



## UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN

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(By Public Information Office)

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# Highlights

## UN/ Agencies

### **Bashir, Ki-moon discuss hybrid operation (AlHayat)**

Sudan Ambassador to the UN said al Bashir will meet the UNSG, Ban Ki-moon, at the sidelines of the African Summit to discuss in detail the hybrid operation, the political track for solving the Darfur issue, peace negotiations and the efforts of the UN and AU envoys for Darfur.

### **Police trains personnel and administrators on dealing with hybrid forces (Sudan Tribune)**

Police Forces General Commander, Gen. Mahjoub Hassan, received the officers coming back from Darfur after they had trained the State police and national administrators on the skills of dealing with the AU-UN hybrid forces mandated to replace the African Union forces vide resolution (1769). Gen Mahjoub reiterated police keenness to train and qualify officers and personnel to carry out preventive and detective operations upon an integrated and complementary methodology, indicating the experiment as preemptive, referential and laid down foundation for futuristic police work.

### **Tripartite Consultative Meeting of Sudan Government, UN and African Union (SUNA)**

Addis Ababa, Jan. 27 (SUNA) - A technical consultative meeting was held Sunday in Addis Ababa between Sudan Government, the United Nations and the African Union and discussed ways to complete elements of the hybrid operation in Darfur and required arrangements for implementation of the operation in the fixed time. The delegations of the three parties were headed by the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Mutrif Siddiq, the U.N. Undersecretary General for Peacekeeping, Jean-Marie Guehenno, and the Commissioner of the African Union's Peace and Security Council, Saeed Djinnit. The meeting was attended by the UN-AU Joint Special Representative for Darfur, Rodolphe Adada, and the UNAMID Force Commander, General Martin Luther Agwai. In a press statement to SUNA, Sudan Envoy to the United Nations, Ambassador Abdul-Mahmoud Abdul-Halim, said that the meeting appreciated the cooperation shown by Sudan government and the states' authorities in Darfur concerning the implementation of the hybrid operation. He said that the meeting got informed on the implementation of the hybrid operation and the efforts done till now for its success. Ambassador Abdul-Halim said that the tripartite consultative meeting also reviewed pending issues pertinent to the bases for existence of the hybrid operation troops in the Sudanese territories and the operation's action plan. He said that the meeting between the President of the Republic, Field Marshal Omer Al-Bashir, and the UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, on the sidelines of the coming African Summit in Addis Ababa would discuss in detail the issue of the hybrid operation and other tracks on Darfur issue, such as the political track which

includes the political negotiations and the efforts of the UN and the African Union in this regard, the track of peace-keeping and deployment of troops, the track of Sudan efforts of Sudan government to convey humanitarian aid to the needy citizens and the fourth track of rehabilitation and development. On a shortage in helicopter planes and transport for the hybrid operation, Ambassador Abdul-Halim said that this issue concerns the United Nations and the international community and poses a hindrance to complete the hybrid operation. He renewed Sudan commitment to fulfill all its obligations for completion of the hybrid operation. He indicated that the coming summit of the African Union will be decisive on a number of pending issues and files in its agenda. Ambassador Abdul-Halim pointed out that Sudan will work through its participation in the coming African summit to boost the old initiatives to realize peace and political and economic progress and to complete implementation of development programmes. He said that the African summit provides an important opportunity for Sudan to conduct consultation with the United Nations and the African Union toward supporting the trend for political solution for Darfur issue. He stated that Sudan was able to accomplish several tasks within a short period, despite the accusation of shortcoming on its part that was raised by some circles. Ambassador Abdul-Halim said that Sudan has put all issues on the right track through its dealing with the African Union and the international community and its keenness to implement decisions and the signed agreements of south Sudan and Darfur region. MO/MO

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

#### **Sudan's peace partners discuss electoral law (ST), NCP-SPLM political committee discusses elections bill (AIRai AIAam)**

January 27, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — The Joint political committee between the two peace partners discussed today the electoral law and the works of the different commissions and committees set to finalize the implementation of the 2005 peace deal.

Political Executive Committee between the National Congress Party (NCP) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) began its works Sunday evening under the chairmanship of Ali Osman Mohamed Taha, Vice-President of the Republic, and Riak Machar, Vice-President of the Government of Southern Sudan and focused on the electoral law and the law of the High Commission for Human Rights

Also, the Committee deliberated on issues related to the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and will continue its meeting on Monday to adopt joint position that can be a basis for consensus with other political forces.

Member of the panel Dirdiri Mohammed Ahmed said they will discuss the electoral law affirming commitment of both peace partners to create conducive environment for the elections.

He said this political move will be launched based on the issues that were agreed upon in this meeting. He expressed hope that the committee would conclude tomorrow discussions of meeting agendas.

Paul Mayoum, southern Sudan government minister of interior and member of the committee said the Political Executive Committee discussed reports indicating that the different joint commissions and committees are near to complete their work.

He also stated that the meeting discussed the security arrangements.

The remaining issues in the agendas of meetings are the situation of banks in the south and the states of southern Kordofan and Blue Nile. He noted that the meeting will discuss on Monday the Darfur crisis.

(ST)

### **SPLM advises NCP to agree with political parties on elections bill (AISahafa)**

The NDA representative in the National Assembly and member of the Constitutional Review Commission, Farouq Abu Eisa, warned the NCP of using its mechanical majority in the Parliament to pass the election bill.

Meanwhile, the SPLM Deputy Secretary General, Yasir Arman, advised the NCP to join a group of 13 political parties who have unified their position on the bill (50% geographical constituencies, 50% proportional representation).

### **Miseriya chiefs (Amirs) against opening al Meram-Aweil road before withdrawing SPLA troops south of 1956 borders (Rai AlShaab)**

The Miseriya tribal chiefs (Amirs) – al Hiraika Osman, Mukhtar Babo Nimir, Bashtana Mohamed Salim, Ejail Joda – said they are against opening al Meram-Aweil road before redeploying the SPLA troops south of 1956 borders between north and south Sudan.

### **Tripoli mini-summit fails to ease Sudan-Chad tension (ST)**

Tripoli mini-summit fails to ease Sudan-Chad tension January 27, 2008 (TRIPOLI) — Sudan and Chad failed to defuse tensions along their long border on Sunday, despite a meeting of African leaders in the Libyan capital that also made no progress towards ending the crisis in Darfur.

The Sudanese minister of state for foreign affairs said that Sudanese and Chadian president have agreed to meet in Addis Ababa to continue their discussion on the border tension. He further added that President Omer Al-Bashir had reiterated Sudan's commitment to Tripoli agreement.

According to the Sudanese official, Al-Bashir pointed out that Chad didn't fail to fulfil its obligations with regard to the deployment of joint border patrols affirming that Sudanese monitors are now deployed near the border.

He further said Sudan denied supporting Chadian rebels.

Libya's Muammar Gadhfi is seen as an influential player in the region and has sought repeatedly to reconcile Chad President Idriss Deby and Sudan's Omer Hassan Al-Bashir and broker talks between Khartoum and Darfur rebel groups.

Comments from officials leaving the meeting suggested its main purpose was to gather the views of protagonists rather than reconcile them. "The meeting focused on the situation in Darfur and its effect on the Sudanese border with Chad and Central African Republic," said Egyptian presidential spokesman Suleiman Awad. "It aimed to expand the base of the Abuja peace agreement."

Hosted Libya leader, the mini-summit drew together the presidents of Sudan, Chad, Egypt, Senegal, Eritrea, Mauritania and Gabon

(ST)

*Some information for this report was provided by Reuters and AFP*

## **GoSS**

### **SPLM Convention on 10 May (AlSudani)**

First Vice-President Silva Kiir is to address the inaugural session of the SPLM's General Congress, which scheduled to take place during the period 10-16 next May. The Congress preparatory committee, which is supposed to identify the venue of the meeting, said that the expenditures of the congress would shoulder by the SPLM's resources.

SPLM's Deputy Secretary- General for the North Sector Yasir Arman told the press that 1500 representatives from inside and outside Sudan would attend the congress, indicating that women would be represented by 25% of the participants.

Arman said that Chairperson of the preparatory committee James Wani would organize 10 Feb. a celebration launching its activities, in the presence of the various political parties as well as civil society organizations.

Arman noted that the congress would discuss the political developments in Sudan in accordance with the SPLM ideology of New Sudan, saying that an individual from each state would take part in the congress's meetings.

## **Darfur**

### **21 killed during attack by militia in West Darfur (ST)**

January 27, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — Armed militias backed by Sudan's government killed 21 people in an attack on a village in West Darfur, anti-Khartoum Sudanese rebels said on Sunday.

Rebels blamed militias they said were headed by an army officer called al-Hadi Adam Hamid, but an army spokesman said it was unclear who had attacked Sureif Judad, a village about 17 kilometres northwest of the state capital el-Geneina.

"They killed 21 civilians including old men and women and children and wounded four people," said Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) commander Abdel Aziz el-Nur Ashr.

One el-Geneina resident, who asked not to be named for fear of reprisals, told Reuters that they personally knew three of the dead, who were all from the same family.

"I heard they burned 90 houses," said the source, who learnt of the attack through friends from the village.

The army said no houses had been burnt but they understood that around 20 people had been killed in the attack.

"It's not clear who the unknown attackers were," an army spokesman told Reuters. "It could be the rebels who attacked."

JEM's Ashr said the attack took place on January 22 but the army said it was about three days ago.

"This is part of a wider plan to begin attacking villages again," Ashr told Reuters from the region. Khartoum denies links to militias, known as Janjaweed, who are accused of war crimes in Sudan's vast west.

Ashr said the 3,000 residents of Sureif Judad had fled their village to the surrounding areas. The villagers were from the non-Arab Erenga tribe, he added.

(Reuters)

### Miscellaneous

#### **Will the US top diplomat in Sudan be expelled? (ST)**

By Wasil Ali, January 27, 2008 (WASHINGTON) — The U.S. Chargé d'affaires in Khartoum Alberto Fernandez, could not have picked a worst time to criticize the Sudanese government.

At a time when stiffened US sanctions against Sudan enforced last May are starting to hurt a booming economy with no realistic prospect of lifting them, officials in Khartoum appear poised or even proactively seeking a confrontation with Washington.

Also cables from the Sudanese embassy in Washington give little encouragement for Khartoum. The embassy is struggling to cope with the financial restrictions as well as the political isolation imposed on it.

The Sudanese government alleges that Washington confiscated \$10 million of its assets to pay the families of U.S. sailors killed in the bombing of an American naval destroyer seven years ago in Yemen.

Perhaps the only thing preventing a complete breakdown in relations between the two countries is mysterious intelligence cooperation which “helped avert devastating measures [by US administration]” according to Salah Gosh the head of Sudan’s National Security and Intelligence Service.

Khartoum is also getting nervous at the appointment of a new US special envoy believed to be a ‘hardliner’ by Sudanese officials, more so than his predecessor Andrew Natsios.

So now the Sudanese government has started taking a new approach best described as “let’s make life hard for them too”.

The early fruit of this policy was for Sudan to block containers for the US embassy and demand payment of custom fees contrary to the norms of diplomatic privileges. Last year the Sudanese president Omar Hassan Al-Bashir resolved a similar issue by granting a special exception. However this time he does not appear to be so generous.

US officials have failed to convince Sudan to admit the containers needed for the new embassy complex. They also stood firm on their position which is that they will not pay for admitting them creating a deadlock with no end in sight.

So what does Sudan wants? A complete overhaul of US policies towards Sudan which includes lifting of sanctions, upgrading diplomatic ties and ceasing pressure on the issue of Darfur.

“We will not offer free concessions” said Mustafa Ismail, Sudanese President’s adviser and senior National Congress Party (NCP) official after meeting with Fernandez.

“Every concession in our end should be met with a similar concession from the US side” he added.

Then there were the statements by Fernandez last week. It almost seemed like the straw that broke the camel’s back.

Fernandez told Reuters in an interview that a political crisis over stalled implementation of Sudan’s north-south peace deal and other unfulfilled commitments would directly affect Darfur peace talks due in the coming months.

The Arabic fluent diplomat also said that he was still concerned at the lack of implementation of the peace deal which ended Africa’s longest war in Sudan’s south. He also voiced skepticism that the presidency will resolve the thorny issue of Abyei after years of political wrangling between the North and South.

Though the remarks by Fernandez demonstrate nothing out of the ordinary as far as US policy in Sudan, officials in Khartoum had a different point of view.

The Sudanese foreign ministry summoned Fernandez and told him to “stop meddling in internal affairs” and that his government’s policy so far does not serve the bilateral relations and listed a whole number of issues ranging from sanctions to the choices of US special envoys.

Also the foreign ministry brought up two issues unrelated to the row. They told Fernandez that the appointment of Musa Hilal a notorious Janjaweed leader to a government post is a matter of sovereignty. They also told him that his government needs to release Sudanese inmates at Guantanamo Bay.

Fernandez was probably taken aback by such an overwhelming response from Sudan on his statements. His only line of defense per Sudan’s news agency (SUNA) was to say that he was misquoted by Reuter’s reporter Opheera Mcdoom.

Yet it is highly unlikely that Fernandez was misquoted given the fact that the interview was taped and that the US embassy did not demand a retraction or a correction from Reuters.

A spokesman for the US embassy in Khartoum refused to comment on the issue of misquotation when contacted by Sudan Tribune. Clearly the US embassy is trying to contain the damage caused by the statements.

But what is the new about this latest escalation between Washington and Khartoum? This is the first time that Sudan talks about expelling Fernandez.

Ali Al-Sadig spokesperson of Sudan’s foreign ministry hinted to Al-Sudani daily that his government is prepared to expel the US diplomat not just over his remarks, but in retaliation to restrictions imposed on its embassy in Washington.

For now Fernandez will be under the microscope of Khartoum and he is likely to lay low until things cool down. The US needs no distractions at a time when it is preparing for a new push on Darfur headed by the new special envoy Richard Williamson.

(ST)

### **Kenya bans critical study on IGAD role in Sudan peace process (ST)**

January 27, 2008 (PARIS) — The Kenyan government banned a critical study on the IGAD mediation of Naivasha peace talks between the Sudanese government and the former rebel Sudan People’s Liberation Movement, Sudan Tribune has learned.

The fact is back to July 2007 when Kenya, chairman of the IGAD, objected the presentation of an evaluation of role of the regional body in Sudan’s peace process commissioned by the IGAD because it was very critical to the role of the mediation team headed by Lazaro Sumbeiywo, Kenya special envoy for peace in the Sudan talks.

The Sudanese researcher, John Young, was surprised to learn when he arrived to present his study at an IGAD meeting held in Mombasa on 9 July 2007 that Kenya



took exception of his paper and threatened to cancel the conference if his paper was accepted by the IGAD secretariat.

Young criticized the faded role of the regional organization and said in his paper that the real player was the US Administration and deplored the absence of regional actors.

"The US, and not Kenya, dominated the peace process and that Kenya has for many years been widely held to be under the influence of the US and Britain, and hence represented their interests at the negotiations." He told Sudan Tribune.

For some months after the conference, IGAD demanded that he make a series of changes to my paper to satisfy the Kenyans. "Since there was no provision in my contract with IGAD to make any changes, I refused." He added.

To sanction his refusal the regional body told him he would be paid for his research.

The former Special Envoy General Sumbeiywo had already refused to cooperate with the research. According to the Sudanese researcher the General Sumbeiywo was angry because he had proposed that he and his colleagues conduct their own evaluation of their own mediation.

(ST)