



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN  
UNMIS

**UNMIS Media Monitoring Report, 11<sup>th</sup> July 2006**  
**(By Public Information Office)**

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# **HIGHLIGHTS:**

## **United Nations**

### **Pronk: sending United Nations troops to Darfur not a priority**

(*The local press* – 11<sup>th</sup> Jul. **Khartoum**) SRSG Jan Pronk says that the issue of deployment of United Nations troops to Darfur is not a priority to the United Nations and that implementation of the DPA remains of utmost priority.

Speaking to Presidential Advisor Dr. Majzoub el-Khalifa yesterday, the SRSG underlined the need to keep the doors open for dialogue between the United Nations and the Sudan government.

He pointed out that dialogue should not be considered a public information feat inasmuch as it means reaching joint understanding and conviction between the two sides.

Dr. Khalifa told the press that the discussions with Mr. Pronk also focused on means to implement the DPA and commitment to the ceasefire agreement in general and that it was agreed that implementation of the agreement needs to be accelerated and the launch of the Darfur-Darfur Dialogue should be expedited to allow the other groups who were not represented in Abuja to join the peace process.

Khalifa further pointed out that the meeting highlighted the dangers of activities that cause general insecurity in the area such as the recent attack on Hamrat el-Sheikh.

Also discussed was the forthcoming donors' meeting in Brussels due on the 18<sup>th</sup> of June that will seek support for the AU.

### **SLM-Minnawi demands official apology from the United Nations**

(*AlAyaam* – 11<sup>th</sup> Jul. **Khartoum**) The United Nations has denied recent reports from the AFP saying that the United Nations has accused SLM-Minnawi of carrying out ethnic cleansing and rape in Darfur.

SLM-Minnawi had demanded an apology from the United Nations over the accusations attributed to the United Nations and has called for an international probe into the issue.

UNMIS spokesperson Bahaa Elkoussy said that the media reports are untrue and pointed out that the report on which the AFP story is based explicitly states, “that the IDPs claim that the Minnawi faction of the SLM has carried out ethnic cleansing and rape” and does not say that the United Nations said that this happened.

He pointed out that the United Nations is not responsible for what the IDPs say.

The spokesperson said that the UNMIS has requested the AFP to issue a correction.

It is worth noting that the Minnawi faction of the SLM issued a statement yesterday demanding an apology from the United Nations and called for the formation of an international probe on the events that led to this accusation.

The SLM said these accusations soil the movement's reputation and described it as having been designed by parties against the peace deal.

### **Sudan is most dangerous place for children**

(*Sudan Tribune* – 11<sup>th</sup> Jul. **London**) Sudan, Uganda and Congo are the world's three most dangerous places for children due to wars that have brought death, disease and displacement to millions, a Reuters poll of humanitarian experts showed on Tuesday.

The U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) says 1.8 million children have been affected by a three-year conflict in Sudan's western Darfur region, where they risk being recruited as fighters and are especially vulnerable to disease and malnutrition.

"It is a traumatised population and you can see it in the children's faces," said Hollywood actress and UNICEF goodwill ambassador Mia Farrow, who last month visited camps for some of the 2.5 million displaced by Darfur's war.

"Everyone has lost family, seen villages burn, seen relatives raped, been raped."

Reuters AlertNet, a humanitarian news Web site run by Reuters Foundation, asked more than 110 aid experts and journalists to highlight the most dangerous places for children.

After Sudan, they chose northern Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Somalia, India, the Palestinian territories, Afghanistan, Chechnya and Myanmar.

UNICEF says more than 2 million children worldwide have died as a direct result of armed conflict in the past decade, and about 20 million have been forced to flee their homes. More than a million have been orphaned or separated from their families.

"The most dangerous places are those conflict zones where children are actively recruited into the fighting forces, and the current worst offender ... is Uganda's Lord's Resistance Army," said Gareth Evans, head of the International Crisis Group think tank.

"Its recruiting, indoctrination and battle tactics have left countless children either dead, or dreadfully physically or mentally scarred."

During its brutal, two-decade insurgency, the cult-like rebel group has kidnapped up to 25,000 children to serve as soldiers and sex slaves. Each evening, about the same number of child "night commuters" trudge into towns to avoid abduction.

"What makes it even more dangerous is that no one is hearing about it ... The long-standing and invisible nature of the situation has led to an entire generation of children growing up in camps," said Krista Threefoot of Catholic Relief Services.

## **CPA**

### **Council formed for population census**

(*AlAyaam* – 11<sup>th</sup> Jul. **Khartoum**) The director of the Central Bureau of Statistics has announced the formation of a Population Census Council to be headed by the Minister for the Presidency and with the finance ministers at the federal level and the GoSS plus representatives from the National Assembly and the States' Council.

On GoNU support for the 73-million dollar census exercise expected to kick off November next year, director Awad Haj Ali said that the federal government will construct census bureaus in the different states in Sudan and will be supplying each one of these with five 4x4 vehicles each, GPS and communications equipment.

### **Salva Kiir vows to disarm southern Sudanese militias**

(*Khartoum Monitor* – 11<sup>th</sup> Jul. **Southern Sudan**) GoSS President Salva Kiir Mayardit has vowed to disarm all southern Sudanese militias who he says are running after money and not for the sake of southerners.

Kiir who was in a visit to North Bahr-el-Ghazal yesterday said that members of the DDR Commission will soon be in Bahr-el-Ghazal to address the issue of the militias and tribal conflict.

Salva Kiir underlined the plight of child soldiers and pointed out that they need to be demobilised and reintegrated.

He said that these militias must chose to either join the SAF or the SPLA and added this was the last chance for them before force is employed to disarm these “threats to development of southern Sudan”.

He underlined the need for girls’ education in order for them to fill their 25% share in government and called upon the local community leaders to participate in the development of their states and not only to depend on the GoSS.

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

#### **Kampala insists that Kony or his deputy head LRA talks team**

(*AlSahafa* – 11<sup>th</sup> Jul. **Kampala**) Kampala has said it will not hold talks with LRA representatives who are not mandated to do so and has demanded that LRA leader Joseph Kony and the number two, Vincent Otti, personally head the LRA team for the talks.

Uganda’s state minister for foreign affairs who is also a member of the Uganda government negotiations team said that either Kony or Otti have to lead the negotiations in order that to shorten the talks.

Asked to comment on the ICC arrest warrants for LRA kingpins, the Ugandan state minister pointed out that the Uganda government is not ashamed with the move to negotiate peace with Kony. He pointed out that the Uganda government had failed in securing partners for military action against the LRA with the failure to secure the consent of the governments of Sudan and the DRC and of MONUC.

He reconfirmed that the Uganda government is prepared to engage the LRA in talks at any time whenever they receive confirmation that Kony and Otti will be participating in these talks.

#### **Machar and Kony to hold talks today**

(*AlRai AIAam* – 11<sup>th</sup> Jul. **Maridi**) The Vice-President of the GoSS Dr. Riak Machar and Lord's Resistance Army leader Joseph Kony will be holding a second meeting at the outskirts of

Maridi today to put the finishing touches to forthcoming talks with the Uganda government due to be held in Juba next week.

Machar says today's meeting comes within the framework of the latest development and Uganda's acceptance to hold dialogue with the LRA.

Asked to comment on recent reports of tensions in Upper Nuer as a result of protests by some SPLA commanders over Paulino Matip taking over as Deputy Commander of the SPLA, the GoSS Vice-President says there are no such tensions and that the situation is calm in those areas.

## **Darfur/ DPA**

### **Chad, Sudan to restore diplomatic relations**

(*Sudan Tribune* – 10<sup>th</sup> Jul. N'Djamena) The foreign minister of Chad arrived Khartoum Monday on what was described as a mission to sound out the possibility of resuming relations with its estranged neighbour Sudan.

Ahmat Allami took with him a message from his president, Idriss Deby Itno, to the Sudanese President Omar al-Beshir, said diplomats in the Chad capital N'Djamena.

In Khartoum ,the Chadian minister said the visit comes within the context of what has been agreed upon during the African Union Summit conference which took place in the Gambian capital of Banjul when the two leaders met at the initiative of the Libyan leader Muammar Gadhafi.

Allami said the two sides have agreed to form a joint committee that would settle issues of differences between Sudan and Chad.

Chad has accused Sudan of supporting Chadian rebels against the Deby regime.

"The visit is a sounding-out mission with the aim of perhaps resuming diplomatic relations between Chad and Sudan," said a member of the Chad delegation.

The mission led by Allami is the first by such a high-ranking Chad official since the Chad president in April announced he was breaking off diplomatic relations with the Khartoum government following the failure of an offensive against N'Djamena by a Chad rebel group opposing his regime.

The two neighbours have exchanged accusations that the other is harbouring rebel movements.

The Khartoum government suspects Chad of supporting groups that their troops have been fighting in Darfur while Chad accuses the Sudan government of supporting armed groups seeking to overthrow President Deby.

### **Minnawi doubts government's ability to disarm the Janjaweed\***

(*AlRai AlAam* – 11<sup>th</sup> Jul. Khartoum) Dr. Majzoub el-Khalifa receives later today a list of SLM-Minnawi nominees for the position of Presidential Advisor.

Meanwhile in Cairo and in a meeting with the Egyptian Minister for the Presidency and chief of intelligence, Mini Minnawi said he doubts the ability of the Sudan government to disarm the Janjaweed.

He called upon the Egyptian government to play a major role in convincing Khartoum to accept the deployment of international forces to Darfur.

*\* Also excerpts of an exclusive interview with Minnawi in Cairo*

### **All-Fur notables' conference convenes**

(*Sudan Vision* – 11<sup>th</sup> Jul. **Darfur**) The all- Fur tribe notables Shurra Council conference yesterday began its deliberations in the town of El Fashir under the slogan of 'Peace, Unity and Stability.' Delegations from the three Darfur States and Khartoum, Gezira and Gedarif States are participating.

The Minister of Youth, Culture and Sports, and Chairman of the conference preparatory committee, Mohammad Yousif Abdullah said the conference is aimed at unification of members of the Fur tribe in the three Darfurian States, in addition to deliberating on solutions to problems and strengthening of social ties to realize security and stability.

Yousif was quoted as saying that the conference would also discuss a number of papers in order to come up with definite recommendations, calling on the tribe notables and native Administrations to seek solutions to all problems and issues based on social customs, and far from political influences. The Chairman of the Committee said the conference would select a Sultan for all the tribe on a common consent basis that brings the Fur together. At the Conference inaugural session, the Advisor to South Darfur Governor, Shartay Ibrahim Abdullah Mohammad has been chosen to chair the conference.

The legal Advisor, Badrya Abdulrahman presented a paper on the role of women in the Fur Community, with another paper on general and higher education roles presented by Dr. Osman Abduljabar. The conferees were scheduled to have discussed yesterday papers on security, economy, in addition to endorsing the basic rules, with the conference scheduled to close with the naming of the Fur Sultan and the selection of the Shurra Council. On the other hand, the Governor of North Darfur State, Mohammad Yousif Kibir welcomed the conference, which was attended by (400) representatives from Fur tribe in the three Darfurian States together with others from other Sudanese States. Kibir while receiving yesterday Minister Yousif, Governor of West Darfur, Jaafar Abdulhakam, Deputy Governor of South Darfur and a number of participants in the conference said the conference would boost the peace process in Darfur because of the big role played by the Fur tribe in maintaining peace and stability, adding that the convening of the conference in the town of El Fashir is an honour to the town as the historical Capital of Darfur. Meanwhile, the conference Secretary, Hassan Abdulkarim told SUNA that the conference would discuss various issues and issue recommendations.