



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN  
UNMIS  
UNMIS Media Monitoring Report, 27<sup>th</sup> July 2006  
(By Public Information Office)

*NOTE: Reproduction here does not mean that the UNMIS PIO can vouch for the accuracy or veracity of the contents, nor does this report reflect the views of the United Nations Mission in Sudan. Furthermore, international copyright exists on some materials and this summary should not be disseminated beyond the intended list of recipients.*

**IN THE NEWS TODAY:**

➤ **United Nations and the Transition Debate**

- Coverage on the SRSG press conference of 26th July 2006
- 'Tiny' window open for UN troops in Darfur - UN envoy
- On the African Union and a possible transition
- Weapons fuel intertribal clashes in Darfur - UN
- Following are press reports filed by journalists on a visit to Kassala organized by the Office of the Spokesperson

➤ **CPA**

- Sudanese minister says SPLA violates peace deal
- SPLA child soldiers demobilised in South Sudan

➤ **GoNU**

- Sudan's Taha criticises al-Bashir rejection of Darfur UN force

➤ **Southern Sudan**

- Uganda delegation 'en route' to meet rebel leader

## HIGHLIGHTS:

### United Nations and the Transition Debate

#### **Coverage on the SRSG press conference of 26<sup>th</sup> July 2006**

##### ON THE SECURITY SITUATION IN SOUTHERN SUDAN

(*AlRai AlAam, AlAyaam* – 27<sup>th</sup> Jul. **Khartoum**) SRSG Pronk, in a press briefing at UNMIS yesterday, has warned that the security situation in the south may explode as a result of the activities of militias used by the oil companies in the region to protect their installations.

The SRSG declined to identify these militias but called on these militias to either identify its position or leave southern Sudan. He said they will be regarded as bandits.

He also talked of militia “forces operating in the dark”.

He described the situation as very complex especially following the outbreak of conflict between the tribes and renewed fighting by militia forces not aligned to the SAF or the SPLA.

The SRSG also revealed that there were clashes in Rumbek between herders and farmers and the United Nations is closely monitoring the situation and the ongoing clashes in the Jonglei area and described the clashes as tribal in nature. He blamed the two sides for delays in operationalizing the DDR commissions and pointed out that the DDR institutions are yet to clearly state who are to be subject to the DDR programs.

On the implementation of the CPA, the SRSG said that there is progress but pointed out that there is some delay in some parts such as the Abyei protocol.

##### ON THE SITUATION IN DARFUR

(*AlAyaam*) SRSG Pronk says the recent **conflict between the Rizeigat and the Habbania** near Gireida has become more fierce as the forces of each side use heavy guns despite the fact that the conflict started over resources.

He said that the **IDPs in Korma** have guns and steal cattle. The SRSG attributes the outbreak of violence in the camps to the absence of the African Union from these camps.

The SRSG also said that UNMIS will assist in the implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement but said the same agreement does not give them a mandate.

**On the Janjaweed disarmament plan**, *AlAyaam* reports that the SRSG said that UNMIS has forwarded its comments on the government plan to disarm the Janjaweed and has sent experts in disarmament to the ceasefire committee.

*AlAyaam goes on to say that the SRSG has announced that UNMIS will not be extending its mandate in Darfur that ends today.*

On the **AlQaeda threat**, the *AllIntibaha* reports that the SRSG said that UNMIS has launched talks with National Security chief, Salah Goush. He did not elaborate but said that the talks are security and not political talks. He said that the United Nations is taking these threats seriously.

### **'Tiny' window open for UN troops in Darfur - UN envoy**

(*Reuters* – 27<sup>th</sup> Jul. **Khartoum**) Sudan has left a 'tiny' window open for negotiation on accepting U.N. troops in its violent Darfur region, the top U.N. envoy in Khartoum said on Wednesday.

Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir has refused international demands for a U.N. force in Darfur, saying it would be used as a front for the colonial ambitions of the United States and attract attacks by Islamic militants.

Jan Pronk, the U.N.'s top envoy in Sudan, told reporters on Wednesday that Foreign Minister Lam Akol had told international donors in Brussels earlier this month that no decision had been made on the issue.

"The minister of foreign affairs declared in Brussels ... that the decision has not yet been taken," he told a news conference in Khartoum.

"The international community has seen this as an opening, a very tiny opening - I don't know how big it is."

### **On the African Union and a possible transition**

Pronk said the Brussels conference had secured funding for African Union troops, currently monitoring a shaky ceasefire in Sudan's west, until the end of the year.

Pronk said he estimated the AU got pledges of more than 70 percent of the \$270-335 million they had requested to continue their mission and implement a May 15 peace deal.

The under-funded and ill-equipped AU force has failed to stop the rape, pillage and murder in Darfur, and it has been attacked by refugees unhappy with an AU-brokered peace deal signed in May by only one of three negotiating rebel factions.

Pronk said the force had withdrawn from most of the camps in Darfur which house more than two million who fled their homes to seek refuge over the past three years.

In the past week violence has escalated, especially around the West Darfur town of Zalingei. Three government water and sanitation employees and a policeman were beaten to death in separate incidents by camp residents who distrust the central authority they blame for forcing them into the camps.

"A number of the camps are near to exploding," Pronk said.

Darfur rebels took up arms in early 2003 accusing the central government of neglect. To quell the revolt the government armed tribal militias who now stand accused of alleged crimes against humanity.

Washington calls the violence genocide, a charge Khartoum rejects. The violence created one of the world's worst humanitarian crises.

### **Weapons fuel intertribal clashes in Darfur - UN**

(*UN/ST* – 26<sup>th</sup> Jul. **Khartoum**) Fighting between tribal militia groups in Darfur is on the rise, driven by the prevalence of weapons in the region, the senior United Nations envoy to Sudan warned today.

The situation in Darfur's north and west, where clashes have become more violent recently because of the greater availability of weaponry, is particularly tense, the Secretary-General's Special Representative Jan Pronk told reporters during a press conference in Khartoum, the Sudanese capital.

He added that both fighting between the parties to the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) and other groups, as well as fighting among rebel groups, has heavily affected the civilian population.

The recent deaths of three government workers at a West Darfur camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs) have led Pronk to raise repeated concerns over weapons found inside the camps.

Noting that IDPs are increasingly polarized for or against the DPA, the envoy expressed disappointment at the withdrawal of African Union peacekeeping forces from many camps, stressing that an AU presence is essential in preventing violence from erupting in those centres.

In the press conference Pronk also stressed the need to convene peace talks immediately with the two other main rebel groups who have withheld signing the accord. This would expand support for the DPA and consolidate peace and reconciliation efforts, he said.

### **Following are press reports filed by journalists on a visit to Kassala organized by the Office of the Spokesperson**

(*SUNA, AISahafa, Sudan Tribune* – 27<sup>th</sup> Jul. **Kassala**) The head of the UNMIS office in Kassala has played down the possible impacts of the UNMIS closure in Kassala State – a decision taken on 6<sup>th</sup> July following the completion of the mission's redeployment work in the region.

He said that the views of the UNMIS leadership and those of the government were the same in that the UNMIS had to close office in the east but confirmed that the United Nations will continue to provide every form of assistance possible through its specialized agencies which will continue operating in the area. He also said that the mission is ready to assist in the success of the ongoing peace process and serve the purpose of stability in order to achieve the objectives for which UNMIS was formed.

On his part, the Sector Commander of the United Nations Mission in Sudan military in Kassala said that his forces are preparing to redeploy 5,672 SPLA soldiers who were stationed in 5 areas in Kassala town. He said also that 3,000 SPLA soldiers absconded from service and agreement has been reached between the SAF and the SPLA that the issue be addressed in a bilateral framework.

The UNMIS leadership had announced that it will close its Kassala Sector within two weeks after completion of its task of monitoring the redeployment of the SPLA from eastern Sudan as stipulated in the CPA.

The Kassala head of office said that the Kassala office will phase out gradually and pointed out that the operation may take up to five weeks. He said that Kassala State shall witness next Wednesday a grand ceremony to mark the closure of the United Nations Mission in Sudan office in Kassala.

The head of office further said that the *Wali* of Kassala State has denied having put pressure on UNMIS to close its offices in the region.

## **CPA**

### **Sudanese minister says SPLA violates peace deal**

(*Sudan Tribune* – 25<sup>th</sup> Jul. **Khartoum**) The Sudanese minister of Defense accused the former rebel army of violating the peace agreement, he further said SPLA has no any role in tribes disarmament in southern Sudan according to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA).

The Minister of National Defense, Lt- Gen. Abdelrahim Mohamed Hussein told the press that the abuses committed by the SPLA violate the terms of the CPA, explaining that the disarmament of the tribes in Southern Sudan came within the responsibility of the Commission of Disarmament, Demobilization and Re-integration (DDR) and it is not the responsibility of the SPLM army.

The minister added that there is no any role for the joint armed forces in the operations of the internal security in Khartoum State or in the Southern Sudan as stipulated in the provisions of the CPA, explaining that the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) has no any role in the internal security and must remain in the camps, as stated in the CPA.

He pointed to the discipline regulations which was endorsed by the joint defence council aim to monitor the work of the joint forces, affirming the readiness of the armed forces to protect the security and the social peace.

He indicated that the internal security arrangements came within the work of the police according to the provisions of the CPA.

Hussien said the percentage of withdrawal of the armed forces from Bahrel-Ghazal and Equatoria States reaches 89%, adding that the armed forces has surpassed the percentage of 61.8% in pulling the armed forces from Southern Sudan according to the security arrangements of Naivasha agreement, calling on the SPLM to work to re-deploy its forces in the south.

He has affirmed that the movement of the armed forces and its deployment and re-deployment in South Kordofan State and the Blue Nile State and Abyei area is not restricted with security arrangements of the CPA

The deputy chief of staff of the joint armed forces, Lt-Gen Mohamed Ismail, presented a general enlightenment on plans, laws and regulations of the armed forces in the coming period.

## **SPLA child soldiers demobilised in South Sudan**

(*IRIN/ST* – 26<sup>th</sup> Jul. **Nairobi**) Some 242 children who have been in the fighting units of the southern Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) were on Tuesday disarmed and demobilised at a ceremony in the southern town of Tonj in Warab State.

Organised by the Southern Sudan DDR Commission, the ceremony was the biggest since the comprehensive peace agreement (CPA) for southern Sudan was signed in January 2005. The agreement commits the SPLM/A and the government of Sudan to demobilise child fighters.

Benjamin Goro Gimba, the commission's Executive Director, called for the children to be "given a chance to grow in a free environment".

According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), in the past five years more than 15,000 children have been disarmed, demobilised and returned to their families and communities from SPLA ranks. Of these, 900 were disarmed after the signing of the CPA.

## **GoNU**

### **Sudan's Taha criticises al-Bashir rejection of Darfur UN force**

(*Sudan Tribune* – 25<sup>th</sup> Jul. **Khartoum**) The Second Vice President Ali Osman Taha criticised implicitly the rejection of the UN force for Darfur by the Sudanese President Omer al-Bashir.

Taha, has said in a speech before a group of students that conflicts in the world in this uni-polar age cannot be overcome through "slogans and emotionalism".

This remark is seen as an implicit response to President Omer al-Bashir, who has been using his party, the ruling National Congress, forums to step up his opposition to the deployment of international troops in the region of Darfur, the London based Asharq Alawsat said..

There are increasing reports in Khartoum of great differences between President al-Bashir and his deputy, Taha, over the Darfur dossier, and to be precise, over the deployment of international troops in the troubled region. But National Congress Party officials vociferously reject such differences exist. Equally, Taha himself has in previous statements denied these differences existed.

"We must organize things and adopt well-planned policies to deal with the challenges facing the country," Taha said.

Taha said the challenge for Sudan was how to create a better society and better life without these affecting our political free will in a uni-polar age.

He said what was now happening in Lebanon made the slogans being chanted obsolete. He said what was happening there was a reflection of what was happening in many countries struggling to break free of hegemony.

Differences between al-Bashir and Taha emerged after the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement when Taha wanted to appoint ministers loyal to the peace agreement, while Bashir appointed ministers hostile to the CPA.

## **Southern Sudan**

## **Uganda delegation 'en route' to meet rebel leader**

(*IRIN/ST* – 26<sup>th</sup> Jul. **Maridi**) A delegation of about 150 people from northern Uganda has arrived in Maridi, Western Equatoria State of southern Sudan, on their way to meet the leader of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), Joseph Kony.

The delegation, including religious leaders led by the Archbishop of Gulu, John Baptist Odama, political leaders headed by Gulu district commissioner Walter Ochora, and Kony's relatives, was awaiting the arrival of Sudanese Vice-President Riek Machiar and Kony's mother, Nora Oting, before travelling for about 80 miles to the venue of the meeting.

"These elders are being brought to meet Kony to build the confidence of the LRA leadership and assure them that the Ugandan government is really for peace," Ochora told IRIN in Maridi on Wednesday.

Two of Kony's wives, an uncle and other relatives are among the delegation. "We are certain to convince our husband to accept peace," one of the wives, Evelyn Amony, said. "He is a man of peace. The problem has been the Ugandan government."

Sources said the meeting was likely to take place on Thursday in Nabanga, near the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo. The LRA, the sources added, had been holed up in this area and in Garamba national park for some time now.

The proposed meeting followed a week-long break in talks between the Ugandan government and the LRA in Juba, being mediated by Machiar. A spokesman for the Ugandan delegation to the talks said discussions would resume on 31 July after consultations.

Sources in Juba said after the adjournment that a ceasefire and other issues such as disarmament and reintegration of fighters would be on the agenda. However, Uganda has said it will not agree to any ceasefire before a comprehensive agreement is signed, saying the LRA had abused such ceasefires to recruit and re-arm.