



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN  
UNMIS

**UNMIS Media Monitoring Report, 10<sup>th</sup> July 2006**  
**(By Public Information Office)**

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## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

### **United Nations**

#### **Minnawi delegation holds talks with SRSG Pronk**

(*AlSudani* – 10<sup>th</sup> Jul. **Khartoum**) The delegation of the Minnawi faction of the SLM held talks in Khartoum yesterday with the SRSG Jan Pronk on the status of the implementation of the DPA.

Faction spokesperson Mahjoub Hussein said that the talks focused on the United Nations role in the implementation of the DPA, the ceasefire agreement and that the faction also sought an explanation on the recent statement attributed to the SRSG calling for amendments to the DPA.

Mahjoub said that the SRSG expressed support for the DPA and denied the statements as untrue.

Meanwhile SLM leader Minnawi who is currently in Cairo reiterated his position in support for the deployment of international forces to Darfur.

Speaking to AlJazeera television from Cairo, Minnawi said that the SLM has been calling throughout for an international protection for the civilian population Darfur.

“Why would we seek the presence of the international community if there was trust in the government?” he questioned.

He said his movement will not “dissolve into the government as many expect because we are a political force with out different ideas”.

He said that his faction signed the DPA in full conviction and will defend it.

On the New Redemption Front, the SLM leader said he knew nothing of this new movement and believes there is no common ground between them.

#### **UN accuses Darfur SLM-Minawi of rape, murder**

(*Sudan Tribune* – 9<sup>th</sup> Jul. **Khartoum**) Fighters of the largest Darfur rebel faction, which signed a May peace deal for the western Sudanese region, stand accused of raping and murdering civilians in an offensive against rebel holdouts, the UN reported Sunday.

Some 4,000 civilians have fled the fighting between the rival factions of the Sudan Liberation Movement in the Tawila area of North Darfur state, the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) said in a situation report.

Some 650 displaced people, most of them women and children, arrived in the Zam Zam camp alone, the report said, citing the African Union peacekeeping mission in the region.

The displaced were all members of the Fur ethnic group — the region’s largest — which provides much of the support for the holdout SLM faction of Abdul Wahid al-Nur.

One of the displaced said he had witnessed 15 young women "being raped and then killed" by fighters of the mainstream SLM faction of Minni Minnawi, the report said.

The same informant charged that about 40 men were kidnapped and "were believed to have been executed," it added, noting that the general security situation was reported to be tense.

The UN mission also reported ethnic unrest in South Darfur state between the Arab Habaniya tribe and the Falata.

The death of seven Habaniya traders in an ambush by Falata fighters in Ragag southwest of the state capital of Nyala Thursday sparked clashes Friday in which 15 people were killed, the report said.

### **President Bashir closes the door to discussions on DPA**

(*AlAyaam* – 9<sup>th</sup> Jul. **Khartoum**) Addressing a rally at the opening of the new bridge across the Blue Nile linking Manshia to Gireif yesterday [8<sup>th</sup> July '06], President Bashir said that the door is closed to any discussion for a review of the DPA.

He called on the holdout groups to come on board but added that the state is ready for those who seek war in Darfur.

The President accused "foreign parties" he declined to name of trying to derail the Abuja agreement.

President Bashir also reiterated his rejection to what he dubbed "re-colonization of the Sudan" and said Sudan will never be handed to the hands of any foreigner or United Nations official regardless of their resolutions.

He blamed colonial policies for the war in the south and marginalisation in other parts of the country and said it is these same colonial powers that now seek to re-colonise Sudan.

This, he adds, calls for a unification of the ranks of all the people of Sudan.

### **Coordination Council for Islamist Groups calls for expulsion of United Nations forces**

(*AlRai AlAam* – 9<sup>th</sup> Jul. **Khartoum**) The Supreme Council for the Coordination of Islamists groups has called for the expulsion of United Nations forces currently on the ground in Sudan.

In a statement issued yesterday, up to 60 Muslim scholars and students' groups have vowed readiness to wage a *Jihad* whenever the need arises.

They called upon all the people of Sudan to prepare to take up the gun to fight whenever called.

The statement also expressed support for the President of the Republic's "courageous rejection of the deployment of international forces to Darfur" and likened it in importance to the hoisting of the national colours at Independence and called on the state to declare a mobilisation.

### **RDF Forces in the Sudan Awarded**

(*All Africa Global Media* – 5<sup>th</sup> Jul. **Kigali**) Two hundred and fifty-five Rwanda Defence Forces (RDF) serving under the United Nations Mission to the Sudan (UNMIS) were July 4 awarded medals. Speaking to *The New Times*, the Military Spokesman Maj. Jill Rutaremara disclosed that soldiers serving under the UN are awarded medals after an incident-free three month stint.

"The RDF were awarded medals by the Deputy Force Commander Brig. Gen. Simon Karanja, who represented the Force Commander," Rutaremara said on phone yesterday. He said that Brig. Gen. Karanja expressed satisfaction with the performance of the RDF and disclosed that the soldiers are involved in protecting the UNMIS leaders, carrying out clerical duties for the mission in Khartoum and Juba and, guarding UN installations.

"They can also become an intervention force if necessary," he added.

Apart from the forces in Khartoum, there are over 2000 soldiers serving under the banner of the African Union Mission in the Sudan (AMIS), in the troubled region of Darfur.

## **CPA**

### **SAF to hand over Bahr-el-Ghazal Military Zone to the JIUs today**

(*AlAyaam* – 10<sup>th</sup> Jul. **Khartoum**) The SAF today hands over responsibility for security in the Bahr-el-Ghazal Military Zone to the Joint Integrated Units.

The head of the Joint Defence Board, Elias Waya, said that the 7,000-strong JIUs will take over from the SAF.

He also said that a considerable number of the SAF in Bahr-el-Ghazal have been redeployed north.

## **Southern Sudan/GoSS/ SPLM**

### **SPLM to launch campaign to encourage members in Diaspora back home**

(*AlRai AlAam* – 10<sup>th</sup> Jul. **Khartoum**) The SPLM issued a statement in Juba yesterday congratulating the people of Sudan on the occasion of Peace Day and the ratification of the Interim Constitution thus marking the beginning of the Interim Period.

On the other hand, the SPLM is planning to launch an extensive campaign to encourage SPLM figures in the Diaspora to return and to contribute to the development process.

### **Uganda extends deadline for rebel peace talks**

(*Reuters/ST* – 10<sup>th</sup> Jul. **Kampala**) Uganda added more than a month to a deadline for thrashing out a peace deal with northern rebels on Monday, boosting landmark talks this week that will aim to end one of Africa's most neglected wars.

Tentative discussions between Ugandan officials and representatives of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) are due to begin on Wednesday in Juba, in neighbouring southern Sudan.

If they go well, Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni has offered to protect LRA leader Joseph Kony, who is wanted for war crimes by the International Criminal Court in The Hague.

In a surprise move, Museveni also extended his deadline for an agreement to be reached from July 31 to September 12.

"These extra weeks are to give the LRA time to consult," said Captain Paddy Ankunda, Uganda's spokesman on the talks.

There have been at least a dozen previous attempts to end the 20-year conflict, which has killed tens of thousands, uprooted nearly two million people in northern Uganda and destabilised southern Sudan.

### **Sudan urges Uganda's LRA to upgrade team for Juba talks**

*(Reuters/ST – 8<sup>th</sup> Jul. Maridi)* A broker in talks between Lords Resistance Army (LRA) rebels and the Ugandan government on Saturday urged the LRA to upgrade its delegation to include a man wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC).

South Sudan's Vice President Riek Machar, who has led efforts by the south Sudanese government to mediate an end to the 19-year uprising in northern Uganda by the LRA, called on rebel leader Joseph Kony to send his deputy Vincent Otti.

"I hope that he will upgrade his delegation by sending Vincent Otti because the Ugandan government has already accepted to negotiate with the five LRA leaders (wanted by the International Criminal Court)," Machar told reporters.

Uganda's envoy to Sudan confirmed that his government had revised its earlier position of not talking directly to any LRA members wanted by the ICC.

The ICC has unsealed arrest warrants for Kony, who claims mystical inspiration for his rebellion, Otti, and three other LRA leaders. The group is notorious for mutilating its victims and kidnapping children to use as soldiers or sex slaves.

"We have revised our position ... We have not put any more preconditions," Ugandan envoy to Sudan Mull Katende said.

Talks between a Ugandan government delegation and LRA representatives are due to start on Wednesday in Juba, the capital of south Sudan. The LRA has destabilized south Sudan by using it as a base to attack northern Uganda.

Uganda has offered to protect Kony from arrest by the ICC if talks go well, but the LRA has dismissed that as "redundant." The talks have drawn criticism from the United Nations and the ICC, who say Uganda has an obligation to arrest Kony.

The elusive LRA leader met southern Sudanese officials in May and June — the first known meeting with mediators in years.

### **Darfur/ DPA**

## **Oxfam partly suspends operations in Sudan's Darfur due to insecurity**

(*Xinhua/ST* – 10<sup>th</sup> Jul. **Nairobi**) International aid agency Oxfam said on Monday it has temporarily closed two of its offices in the north part of Sudan's Darfur region due to the increasing insecurity, which led to abduction of its employee in the strife-torn region.

In a statement issued in Nairobi, Oxfam International said insecurity is impeding aid operation in the strife-torn region of Darfur where thousands of people have been killed and millions displaced.

The British charity said a Sudanese staff member, who was taken during a hijacking of an Oxfam vehicle, has now been missing for two months, and all efforts to locate him have failed.

"The temporary closure of the program has been taken as the last possible option. Since the abduction we have been working tirelessly with the African Union, the United Nations, government authorities and local communities to try and locate him, without success. We continue to work for his return but in the meantime we have no option but to close the program," Oxfam's Regional Director, Paul Smith-Lomas said.

The agency said the ongoing insecurity in Darfur and the increased targeting of humanitarian vehicles and workers by armed groups, is making it ever more difficult and dangerous for aid agencies to operate.

Oxfam said the abduction occurred on May 3, when an agency vehicle was hijacked while carrying out routine work in rural areas around Saraf Omra, noting that neither the driver nor the vehicle has been recovered and the perpetrators have not been confirmed.

"As a result, the Oxfam offices in Saraf Omra and Birka Seira, in the western part of North Darfur, have now officially been closed. Oxfam operations continue throughout the rest of Darfur," it said.

Smith-Lomas stressed that this incident was an example of the need for urgent strengthening of the African Union Mission in Sudan.

Saraf Omra and Birka Seira are two of Oxfam's six offices in North Darfur.

Oxfam's programs currently provide clean water and sanitation to more than 400,000 people in the camps and rural areas of Darfur, as well as a further 125,000 Darfur refugees who have fled over the border to Chad.

## **SLM-Minnawi to present to the Presidency its nominee in the Presidency**

(*AlRai AlAam* – 10<sup>th</sup> Jul. **Khartoum**) A high level SLM-Minnawi delegation arrived Khartoum yesterday to hand to President Bashir the movement's nominee for the post of Assistant to the President of the Republic as stipulated in the DPA.

This SLM nominee, once appointed, will be at the fourth rung in the hierarchy at the Presidency of the Republic and will enjoy membership in cabinet, the National Defence Council and the National Council for Planning. He will also chair meetings of Darfur interim and regional authorities and will be the main assistant to the President on all issues pertaining to Darfur.

Members of the delegation say Minnawi will soon be in Khartoum and is the most likely candidate for the post.

### **Minawi fighters, Sudanese army attack holdout rebels**

(*Sudan Tribune* – 9<sup>th</sup> Jul. **Paris**) Holdout rebels in Darfur have accused SLM-Minnawi of attacking their forces with the support of the SAF and Arab militia.

The former Spokesperson of the Sudan Liberation Movement led by Minni Minawi, Esam Eddin al-Haj, accused, in a press statement, Minni Minawi of attacking his former local commanders opposed to the DPA in Um Sider and Bir Maza, in northern Darfur.

Al-Haj said this military operation was carried out by a joint force from loyal SLA troop to Minawi, Sudanese army and Janjaweed. The fighting started Saturday morning and continued till the evening of Sunday 9 July.

According to the press statement, the joint force was defeated by the holdout rebel forces.

This attack is the first clear indication of the split within the main rebel group. If the first split of the SLM in October 2005 was the result of power straggle between two men AbdulWahid al-Nur and Minni Minnawi, this one is a direct consequence of the Darfur peace agreement signed in Abuja on 9 May.

Reliable sources from Darfur region told Sudan Tribune that Minnawi with the help of the Sudanese army wants to pacify areas controlled by commanders who are now against the peace deal, because they would weaken his position, when start the implementation of the security arrangement at the end of next October.

According to the DPA, Sudanese government has to disarm the Janjaweed militias before the 15 October, but on the ground nothing has been done to disarm these militias.

The same source attested that this development now pushes the former commanders of Minnawi faction to join the National Redemption Front announced on 30 June from the Eritrean capital.

The United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) accused in a situation report SLM-Minnawi of raping and murdering civilians in an offensive against rebel holdouts Sunday.

The report indicated 15 young women "being raped and then killed" by Minnawi fighters, and about 40 men were kidnapped and "were believed to have been executed," it added, noting that the general security situation was reported to be tense.

Some 4,000 civilians have fled the fighting between the rival factions of the Sudan Liberation Movement in the Tawila area of North Darfur state,

### **Government presents plan to disarm the Janjaweed**

(*AlAyaam* – 9<sup>th</sup> Jul. **Khartoum**) The government has presented to the AU a 6-phase plan to disarm the Janjaweed and other militia groups in Darfur, says the Minister of Defence.

By this, the minister adds, the government would have met its obligations towards the security arrangements stipulated in the DPA.

He said that the plan was to be presented on the 7<sup>th</sup> of this month but was deferred on request of the AU.

The minister further adds that the step also met the obligations as per the agreement between Secretary-General Kofi Annan and President Bashir in Banjul.

### **SLA-Minnawi optimistic on peace deal despite setbacks**

(Reuters/ST – 9<sup>th</sup> Jul. **Khartoum**) The only Darfur rebel faction to sign a peace deal with the Khartoum government said on Sunday it was still optimistic despite the passing of key deadlines, continuing violence and widespread opposition to the deal.

Mahgoub Hussein, Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) rebel group spokesman and member of a team sent to Khartoum to implement the May 5 peace deal, said the agreement was widely accepted and that the Khartoum government was earnest in seeking peace.

"There is widespread acceptance of the deal among the people, and we must implement it so the people ... will feel there's a real change in their lives," Hussein told Reuters.

"We think the government is working with earnestness in this matter and it wants to achieve peace in the province," he added.

Since the African Union-mediated peace deal, which only one of three negotiating rebel factions signed, tens of thousands of people have staged demonstrations, at times violently, saying it does not meet their basic demands.

Fighting has continued despite the deal, and key deadlines, including receiving Khartoum's crucial plan to disarm the Janjaweed and other pro-government militias by June 22, have been missed with no repercussions.

Hussein acknowledged the setbacks, and warned the Khartoum government against using delaying tactics and acting on the deal without clarity and transparency. He also said the peace deal needed to be better publicised to overcome public reservations.

"The movement has not yet received an official copy of the government's plans pertaining to the disarmament of the Janjaweed...We think this is negligence, and one of the negative points we hold against the Sudanese government," Hussein said.

He said the peace deal was open to amendment in order to encourage other rebel factions to sign, echoing calls from the United Nations' top envoy in Sudan Jan Pronk to make additions to the peace agreement.

Although not conditions in the peace deal, Hussein said the SLA would never retreat from its demand for U.N. peacekeepers in Darfur, and for Darfur war criminals to be judged by the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir has repeatedly rejected a U.N. troop deployment in Darfur, and the Justice Ministry has said the ICC has no jurisdiction in the province.

Minni Minnawi, the leader of the SLA faction which signed the peace deal, is due to arrive in Khartoum within days, Hussein said. His visit will be the first since signing.



## **Other developments**

### **Sudanese police detain human rights activist**

(*Reuters/ST* – 9<sup>th</sup> Jul. **Khartoum**) Sudanese police have detained a senior member of a human rights organization, a spokesman for the organization said on Sunday.

Sudan Organization Against Torture (SOAT) spokesman Faisal al-Batal said police had taken SOAT's coordinator, Najib Najmeldin, to a police department which deals with crimes against the state.

Najmeldin had not yet been formally charged, al-Batal added.

Sudanese police spokesmen and the Interior Ministry could neither immediately confirm nor deny the detention.

Sudan has often targeted rights workers.

Rights groups say the torture and mistreatment of detainees in Sudan is common.