

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS****Media Monitoring Report, 30 January 08**

(By Public Information Office)

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UN/ Agencies

Chief of Darfur mission briefs former rebel on hybrid force (ST)

January 29, 2007 (KHARTOUM) — Rodolphe Adada, chief of the United Nations and African Union joint mission to Darfur, on Tuesday, met with Sudan's Minister of State at the Council of Ministers and leader of the SLM/Free Will faction, Abdel-Rahman Musa Abkar.

Abkar, who was a signatory of the Declaration of Commitment, joined the Government of National Unity after Abuja.

Adada briefed him on the deployment of the Hybrid Force and on its mandate.

Both sides exchanged views on ways and means to ensure the success of UNAMID and the implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement and any subsequent agreements that may be reached, as required by UN Security Council Resolution 1769.

Abkar pledged the full cooperation and support of his Movement to the Hybrid Operation

(ST)

UNICEF trains South Sudan water managers (ST)

January 29, 2008 (JUBA) – The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) staged a training course for the personal working in water resources managements as part of strengthening water, hygiene and sanitation institutions..

UNICEF and GOSS are conducting a three weeks intensive capacity-building of 32 senior and intermediate GOSS personnel in the management of water resources to ensure effective delivery of water to millions of people in Southern Sudan, mostly women and children who currently do not have access to safe drinking water as a result of two decades of war that ended in 2005.

The training is considered crucial for saving the lives of children exposed to the dangers of water borne diseases and a step forward for a sustainable development of water programmes, UNICEF director in Southern Sudan said.

The training programme, costing \$230,000, will equip the participants with management knowledge to plan, coordinate and monitor water and sanitation programmes and emergency preparedness and response as well as easy to use and high impact participatory methods and tools used for the promotion of community based water supply, hygiene and sanitation.

In Southern Sudan, only 60 per cent of the population has access to safe drinking water and just 7 per cent practice good hygiene and sanitation, putting millions of lives – especially women – and children in danger of water borne diseases

A Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) undertaken in 2005 emphasized the extreme weakness of capacity in the water sector to deliver services. It is against this background that UNICEF recognizes the urgent need to support capacity building of the GOSS water managers to reverse the effects of Sudan's 21 years of war.

(ST)

UN agency resumes repatriation of Sudanese refugees from Kenyan camp (UN)

29 January 2008 – The United Nations refugee agency has resumed its repatriation of Sudanese from a camp in the northwest of neighbouring Kenya after the operation had been temporarily suspended because of deadly tribal clashes.

The repatriation scheme resumed last Thursday with the first flight from Kakuma camp to Bor, the capital of Jonglei state in southern Sudan, UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) spokesperson Ron Redmond **told** reporters today in Geneva.

The returns are expected to continue at an average rate of four flights per week from Kakuma, using a plane chartered by the International Organization for Migration. Eventually 46,000 Sudanese refugees living in Kakuma are likely to return to their home areas, mainly in Jonglei.

Mr. Redmond said the organized returns would focus initially on Bor, but also include Pochalla, Pibor and Akobo, close to the border with Ethiopia. At the end of last year tribal clashes – sparked by cattle thefts – erupted in Bor, leading to the deaths of at least 30 people and injuring 100 others.

The repatriation programme, which brought 3,000 refugees back to Jonglei last year before the clashes began, has also been made harder by the lack of basic infrastructure in the return areas of southern Sudan.

Mr. Redmond said UNHCR is helping to remedy the situation by drilling boreholes and also rehabilitating or building schools and health-care centres.

Since December 2005, almost a year after the former southern rebels signed a comprehensive peace agreement with the Sudanese Government to end their long-running civil war, UNHCR has helped 80,000 refugees return home from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the Central African Republic (CAR), Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia and Egypt. Another 90,500 people returned by their own means.

In a related development, the UN World Food Programme (WFP) today thanked the Japanese Government for its \$12 million contribution to the agency's road repair and mine removal project in southern Sudan.

The grant will be used to build 85 kilometres of new roads and maintain 595 kilometres of existing roads, which should make it easier to deliver critical food assistance during the rainy season this year.

GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

President Al-Bashir meets Konare (SUNA)

Addis Ababa, Jan. 29 (SUNA)- President of the Republic Field Marshal Omer Al-Bashir met in Addis Ababa Tuesday Chairperson of the African Union Commission Professor Alpha Oumar Konare in the presence of Minister of Foreign Affairs Deng Alor. Konare said in a statement to SUNA the meeting tackled efforts being exerted for resolving Darfur problem and consultations on it to realize the aspired goals. He described the AU relations with the government of Sudan during his term as chairperson of the AU Commission as good, pointing out that his meetings with President Al-Bashir affirm the strong relations between Sudan and the AU. BT/BT

President Al-Bashir Arrives in Addis Ababa to Participate in 10th African Union Summit

Addis Ababa, Jan. 29 (SUNA) - President of the Republic, Field Marshal Omer Al-Bashir, Tuesday evening arrived in Addis Ababa to take part in the 10th summit of the African Union, scheduled on Thursday, and accompanying activities. He was received upon arrival at Addis Ababa airport by a representative of the Ethiopian government, Sudan Ambassador to Ethiopia and its permanent envoy to the African Union, Mohi-Eddin Salem, members of Sudan delegation for the meetings of the Executive Council of the African Union, members of Sudan Embassy to Addis Ababa and representatives of the Sudanese community in Ethiopia. SUNA learned that President Al-Bashir will participate Wednesday afternoon at the summit of the African Peers Review Mechanism, which will discuss reports of the mechanism chairperson on the workshop held in Algeria in last November, advisory among the peers and implementation of action plans in a number of African countries. President Al-Bashir would meet in Addis Ababa Wednesday with the UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon. Meanwhile, Deputy Ambassador of Sudan to Ethiopia, Akoy Bona Malwal,

said in a press statement to SUNA that the agenda of the current African summit includes election of a new chairman of the African Union Commission and sub-commissions, discussing reports on the United African Government and the process of structural reform at the African Union. He said that the Foreign Minister, Deng Alor, has participated in discussions about the issues and reports that were presented at the meetings, adding that Alor has given briefings on the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), Darfur issue and the hybrid operation. Malwal said that the Foreign Minister met on the sidelines of the Executive Council with a number of his African counterparts and discussed progress the relations between Sudan and their respective countries. MO/MO

Juba requests Khartoum to provide maps for landmines (AlAyam)

The GoSS has asked Khartoum to provide maps for landmines in south Sudan to facilitate construction of roads in various parts of the south.

Redeployment of SPLA south of 1956 borders faces obstacles (Alwan)

The redeployment of the SPLA troops from north to south Sudan is facing difficulties. Informed sources indicate that there big numbers of troops in the Nuba Mountain and the Southern Blue Nile. The Spokesperson of the Joint Defence Board, Maj-Gen Abdelrahman Mohamed Zain, said the Board will meet on the 1st of February to discuss and assess SAF and SPLA redeployment. He said the UN is supervising the redeployment process.

GoSS

Southern Sudanese have hope for unity by 2011 (ST)

January 28, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — Citizens from Sudan's southern region, long caught in a power struggle with their country's northern-controlled government, are looking with a mixture of hope and uncertainty to 2011 when they will vote in a referendum on whether or not the south will remain part of Sudan.

Referendum will be held simultaneously in Abyei on whether to become part of Southern Sudan or of northern Sudan.

Conflicts between the Sudanese government and rebel groups in various parts of Sudan have ensured that the country is home to the world's largest number of internally displaced persons — six million at last count. This includes citizens from the south, Nuba region, eastern Sudan and Darfur.

Because of inexperience, corruption and the international media's decision to focus on Darfur, Southern Sudan has been slow to build a viable infrastructure after its government was formed following 21 years of north-south civil warfare in 2005.

Southerners who have settled in the north — particularly in the capital city Khartoum — say they want unity for their country. But they also say that unity depends on whether the country's government implements the decisions outlined in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) signed between it and the former rebel

fighters, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), in 2005. One of the CPA's provisions is the referendum, it also aims to develop democratic governance countrywide and share oil revenues.

"The peace agreement made everybody happy, especially in the south," said Charles Wani Ladu, a journalist at the Khartoum Monitor newspaper based in the capital who left his home in south Sudan to study mass communication at Juba University. "It's changed things for the better. It has changed people's feelings. There was a lot of suffering in people's minds. Now, with peace, there's rest in their minds."

"This gives a path for unity," Ladu told IPS. "The southerners took up arms because of marginalisation. After the signing there must be rights to services and job opportunities. There should be equality in everything. A united Sudan can be attained. The authorities can do it."

Focusing on the 2011 referendum, Ladu says, the "unity of Sudan or separation of the south depends on the implementation of the CPA on the ground".

"There has been so much conflict in Juba," Ladu says. "We were going to school while there was fighting between the [Sudanese] government and rebels [SPLM]. The rebels injured civilians while attacking the government. But now people are going to school peacefully," he explained.

"For some it will be different to go back [to the south]. They're used to services that they got in the north. There are no services, maybe a little, in the south. There's not a lot of public transport. The roads are still few. It's just beginning to be constructed," Ladu said, stressing, "Others will go back and maybe they will support development."

Sebit Ernest Apuktong, a third-year veterinary student at Bahr al-Ghazal University in Khartoum, was born shortly before the north-south bloodshed began. Apuktong is involved with the Sudanese Association for Youth Development and conducts workshops to encourage trust between youth from the south and north. Although Apuktong saw the southern region only during his childhood, he says he dreams of returning to "start youth groups".

"I saw the south when I was in primary school. I travelled to Upper Nile State. I visited two towns. I stayed there for a few months. But my family decided to stay in Khartoum because there are better services and education here," Apuktong told IPS, alluding to the lack of basic services in the south. The south has not seen which has not seen development since the days of British colonialism, he says.

"My father is a self-employed engineer working in the construction industry. But he's not a member of any political party so it's more difficult to find a job. My mother is a nurse. When my parents have no work in Khartoum they go back to the south to find work and me and my siblings stay in Khartoum," he adds. Apuktong says that life in the north ensures that his "needs are filled".

"Right now I am studying to develop myself. And the first area that should benefit from me is south Sudan," says Apuktong.

"To stay in Khartoum is good for me. But if I stay here, what will I give the south? I want to see improvements in the south so I need to go there and make it good. I want to help make it better." He says his friends who have travelled to the south tell him that there "are many resources but there are no services".

"Things are starting to develop and education and health services are improving, but slowly. This makes life difficult. Many southerners stay in the north," he adds. "They have jobs. Their children are at schools here. The north is better. It's very safe. There are too many problems between tribes in the south. In some places, people carry guns during the day. The only problem in the north is that you cannot say anything against the government."

Apuktong says it is difficult to tell which would be best — unity or independence from the north for the south — because "we don't know what either would be like". "Too many people have died and too much money has been spent on fighting," he says.

At Angie's Beauty Salon in Khartoum, two young hairstylists talk about their hopes for Sudan. Susie Taban says she left Juba for Khartoum in 1991. She hasn't been back to the south but says she has heard that the "situation has changed".

"Peace between north and south is good for Sudan. Before the peace agreement, I preferred separation, but after peace was signed it looks like unity is okay," says Taban.

"We're all Sudanese citizens. We can solve our problems together. We had a lot of problems in the past. The northerners mistreated us here in Khartoum. It was difficult to find a house or a job. Most of our people lived in camps and to get a good job was difficult. I was young but I saw how my parents suffered," she says.

Peace has also brought a sense of freedom, Taban explained, "we can talk freely about anything without being humiliated. In the past we could not discuss anything. We could be taken to prison."

Taban's colleague, Esther David, is a college student who helps out at Angie's on a part-time basis. She was born in Uganda but grew up in Khartoum. "I know that peace is good for Sudan. In the past, we had no chance to visit our relatives in the south, because of insecurity," she said. "I don't usually go to the south but I visited my family in Juba when we had holidays. I want one Sudan. It's all the same and we are all the same. There's no need for differences."

(IPS)

Japan Extends Grant of 12 Million Dollar for Road Rehabilitation and De-Mining in Southern Sudan (SUNA)

Khartoum, Jan. 29 (SUNA) - The Government of Japan made its commitment to grant World Food Programme (WFP) an amount of approximately 12 million US Dollars for road rehabilitation and mine clearance in Southern Sudan, said a press release by the Embassy of Japan in Khartoum. The press release said the agreement between the

Government of Japan and WFP to that effect was signed today between H.E. Mr. Yuichi Ishii, Ambassador of Japan, and Mr. Kenro Oshidari, WFP Representative and Regional Director, at the Ministry of Road and Transport, Government of Southern Sudan in Juba. This will be the second Japanese Grant to WFP for rehabilitation of roads in Southern Sudan since 2005, the press release added. BT/BT

Upper Nile Assembly throws out its Speaker (Sudan Tribune)

In a landmark meeting the day before yesterday, the Upper Nile State Legislative Assembly cast a vote of no-confidence on its Speaker, Charles Yor Odhok. The meeting was attended by 32 members who unanimously voted out the Speaker from his office. This number constitutes two-thirds majority of the total membership of the Assembly.

SPLA fights gunmen at Congo border (The Citizen)

Three soldiers believed to be members of the Congolese army were killed during a heavy clash that involved the SPLA at the Congo border. Sources close to the Citizen said that the gun-totting gunmen traded fire with the SPLA.

Darfur

Tiraiki: Darfur peace talks to resume end February (AlSahafa)

The Secretary General of the Libyan Popular Committee for African Affairs, Dr. Ali Abdelsalam al Tiraiki, said his country will host Darfur peace talks in Sirte end of February.

Consultative Council of Human Rights discusses six complaints against Government (AlSahafa)

The Consultative Council of Human Rights discussed yesterday six complaints against the GoS under consideration by the African Commission of Human and Peoples Rights.

Consultative Council of Al-Aringa tribe: 32 people killed in attack on Sarf al Jidad (AlSahafa)

The Consultative Council of the Al-Arniga tribe revealed more information on the recent attack on Saraf al Jidad area in Sirba Locality. According to the Council the attack which took place last Friday resulted in the killing of 32 people. The Council accused the janjaweed of launching the attack.

Chad bombs rebels as European troops arrive (ST)

January 29, 2008 (NDJAMENA) — Chad's air force on Tuesday attacked rebel positions in the east of the country, rebel and military sources said, after an Italian contingent of EU peacekeepers arrived in the capital.

"This morning, (President Idriss) Deby's aircraft bombed us near Ade, close to the Sudanese border," Abakar Tollimi, secretary general of one faction in a newly formed rebel alliance said.

"Our anti-aircraft defence fired back," he added by satellite telephone. "We are waiting for a ground attack."

A military source confirmed the air raids and said they had begun on Monday evening after rebels crossed the border from western Sudan. No casualties were reported, but the hostilities were the first since early December.

Meanwhile, about 20 Italians arrived Monday in Ndjamena, where an officer in an EU peacekeeping force due to deploy both in eastern Chad and the northeast of the Central African Republic said they were to set up a field hospital.

The EU military mission, EUFOR, is expected in coming months to protect refugees from Sudan's neighbouring Darfur region and people displaced by the insurgency in Chad and also northern CAR.

EU foreign ministers announced Monday during a meeting in Brussels that they had "adopted a decision on the launching of the European Union military operation in the Republic of Chad and in the Central African Republic."

That move allowed EUFOR's Paris-based commander, Irish General Pat Nash, to begin deploying the force, in which France will supply the lion's share of the troops and get the operation under way.

Deployment in the field will be overseen by French General Jean-Philippe Ganascia, who has already arrived in Chad and expects most of his 3,700 troops to arrive within weeks and the rest by June, when the rainy season is due and will make movement more difficult.

The EUFOR Chad-CAR mission has a UN Security Council mandate to back up for one year some 300 UN police officers sent to monitor camps for Darfur refugees and internally displaced persons.

The air raids at Ade were only about 50 kilometres (30 miles) northeast of the town of Goz Beida, where there are large camps for Darfur refugees, but in Brussels on Tuesday, EUFOR's General Nash said the mission would be "a robust strong security presence."

Chad's rebels have warned that should they see any threat from the European soldiers or be stopped by them fighting Chad's army, they will consider them an enemy force allied to Deby, who has long had French backing.

Nash warned that the rebels were no business of the mission if they left it alone, but "we take action, if they interfere with our mission." When asked if his troops would open fire, he said: "Yes."

About 234,000 Darfur refugees, along with 179,000 displaced eastern Chadians and 43,000 Central Africans also uprooted by strife and rebellion in the north of their country, are housed in camps in the region.

Between November 26 and December 4, Tollimi's Union of Forces for Democracy and Development (UFDD) and the allied Rally of Forces for Change clashed with Chadian troops at the cost of several hundred lives on both sides.

Late in December and early in January, Chad aircraft attacked the rebels, but on the Sudanese side of the border.

The clashes came despite a peace accord signed last year between Ndjamen and rebel leaders, but Chad's military history has long been one of successive insurgencies, coups and broken pacts.

Deby took power in a 1990 coup, but reintroduced multiparty politics and has ruled as elected president since 1996.

(AFP)

Sudanese rapper, women call for African leaders to strengthen Darfur force (ST)

January 29, 2008 (ADDIS ABABA) — In a former life, Emmanuel Jal turned a gun against his government as a conscripted rebel soldier in his native Sudan.

These days, the 28-year-old child-soldier-turned-hip-hop artist has traded the machine gun for a microphone, but has kept his aim squarely on the Sudanese government. He accuses Khartoum of committing human rights abuses in Darfur, and accuses African leaders of allowing it to happen.

He and other Darfur citizen-activists brought their case to Ethiopian capital Tuesday to "tell the African leaders, 'You've failed us,'" he said. More than 40 heads of state are expected here for the African Union's annual summit starting Thursday. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon plans to visit Addis Ababa during the summit to hold talks with Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir about Darfur.

The Sudanese campaigners - who included Darfuri women - urged quick deployment of a planned African Union-United Nations force to the war-ravaged western Sudanese region. They also demanded a stronger mandate that would allow the soldiers to better protect civilians.

The African Union and United Nations have pledged to send a 26,000-strong peacekeeping force to Darfur to replace an undermanned, under-equipped AU force. Deployment of the so-called hybrid force has been delayed because the Sudanese government has not agreed to accept non-African troops, and the United Nations has not been able to get governments to supply helicopters, which it says are essential for the mission to succeed.

The future of the joint force, slated to become the largest peacekeeping operation in the world, is among topics to be discussed at the AU summit. The activists argued that it wasn't being raised urgently or forcefully enough.

"Basically, send troops and make the people secure," said Jal, accusing the Sudanese government of foot-dragging to hold onto power.

"The AU needs to be strong. African leaders need to sanction Sudan," said Jal, who now lives in London.

But Sudanese Foreign Minister Deng Alor said he hoped all the troops would arrive within a year.

"The hybrid force, as a host country, we accept," Alor said. "We are ready to receive the troops. It is not Sudan" slowing the process.

AU officials say finding soldiers - particularly enough soldiers to satisfy Sudan's demand for a "predominantly African" peacekeeping force - has been a challenge.

"We got some offers, but the countries that made the offers are not ready to go in, as such," said Mahmoud Kane, chief of the AU's Darfur desk.

He said one battalion each from Ethiopia and Egypt - a UN battalion can contain between 750 and 850 soldiers - should arrive by March. A battalion from Thailand should follow, he said.

Nawal Hassan, 45, one of a handful of Darfuri women calling on the African Union to come to their region's aid, said more soldiers won't solve the problems.

"We need protection, especially for the women," she said. "We need troops with a strong mandate. We want an international force. Really we need neutral forces who have no interest with the Sudanese government."

Other activists complained about soldiers who were unfamiliar with the language and culture, and about the lack of women soldiers and police officers.

The UN estimates that 200,000 people have died and 2.2 million have been displaced since ethnic African rebels in Darfur took arms against the Arab-dominated central government, accusing it of discrimination, in 2003. The conflict began when rebel groups began attacking government holdings. The government denies accusations of widespread atrocities against civilians.

(AP)

Miscellaneous

US special envoy visit to Sudan postponed (ST)

January 29, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — A long awaited visit by the newly appointed US special envoy to Sudan has been postponed according to press reports in Khartoum.

Richard S. Williamson was due to arrive in Khartoum this month for meetings with Sudanese officials focused primarily on the Darfur crisis.

There was no word on the reasons behind the delay. A recent row was sparked between Khartoum and Washington because of statements made by its charge d'affaires Alberto Fernandez.

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.

Sudanese officials who were outraged by the statements summoned Fernandez and told him "not to interfere in the country's internal affairs"

However some sources speaking to Sudan Tribune said the delay was unrelated to Fernandez's statements and cited "security measures being taken in Khartoum" without elaborating.

Sudanese officials have expressed pessimism with regard to Williamson and noted that his background makes him a "hardliner".

Darfur advocates have praised Bush's choice of Williamson as key to overcoming those hurdles, noting the Illinois Republican has close ties to administration heavyweights, particularly Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte. Williamson was Negroponte's No. 2 when Negroponte was U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations from 2001 to 2004.

US President Bush met with Williamson mid-January and said that the new special envoy will report to him "quickly" on Darfur as well as the North-South peace agreement that ended two decades of civil war.

Washington accused Khartoum of obstructing the deployment of UN-AU hybrid force in Darfur pursuant to resolution 1769.

Relations between Washington and Khartoum have deteriorated in recent weeks in light of Sudan's refusal to admit containers that belong to the US embassy. The Sudanese government has refused to admit the shipment without payment of custom fees, something which Washington has rejected.

Khartoum also said it will not offer "free concessions" in return for normalizing relations.

(ST)