



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN
UNMIS

Special Media Monitoring Report

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(By UNMIS Public Information Office)

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1. Local Press Coverage on the SRSG press conference of 12/07/'06

ON SOUTHERN SUDAN

(AlSahafa) SRSG Jan Pronk says he will be travelling to Malakal later today to get acquainted to the security situation in the area following reports of escalation of violence and tensions in the Jonglei area that has seen tens dead as a result of a forced disarmament campaign by the SPLA.

He said that the United Nations has decided to field permanent military observers in the area which has seen some violence as a result of a disarmament exercise by the SPLA.

He pointed out that the GoSS as responsible for law and order has the right to disarm but within the basis of human rights.

He noted that some armed groups in those areas do not acknowledge SPLA authority and resist all attempts at disarming them.

Pronk said that he held talks on the issue with GoSS Vice-President Riek Machar and Paulino Matib and the two commanders Ismail Kony and Gordon Koung who are active in the Akobo area.

He underlined the need for the United Nations to have a presence in 12 sites but admitted there are difficulties in terms of security.

The SRSB expressed regret over the attacks led by armed groups in the area targeting humanitarian workers and cited an incident in which 5 humanitarian workers of an Italian organisation were killed last week by a group that he says may be the Lord's Resistance Army.

He welcomed the forthcoming talks between the Uganda government and the Lord's Resistance Army.

ON THE CONFLICT IN DARFUR

(*AlAyaam*) SRSB Pronk has warned that the conflict and armed attacks on civilians in Darfur may spread to other regions in the Sudan.

Speaking at a press conference yesterday, the SRSB said that anybody who starts or relocates the fight to another region must be condemned as this is a violation of the ceasefire agreement that the people of Darfur aspire for.

He pointed out that such attacks may lead to counter-attacks and retaliations that will bring the rebel movements back to the pre-5th May spiral.

The SRSB also pointed out that there is an escalation of violence in the “sensitive areas of the northern part of North Darfur” and the areas of Kutum, el-Fasher and the northern and eastern Jebel Marra areas.

(*AlSahafa*) He said that the recent attack on Toweela has resulted in the displacement of a large number of citizens to the Zamzam camp but added there are no true figures for these numbers of IDPs and the United Nations has not humanitarian presence in those areas.

The SRSB said despite the Darfur Peace Agreement being fragile, it was meant to bring an end to the killing and conflict in Darfur.

The SRSB further said that a group of armed men had abducted 30 AMIS soldiers during the last two days but later released them but retained their identification cars and the vehicles they were using.

He described this development as very dangerous and said it is regarded as a war crime at all standards.

(*AlAyaam*) The SRSB described the use of non-AMIS white helicopters with AMIS markings as a crime to be condemned.

He said the United Nations does have photographs of some people peeling off AMIS markings from a white helicopter that had landed in one of the airports and insisted that it was neither an UNMIS nor AMIS helicopter.

ON THE JANJAWEED

(*AlAyaam*) He called on the government to present a formal plan to disarm the Janjaweed and enlist them into other forces.

ON ABDULWAHID

(*AlAyaam*) On AbdulWahid, the SRSG said he had requested a meeting with AbdulWahid in Asmara but Eritrean officials told him that was not possible.

“I hope AbdulWahid will be wise to meet Vice-President Salva Kiir”, added the SRSG.

He said that leaders of the rival factions of the SLM are to blame for the continued fighting.

(*Sudan Vision, AlRai AlAam*) On the other hand, the SRSG reports that female IDPs have been abducted by soldiers from the AbdulWahid faction of the SLM who tied them to a tree, beat them up, forced them to eat donkey dung and raped them in turns for three days by about 30 men who accused them of espionage because they were married to Zaghawa men.

“This means that civilians are being attacked and the tension becomes of a tribal character – especially what we wanted to stop with the Darfur Peace Agreement”, he added, “no fighting; no attacks on civilians; no humanitarian law and human rights violations; no escalation of the fighting into a tribal escalation which is out of control”.

The Darfur Peace Agreement, he said, does not give licence to the parties that have signed the DPA to attack the parties who have not signed and does not give licence to the parties who have not signed and who participated in the talks to continue fighting because they had signed earlier agreement which already resulted in a ceasefire.

Mr. Pronk called for a stop of the attacks on AMIS personnel and convoys and pointed out that, “AMIS is a friend and not an enemy”.

ON ABYEI

(*AlSahafa*) SRSG Jan Pronk has accused the Sudanese army of obstructing the movement of UNMIS personnel in the Abyei region. He pointed out that the government has refused UNMIS to go to the northern part of Abyei and says he regards this as a violation of the CPA. He said he has protested against this and has reported the issue to the Security Council.

The SRSG further pointed out that the Abyei issue has been on the table before the Presidency for over a year now but the Presidency is delaying a decision on the issue despite the three options presented by the NCP and the SPLM.

Pronk said however that a delay in taking a decision on Abyei may not cause tension or violence and that the tactic he is using is not to make of Abyei a political issue between the government and the United Nations.

2. International Media

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Escalating tribal tensions fuel new Darfur attacks

KHARTOUM, July 12 (Reuters) - Rape, killing and looting are increasing as tribal tensions escalate in **Sudan's** troubled **Darfur** province, the United Nations' top envoy to the country said on Wednesday, despite a peace deal he had helped broker.

U.N. envoy Jan Pronk described an attack by a rebel faction led by Abdel Wahed Mohammed al-Nur, whose members mostly come from the Fur tribe, on a group of women refugees to illustrate his point.

"They were tied to a tree, beaten, forced to eat donkey dung, raped in turn for three days by 30 men who had accused the women of espionage because they were married to Zaghawa men," Pronk told reporters, referring to the Zaghawa tribe.

"That means civilians are being attacked and the tension becomes of a tribal character. That is especially what we wanted to stop with the peace agreement," Pronk added.

Pronk said the account had not been verified, but that the victims should be believed. A recent U.N. report also cites rising tribal tensions in some refugee camps.

Representatives for Nur, who leads a splinter faction of the **Sudan** Liberation Army (SLA), could not immediately be reached for comment.

In May, the mainstream SLA faction led by Minni Arcua Minnawi signed a peace deal with the Khartoum government, but the agreement has been widely ignored. Nur's rebel group and the smaller Justice and Equality Movement did not sign the deal.

Minnawi is from the minority Zaghawa tribe. A U.N. report on Sunday cited witnesses alleging that Minnawi troops had raped and killed women from the Fur tribe. Minnawi denies this.

The U.N. has said the rebel groups have begun to fight each other, with the Sudanese military apparently supporting Minnawi's faction.

Both the Fur and the Zaghawa tribes are African, not Arab. Non-Arab rebels took up arms against the Khartoum government in early 2003 accusing it of neglect and monopolising power.

Khartoum responded by arming mostly Arab militias, known as the Janjaweed, who stand accused of a widespread campaign of looting, killing and burning in non-Arab villages.

Tens of thousands have died in the violence and 2.5 million people forced into camps.

Earlier on Wednesday, U.N. humanitarian relief coordinator Jan Egeland said it was "heartbreaking" that the SLA rebel groups had adopted the Janjaweed's methods.

Sudan has rejected U.N. transition in **Darfur** likening it to a Western invasion that would attract jihadi militants and cause an Iraq-style quagmire.

But analysts say Khartoum objected to U.N. troops because it feared the soldiers would arrest any officials or militia leaders likely to be indicted for war crimes by the International Criminal Court.

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