobile display aims to foster greater understanding of the peace accord through awareness of Sudan's diverse cultures.

Opening the event at Wau's Youth Training Centre, Vice-President of Southern Sudan Riek Machar stressed that a country without a history or past could have no future. "This is our history and this is our past and we must show our children, so that in ten years time they can understand the struggle and appreciate the peace."

Hundreds of Wau residents as well as members of the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) and international community viewed the photographs on opening day. The exhibition will run for two weeks in Wau before moving to other locations.

Images for Peace, which was also supported by USAID, is part of ongoing efforts to expand public awareness and appreciation of the CPA process.

Sudan, UN to hold talks on outstanding issues in Darfur deployment (ST)

January 18, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — Sudanese government and the United Nations will discuss next week the outstanding issues in the deployment of the hybrid force Darfur.

Khartoum has refused to allow non-African units in Darfur including Thai and Nepalese troops; also it rejects a team of Nordic engineers to come help build roads and airstrips. Besides that, some technical questions like night flights and force status are still unresolved.

Technical teams from the Sudanese government and the United Nations are expected to meet on January 27 in Addis Ababa on the sideline of the African Summit to discuss an agreement before a meeting between the Sudanese president and the UN Secretary General.

Officials of the UNAMID and the Government of Sudan began negotiations in Khartoum, on Monday January 14 to regulate deployment and operations of the force that is seeking to bring peace to the strife-torn Darfur region.

Currently, UNAMID, which took over from an African Union (AU) mission on 31 December, has only 9,000 troops out of its mandated strength of 26,000, and it lacks essential logistics and equipment, including helicopters.

Sudanese envoy at the UN, Abdelmahmoud Abdelhaleem, said that consultation is underway between Sudan, UN and AU on the hybrid force and obstacles facing the forces, the official SUNA reported.

He added that there is no new development on the provision of helicopters but contact is progressing with Ukraine and Russian to provide the facilities.

(ST)

Minister of Foreign Affairs reviews with Salim and Eliasson UN-AU mediation efforts to make Darfur peace negotiations successful (SUNA)

Khartoum, Jan. 19 (SUNA) - Minister of Foreign Affairs Deng Alor met Saturday the UN and AU Special Envoys for Darfur, Jan Eliasson and Salim Ahmed Salim, and reviewed details of the UN-AU mediation and their efforts to make the coming Darfur peace negotiations a success. Official Spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Ali Al-Sadiq said in press statement following the meeting that agreement was reached that expedite the deployment of the Hybrid operation will positively reflect on the political process and on the situations on the ground as the deployment will lead to further security stability, which will positively reflect on the political negotiations. He added that the minister and the UN-AU envoys fully agree that there are some factors that should be dealt with to contribute to the success of the political negotiations, with the focus, in particular, on the Sudan-Chad relations. In the meantime, the Minister of Foreign Affairs affirmed that, in the coming period, his ministry will focus on enhancing the country's foreign relations, particularly in domain of multilateral diplomacy. Meanwhile, Ambassador Ali Al-Saddiq said it has been agreed on the importance of using all means of pressure on Abdul-Wahid Mohamed Nur to convince him to join the coming negotiations, particularly after the recent developments on the ground annulling his previous conditions. The meeting also stressed the importance that Dr. Khalil Ibrahim joins the negotiations. As for the date of the coming negotiations, Ambassador Ali Al-Saddiq said a date has not been

yet specified because negotiations are still underway to unite the movements' negotiating agenda. ZA/BT

UN-AU Special Envoys view with unexaggerated optimism the future of the peace process in Darfur following their Khartoum, Juba and Darfur tour (SUNA)

Khartoum, Jan. 19 (SUNA) - In a trend contrary to published reports in Khartoum during the past couple of days, the UN-AU Special Envoys to Darfur, Jan Eliasson and Salim Ahmed Salim, have expressed optimism regarding the peace process in Darfur, quoting as reason the many meetings they held with representatives and leaders of five Darfur rebel movements as well as their meeting with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Deng Alor and with Presidential Assistant Dr Nafie Ali Nafie. AU Envoy for Darfur Dr Salim Ahmed Salim told a press conference he addressed jointly with the UN Special Envoy Eliasson at the UNMIS headquarters in Khartoum on Saturday that there were reasons for optimism but he said it was optimism without exaggeration. He said the reasons for optimism was that their meeting with SPLM in Southern Sudan where they met with First Vice President Salva Kiir as well as their meetings with all the leaders and representatives of the five Darfurian movements including the SLA Abdul Shafie wing, to the SLA Abdul Wahid Wing and the Justice and Equality Movement, have shown commitment to a peaceful resolution to the question of Darfur. Salim said they met in Darfur with representatives of the Justice and Equality Movement and SLA Abdul Wahid group and the SLA Unity and the SLA United Resistance front as well as Abdul Shafie group in Juba and that in Khartoum they held what he described as good meetings with Minister for Foreign Affairs Deng Alor and The President Assistant Dr Nafie Ali Nafie and the coordinator of Darfur peace in the SPLA Abdul Aziz Al Hilou beside a meeting with the Senior Presidential Assistant Mini Arko Minnawe, in addition to their field visit to the IDP camp. Dr Salim has that the objective of the meetings was to ensure the participation of all parties or most of them in the coming round of talks but he did not discard the possibility of Arusha-type meetings before engaging in substantial talks in Sirte which saw the start of the Sirte negotiations and which will see their conclusion. He was answering a question that some movements have demanded that the venue of the meeting be moved to a country outside the African continent. Salim has stressed that Libya is only hosting the talks and that people should concentrate on the outcome of the talks and what they would tackle rather than the venues. He said the talks and the language used has given the Envoys hope in the future success of the peace process for the Darfur. He pointed out that some movements have stressed on the security aspects prior to the engagement in substantial talks. Salim said in the meetings held with JEM and SLA was also attended at time by the Deputy Commander of the Hybrid Operation and at another time by the commander of Hybrid Operation for the purpose of getting them together so that they could hear from the leadership of the hybrid operation in the field. Dr Salim said the Envoys were ready to meet with Dr Khalil any time anywhere and that they also have some concrete plans for meeting with Abdul Wahid to continue what they have begun with the field commanders, both political and military. Salim stressed that their role as Envoys is that they are facilitators and that they do not have any vested interests other than that of peace realization in Darfur. He said as facilitators they were ready to hold a pre-negotiation meeting of the Arusha type to help the movements bring their position closer or reach some common agendas for the substantive talks but he also said if the matter

necessitated some shuttle diplomacy they were equally ready to engage in the process, stressing that their options with regards the venue remain and flexible. UN Special Envoy, Eliasson has meanwhile stressed that the time for convening the substantive talks should not be open ended citing the suffering of the Internally Displaced persons, the children and the women whom he said have sometimes to work for even five days before delivery. He described the suffering of children and the feeling of helpless among IDP because of the prolongation of the conflict and their suffering. He also pointed to the deterioration of the security situation in the region, the fighting and the bombardment beside the tense situation along the Sudanese Chadian common borders and how this situation reflects negatively on the peace process in Darfur. But he said their meeting with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Deng Alor and with the President Assistant Dr Nafie Alie Nafie the chief negotiator for the Sirte talks has stressed the need for normalization of relations between the two countries. Both Salim and Eliasson have appealed to the two countries to exercise self restraint to avoid further deterioration and the matter being taken up by the Security Council. Eliasson stressed that all parties have spoken of political will for a negotiated settlement to the question of Darfur stressing that it was time the various parties take concrete measures to translate this will into action. Eliasson has said although he was not in favor of tribalism but he would think that Arab tribes in Darfur have expressed concern over their not being represented in the negotiations. He said it was their rights as Darfurians and Sudanese to be represented, pointing out to the representation of all groups including the IDPs and the refugees in the talks via the civil society groups, as was the case during the past round of talks in the Libyan town of Sirte. MA/MA

Darfur: UN, AU envoys meet with second rebel group(UN)

Salim Ahmed Salim (L) and Jan Eliasson, 18 January 2008 – United Nations and African Union (AU) envoys seeking to end the conflict in Sudan's Darfur region have met with a second rebel movement in an effort to pave the way for peace negotiations.

UN Special Envoy Jan Eliasson and his AU counterpart Salim Ahmed Salim met yesterday with the Commanders of the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA), Abdul Wahid faction, in North Darfur to discuss a planned meeting which aims to help the rebel movements consolidate their positions for negotiations with the Government.

The envoys were accompanied by General Martin Luther Agwai, Force Commander of the new UN-AU Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), part of the stepped-up efforts to end a conflict between the Government, allied paramilitaries and rebels that has killed over 200,000 people and driven some 2.5 million others from their homes since 2003.

The two envoys, who on Wednesday held a four-hour meeting in an undisclosed location in north-west Darfur, with the United Resistance Front (URF), a grouping of several splintering movements, stressed that for the negotiations to be successful there should not be pre-conditions for participations, as these would be counter productive.

Speaking on behalf of the SLA, a spokesman confirmed the movement's readiness to participate in the political process and urged the Special Envoys to meet with SLA leader Abdul Wahid.

He said the SLA welcomed the presence of Gen. Agwai and expressed its willingness to cooperate with UNAMID. Gen. Agwai promised to meet with them again next week to discuss plans for deploying troops and other issues pertaining to UNAMID.

Today Mr. Eliasson and Mr. Salim visited Juba for talks with the authorities in South Sudan, where a peace agreement ended a two-decades-long civil war in 2005, before returning tomorrow to Khartoum, the capital, where they have already met with Government officials.

GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

Consultations of political forces on Sudan electoral law to end next week (ST)

January 19, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — The National Constitutional Review Commission (NCRC) is expected to conclude political consultations on the new electoral system for all the political forces in the country by the end of next week.

The Secretary General of the NCRC, Majed Yousef El-Amin, reaffirmed the keenness of the commission to implement fully its mission. He added that the electoral law is considered one of the most important laws that drive the democratic process in the country.

He stressed the importance of listening to the views of all political forces particularly political parties that are not represented in the Government of National Unity, or NCRC, to drum up support and achieve compromise and national political consensus on the draft law.

Ghazi Suleiman, SPLM, member of the NCRC said the meeting gave the signatories of Naivasha the opportunity to resolve all points of contention between them.

He further added that NCRC stressed the need to expedite the preparation of the electoral law for the elections according to schedule set by the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in the end of 2009.

(ST)

SPLA denies SAFG is hiding in Bush ((The Citizen)

The SPLA yesterday said the SAF fully withdrew from Unity State. The SPLA Deputy Chief Staff for Logistics, James Hoth Mai, Saturday, said the few remnants of SAF in Unity State were waiting for their heavy weapons that needed more time to be relocated from their Bentiu's rest position.

Military pensioners stage sit-in (Khartoum Monitor)

Pensioners from the SAF yesterday staged a sit-in in front of the main gate of the General Command of the SAF and blocked traffic flow in protesting for delay in payment of their benefits.

Sudan releases eight Darfur rebels into UN custody (UN)

17 January 2008 – The Sudanese Government today released eight rebel detainees to the newly-deployed United Nations-African Union (AU) hybrid peacekeeping force, known as UNAMID, which is seeking to bring peace to the war-ravaged Darfur region.

The eight members of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) were released in El Fasher in North Darfur, into the custody of UNAMID Force Commander General Martin Luther Agwai in his capacity as Chairman of the Ceasefire Commission (CFC).

“This is evidence of a change of heart by the Government, and I hope that it is the beginning of a new way of doing things in Darfur,” said General Mohammed Bashir of JEM, calling today’s release “a new way to settle differences and a new beginning for all parties, who should now understand that there is no military solution to the conflict in Darfur.”

The release of the detainees was witnessed by Rodolphe Adada, who serves as the head of the mission and also as UN/AU Joint Special Representative.

Both General Agwai and Mr. Adada worked closely with the Government to secure the release of the JEM members into UNAMID custody.

According to Sudanese officials, the eight were arrested for passing on information regarding Government troop movements to JEM. Six of them were JEM representatives to the CFC and were arrested on 29 December in El Fasher. One person was arrested earlier in Kulbus, and another belonged to the JEM Collective Leadership Faction and was detained several days ago in El Fasher.

During the handover, General Agwai and Sudanese Major-General Imad Ad Diin Mustafa Adawi noted the good relationship that exists between UNAMID and the Government, but emphasized the importance of bolstering their cooperation.

Major-General Adawi stressed that the Government’s release of the JEM members should be viewed as a gesture of goodwill, urging that Government soldiers captured in West Darfur should be let go in return.

For his part, Mr. Adada pledged to help in any way possible to assist in the release of these Sudanese forces.

In a related development, negotiations for the so-called Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) for UNAMID continued in Khartoum today between senior UN and Government officials.

According to the mission, the talks on the Agreement have been proceeding smoothly and constructively since they began earlier this week.

South Kordofan Governor says tribal conflicts hindering development

Text of report in English by UN sponsored Radio Miraya FM, Juba on 18 January

BBC, Governor of Southern Kurdufan State Umar Sulayman has blamed tribal conflicts for hindering development process in the state. This came in an address delivered at a reconciliation conference between Nuba and Al Misiriyyah in Lagoa. The Governor also urged citizens to brush off bitterness of the past and look forward to developing the state by taking advantage of the atmosphere of peace.

The peace negotiations came after cessation of hostilities among all parties since last December at a workshop organized by Southern Sudan Resources Development Programme. Nuba people demanded the government to provide water and education as precondition to hold reconciliation. Despite gathering of the Al Misiriyyah and Dibab people in the conference, Nuba's participating delegation was small and not clear.

The State Governor Umar Sulayman was present along with all Ministers after taking oath; he indicated that it is necessary for the peace conference to be successful so that he can work on development of the area.

The SPLM on its side said that it is not against Arabs or the existence of Arabs in the area. This does not lead to principles of SPLM, Simon Khalid SPLM General Secretary in South Kurdufan said.

The conference was postponed for more than one day due to absence of the Nuba delegation who accuses the government of not responding to their demands.

Meanwhile the Al Misiriyyah said that the conference is for reconciliation and not for government. The deteriorating situation among the main parties caused doubts in eyes of observers about the success of this conference"

NCP and Umma Parties seek national solution to Darfur and Abyei

(Al-Sahafa)-Reliable sources has told (Al-Sahafa daily) that the on going dialogue between the NCP and Umma Party under the leadership of former Premier Sadig Al-Mahdi aims at attaining national solution to the issues pertinent to Darfur crisis, Abyei conflict and basic freedoms.

The sources ruled out that participation of Umma Party in the current government would be discussed during the present talks between the two parties, stressing that Umma was committed that its participation would either through national government or general elections.

They added that bringing about national solution to Darfur, Abyei and freedoms issues requires convening inclusive conference to avert internationalization of the Sudan's problems.

GoSS

Kiir appoints Abdel Aziz al Hilo SPLM Assistant Secretary General and Deputy head of preparatory committee for SPLM General Conference (AlAyam)

The SPLM Chairman and President of GoSS Salva Kiir has yesterday appointed Abdel Aziz Adam al Hilo SPLM Assistant Secretary General for Organizational Affairs, Deputy Head of the Preparatory Committee for the SPLM General Conference and Head of SPLM Office for Darfur.

Initial Survey for Removing Land Mines along Renk- Malakal- Bor - Juba Road to begin Early Next Week (SUNA)

Khartoum, Jan. 19 (SUNA)- The National Mine Action Centre is due to begin early next week arrangements of initial survey to remove land-mines along the road between Renk, Malakal, Bor - Juba, said the centre's General Director, Colonel (engineer) Al-Awad Al-Bashir. In a press statement to SUNA, Col. Al-Bashir stressed the economic and social importance of the 987 kilometers-length road between Renk - Malakal - Bor - Juba road. He said that such a road is a major land venue linking between north and south Sudan. Col. Al-Bashir pointed out that the actual removal of land mines will begin in early next February after completion of the initial survey operations, collection of information and formulation of the executive action plan in this regard. MO/MO

John Garang Institute is a pride of Sudan's Jonglei State - official (ST)

Philip Thon Aleu, January 19, 2008 (BOR, Jonglei) — Chairman of admission council, Mr. David Malual Wuor said the location of Dr. John Garang Institute of Science and Technology in Bor town, the headquarters of Jonglei is big pride to the state citizens.

“We had suffered a lot for long and this is a turning point to development and a pay to Jonglei struggle for better Southern,” said Mr. Wuor, a professional teacher is holding a Hon. Bachelor Degree in education. He added that the state citizens should exploit this “golden chance.”

The first set of students is 104 (one hundred and four). Forty students have already confirmed their registration and the remaining sixty four will be selected on “merit” after applying. Jonglei state still has thirty students to apply and Unity state takes ten. Other Southern Sudanese will apply through their respective governments raising the reminding twenty students.

The First Vice President and President of the Government of Southern Sudan, Salva Kiir Mayardit, laid foundation stone of the institute on 26 February 2007 during his visit to Jonglei State.

(ST)

UN-AU Darfur envoys hold talks with Southern Sudan leaders

Text of report in English by UN sponsored Radio Miraya FM, Juba on 19 January

BBC, International mediators arrived Juba to facilitate resumption of Darfur peace talks.

AU and UN envoys Salim Ahmed Salim and Jan Eliasson, arrived in Juba to facilitate the resumption of the Darfur peace talks. The envoys confirmed in a joint press briefing on Friday [18 January], that they had consultations with President of Government of South Sudan Gen Salva Kiir Mayardit on resumption of Darfur talks. The envoys also held consultations with the (SPLM) task force on Darfur.

Jan Eliasson told the press that there are ongoing wide and comprehensive consultations for an all-inclusive peace talks for all the Darfurians and rebel groups.

He said that reducing of tensions and preparing a climate that is conducive for talks, that is why this visit to Juba is so important. We met with president of Southern Sudan, and with task force for Darfur peace talks and come to very simple conclusion that we have to work together. he said.

He added that everyone has to work together as UN/AU, SPLM, in particular also the regional countries. We are at critical stage with some major difficulty but definitely we have to proceed and try to vitalize the process and keep momentum for peace., he added

Darfur

Darfur Rebel field commanders arrive in Khartoum for talks with Government (AlSahafa)

Some Field Commanders of the Darfur rebel movements arrived yesterday in Khartoum in a UN flight for talks with the Government.

Darfur envoys show cautious optimism over peace talks (ST)

January 19, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — In spite of the meager outcome of their first joint visit to Sudan since the failure of Sirte peace talks last October, Darfur special envoys expressed cautious optimism over efforts to resume the peace process.

UN special envoy for Darfur Jan Eliasson and his AU counterpart, Salim Ahmed salim, told a press conference held in Khartoum on Saturday that they felt optimism following the meeting they held in Darfur, Juba and Khartoum.

Salim justified his optimism by the results of meetings with the leaders Darfur rebel groups, that have now merged into five distinct groups after years of fragmentation, as well as with Sudanese Foreign Minister Deng Alor and presidential advisor Nafie Ali Nafie.

Salim said the talks and the language used has given them a hope in the success of the peace process for the Darfur. He further added that pre-negotiation consultations

meeting among the rebel groups to unify their positions might take place before the peace talks.

With regard to the demand of some rebel movement to move the talks from Libya Salim said that Libya was only hosting the talks and that people should concentrate on the outcome of the talks rather than the venues.

UN envoy called for convening substantive talks, saying Darfur IDPs are suffering from the conflict. Eliasson added that as all the parties had expressed commitment for a political solution to the five year crisis, it is time for them to take concrete measures and translate their will into action.

He said two of the five main rebel groups that they met during the one-week visit had agreed to attend within six weeks a meeting to unify their position ahead of talks.

SLM-Unity led by Abdella Yahya and the United Resistance Front (URF) agreed to take part in Sirte peace talks, Abdelshafi in a meeting held in Juba declined the invitation. Further, the influential Abdelwahid al-Nur and the leader of the biggest military movement, Khalil Ibrahim have their conditions to participate in the political process.

Al-Nur has three conditions called "conflict suspension" and Ibrahim wants the mediator to sign a protocol with him on the organisation of the process and who will take part in it.

(ST)

SLM-Abdelshafi rejects Darfur envoys call to join peace talks (ST)

January 19, 2008 (JUBA) — In a meeting with Darfur envoys, a rebel group rejected to participate in the peace process suggesting them to support the current efforts to reunite the rebel groups in the five year troubled region.

Darfur rebel groups including those who participated in Sirte demanded the adjournment of peace talks held last October in Sirte, Libya, to unify their positions. Others, as Justice and Equality Movement want mediators to postpone the talks and fix with them some issues like the format and who participate in the talks, and SLM of Abdelwahid al- Nur demand the implementation of some conditions called "conflict suspension".

During a meeting held yesterday with UN envoy for Darfur, and his African Union counterpart, in Juba on Friday January 18, the rebel Sudan Liberation Movement led by Ahmed Abdelshafi refused to take part in Darfur peace process. The group said its refusal is motivated by the negative attitude of Khartoum government.

Further, Abdelshafi rejected a proposal presented by the two envoys to hold another Arusha consultation meeting, calling the international community to support a second Juba conference to reunite the rebel groups under the auspices of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM).

The rebel group also said worried by the policy of followerism adopted by the international community vis-à-vis of delays and obstruction practiced by the Sudanese government to hinder the deployment of the hybrid operation in Darfur.

The SLM-Abdelshafi also warned that if the UN and the AU fail to protect its representatives at the Cease fire commission in el-Fasher, the capital of North Darfur.

The rebel group also renewed its refusal to the participation of the Egyptian, Chinese, and Pakistani troops.

(ST)

Chad rebels say destroyed army helicopter (ST)

January 19, 2008 (N'DJAMENA) — Chad's rebels said on Saturday they had shot down an army helicopter gunship which attacked their positions in the east of the landlocked central African country, near the border with Sudan's Darfur region.

The rebel Alliance for National Resistance (ANR), one of several groups of insurgents operating along the Sudanese border, said in a statement it had destroyed the Russian-made MI-24 helicopter near the village of Beda this week using a SAM-7 short-range, ground-to-air missile.

A spokesman for President Idriss Deby's government was not immediately available for comment.

(Reuters)

Sudan: Darfur Movement seizes trucks

Text of report by pro-government Sudanese Media Centre website on 18 January

BBC, The Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), Khalil Ibrahim's faction, seized a number of trucks loaded with supply materials after threatening their owners and fleeing to the area of Bahai on the Sudanese-Chadian border.

A number of truck owners told the Sudanese Media Centre (SMC) that JEM detained a number of vehicles that were on their way from Khartoum to north Darfur and started to bargain with them to pay the amount of 30,000 pounds for each driver in exchange for the release of their vehicle.

Abd-al-Karim Adam said that the rebels had seized his truck despite his attempt to convince them that he does not have the entire amount.

He indicated that the information they have confirms that the rebels were holding the seized vehicles in the Bahai region on the border with Chad and noted that the rebels traditionally threaten truck owners on the road and threaten to seize their vehicles if they did not pay the amounts they require.

Sudan: Darfur Movement terms appointment of ministerial advisor “inappropriate”

Text of report in English by UN sponsored Radio Miraya FM, Juba on 19 January

BBC, Spokesman for Sudan Liberation Movement considered the appointment of Arab leader as advisor to the Federal governance inappropriate

Sudan Liberation Movement spokesman, Sayf al-Din Salih Harun, considered Arab leader Musa Hilal's appointment as an advisor at the ministry of federal governance as inappropriate.

Speaking to Miraya FM Sayf al-Din said that the appointment came at a wrong time and might fuel all these agreements and hatred as he put it. He pointed out that this decree is only a kind of compromise.

[Al-Din] The current appointment of Musa Hilal should be delayed, it may increase conflict in Darfur, especially since there are a number of crimes in Darfur which have not been resolved. I think this issue has resulted as adjustment because Musa Hilal and some Darfurian figures have been contributing to Darfur conflict.

The government has recently appointed Musa Hilal as Advisor at Federal Governance Bureau. He is expected to assume office in few coming days.

SLA's Secretary-General admits failure to achieve in progress in Darfur

(Al- Rai Alaam)-SLA's Minawi Secretary-General Mustafa Tairab has acknowledged his movement's failure to provide any achievement to Darfur citizens.

In an interview with (Al-Rai Alaam daily) Tairab attributed the failure to the policies of the movement's leadership, calling on the movement' commanders to put an end to mal-practices of himself and the movement Leader Mini Minawi to avoid more defection from the movement.

He admitted the military retreat of his movement due to the splintering of a lot of commanders from the movement and joining other armed factions fighting against his movement and the government.

He criticized the DPA as fraught of lapses, saying that one of its biggest defect was the negligence of the security arrangements aspect and the demobilization and reintegration of its fighters.