



## UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN

## UNMIS

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(By Public Information Office)

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# Highlights

## UN/ Agencies

### **Bush, Ban to discuss Darfur, pressure on Iran**

(*IranMania.com* – July 18, LONDON) US President George W Bush was to press visiting UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on the need for tough global action on Iran's nuclear program and violence in Darfur, the White House said, Agence France-Presse (AFP) reported.

Bush and Ban were to hold talks at 1:00 pm (1700 GMT), one day after the US president, in a fresh Middle East peace push, called for an international conference grouping Israel, the Palestinians, and some of their Arab neighbors.

Asked about the agenda for the meeting, Bush spokesman Tony Snow said they would discuss that new initiative, Sudan's Darfur province, Iran's contested nuclear program, unrest in Lebanon, climate change, and other issues.

"Obviously Darfur continues to be a concern," he told reporters. "The president appreciates his diplomacy. The one thing that we want is vigorous international action in response to genocide."

*Note:* Press reports reflected in the Media Monitoring Report yesterday stated that United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said that an advance United Nations team was expected to arrive in Darfur yesterday. *AlWan* today prints the story with a slight twist saying that Secretary-General Ki-moon had said that the United Nations had of yesterday started deploying the first batch of United Nations peacekeepers.

### **Activities of UN Envoy Jan Eliasson/ reactions to the 2<sup>nd</sup> int'l conference on Darfur**

(*UN News; AlSahafa; JANA, RFI* – July 17, 18 NEW YORK, KHARTOUM) The United Nations senior envoy for Darfur and his African Union (AU) counterpart have arrived in Khartoum from the Libyan capital Tripoli, where they co-chaired two days of talks on fostering a settlement in the strife-torn region of Sudan.

During his three-day visit, Jan Eliasson, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's Special Envoy for Darfur, will meet with senior Government officials in Khartoum, UN spokesperson Marie Okabe said today in New York.

Along with AU Envoy Salim Ahmed Salim, Mr. Eliasson will also meet with representatives of internally displaced persons and civil society groups, UN agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), as well as local authorities in Darfur.

In Khartoum, the UN envoy told reporters following a meeting yesterday with Presidential Advisor Mustafa Osman Ismail that he expects to exert more effort toward success of the round of talks under the auspices of the UN, the African Union and representatives of the region from Eritrea, Chad and Libya.

He said that agreement has been reached for a meeting of the factions in Arusha on 3 to 6 August and that Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and Chairperson Alpha Oumar Konare will be sending out invitations for the meeting. Eliasson said that the Arusha meeting would determine the representatives of the rebel groups for the September negotiations. He said this is a chance to succeed in negotiations and put an end to the war. The envoy expressed hopes that all stakeholders will participate. "Despite the positive signals from Darfur, there is a great need to put an end to the crisis," he said.

*In press statements, Presidential Advisor Mustafa Osman Ismail* said that agreement was reached with Eliasson on the need to bring calm to the situation in Darfur and work together for the success of the forthcoming meeting in Arusha. He said that agreement was reached with the envoy to start political negotiations and expressed hopes that the talks proper will take place in September.

He also said the government hopes to push forward the steps for a political settlement so that life returns to normal in Darfur.

Mustafa Osman confirmed government support for the efforts exerted by the international and regional communities aimed at a peaceful solution for the crisis in Darfur.

*AlSammani AlWaseela, state minister for foreign affairs* and head of the Sudan delegation to the Tripoli conference, said that the Security Council shall take punitive measures against any party that obstructs the peace process after the Arusha meeting of 3 to 5 August. He confirmed government commitments to the ceasefire called for at the conference.

The state minister added that the Security Council will institute punitive measures against any faction that does not participate at the Arusha meeting and obstructs the peace process.

He further pointed out that the atmosphere at the conference was of a sure will to realise peace and that participants, especially US envoy Andrew Natsios, hailed the Sudan government's cooperation in the humanitarian domain. He said that participants also agreed that all incidents of insecurity that happened recently in Darfur were initiated by bandits or caused by clashes between the rebel factions.

*Libya's Ali AbdulSalam el-Tireiki* described the conference as a huge success and progress in dealing with the situation in Darfur.

Speaking at a press conference in the wake of the conference, he said there was a unanimous agreement that this important international conference will pursue its efforts with the participation of the UN Security Council permanent members, and most of the countries that contributed and will contribute in achieving peace. He said this meant there is greater hope this group will continue its efforts and that it is now capable of taking a decision and implementing it.

He described the meeting held with the representatives of the [Sudanese] movements, on the sidelines of the conference, the agreement reached with them, and their readiness to contribute to

and attend the next meeting, as positive development. He also hailed the positive steps these movements have taken to unite their ranks in order to meet the Sudanese government.

He concluded: "We also agreed during this conference that any one who rejects or renounces peace will face measures from the UN Security Council and the African Peace and Security Council. Therefore, this meeting should be binding for everyone."

Radio France Internationale Tripoli correspondent Sylvain Biville has spoken to the US and the Chinese envoys to the conference. He pointed out that US envoy Andrew Natsios has accused the Sudanese government of resuming aerial bombardments of the region. Natsios himself said (in English to French translation): "Sudan denies it in vain. We know it's happening. The UN's own intelligence confirms that bombing has started again. We've made a decision to put aside for now our plans for a UN sanctions resolution but if the Sudanese government starts creating obstructions during deployment of a mixed force, we cannot exclude putting it back on the table at the UN Security Council."

Biville concluded by saying: "Despite their differences, China and the United States do sometimes cooperate effectively as regards Darfur. Sudan's go-ahead for a UN-African Union force owes as much to discreet Chinese pressure as to American threats."

### **UN urges quick EU decision on Chad refugee force**

*(Reuters via Reliefweb – July 17, BRUSSELS)* The U.N. peacekeeping chief urged the European Union on Tuesday to send troops and helicopters to protect refugees and aid workers in eastern Chad as part of efforts to contain violence spreading from Darfur.

Jean-Marie Guehenno hoped EU foreign ministers would signal next Monday that the bloc would be ready to deploy highly mobile troops by the end of 2007, for about a year, to protect a zone 900 km long by 200-400 km (560 by 125-250 miles) in Chad.

He said that there is a humanitarian urgency in Chad and the deteriorating security has complicated aid efforts in recent weeks.

The United Nations would train and support Chadian police while the European Union would protect civilians and the U.N. mission, he said.

Guehenno was in Brussels to press EU ambassadors on the issue ahead of a July 23 meeting of EU foreign ministers. He said he expected ministers to send "a strong signal" that would allow the United Nations to begin detailed mission planning.

He declined to say how big the EU force should be, but said as 27-nation bloc wanted to send a limited number of troops, the force would need to be sufficiently mobile to compensate.

"The key to success is not in large numbers but in the capacity to react quickly," Guehenno said. "We'll certainly need an important air, helicopter, component in the EU force."

He hoped the EU-U.N. mission in Chad could be deployed at about the same time as a hybrid 26,000-strong U.N.- African Union force planned for Darfur itself.

"We should coordinate deployment so that they happen all in all in parallel," he said. "That should be in the last part of this year, probably."

Guehenno said the EU military mission in Chad would also cover a small part of the Central African Republic, around the northeastern town of Birao, which has suffered rebel attacks.

## **GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)**

### **Sudanese President Al-Bashir in talks with South Kordofan State governor**

(SUNA via BBC Monitoring, July 17) President of the republic, Field Marshal Omar al-Bashir, on Tuesday [17 July] instructed the government of South Kordofan State to put the living issues of people on the top of its priority list, as well as boosting the rehabilitation and development process in implementation of the comprehensive peace agreement.

This came when the president received at his office at the Republican Palace on Tuesday the governor of South Kordofan State, Omar Suleiman.

Al-Bashir affirmed the federal government's support to the state to carry out its economic and social projects.

Meanwhile, the governor of South Kordofan State said in a statement that the meeting reviewed the situations in his state as well as means of funding development and rehabilitation projects there.

### **Sudanese vice president starts first China visit**

(Xinhua – July 17, BEIJING) Sudanese First Vice President Salva Kiir Mayardit arrived in Beijing Tuesday afternoon, kicking off his first China visit.

Mayardit will hold talks with Chinese Vice President Zeng Qinghong and meet with other Chinese leaders.

"The two sides will exchange views on strengthening bilateral relations and other issues of common concern, including the Darfur issue," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang told a briefing last week.

Sudanese Minister of Foreign Affairs Lam Akol told reporters on Monday that Sudan is keen on making the visit a success, noting the delegation would brief the Chinese officials on current developments in Sudan, the efforts for peaceful settlement of the Darfur issue and China's possible contribution in the rehabilitation and reconstruction process.

The six-day visit will also take Mayardit to China's financial center Shanghai and southwest China's Chongqing Municipality.

### **Ministerial reshuffle deferred pending NCP nominations**

*(AlSudani)* An informed source says the reshuffles requested by VP Kiir to SPLM ministers in the Government of National Unity cabinet may not take effect until the NCP tables its nominees for a similar move, according to an agreement by the two parties.

Pundits leaked out yesterday that political sources have intimated that VP Kiir has asked that Cabinet Affairs Minister Deng Alor take over the foreign ministry portfolio currently held by Dr. Lam Akol. Sources say the proposal has not been well met within the NCP.

### **UK international development minister expected to visit Sudan 18 July**

*(SUNA via BBC Monitoring)* The new British minister for international development [Douglas Alexander] will arrive in Sudan on July 18<sup>th</sup> for a visit spanning a couple of days.

While here, he will hold talks with Al-Samani al-Wasila, the state minister for foreign affairs as well as a number of officials. He will also visit Darfur and Juba.

Al-Samani al-Wasila said that the visit by the British minister to the country is his first trip abroad after assuming his duties within the team of the new British government. He expected that the Sudanese-British talks would end with good results on bilateral cooperation and consultation on issues of bilateral interest.

### **Sudan alleged coup attempt probe to avoid prejudice - minister**

*(AlRai AlAam via BBC Monitoring, July 17, 18)* Justice Minister Muhammad Ali al-Mardi has said that current investigations with suspects in the sabotage plot aim to determine whether to press charges against them. In a press statement, he said that services involved [in the probe] were coordinating their work so that no one should suffer from prejudice, since the case is a complex one.

Meanwhile, sources close to Mubarak al-Fadil, Umma Reform and Renewal party chief [main suspect in alleged coup attempt], said that his family have postponed their return to the country from abroad, anticipating future developments.

The dragnet has so far scooped 26 people and not less than 10 political parties have stepped to the fore to petition the release of l-Fadil and company.

Meanwhile, Atem Garang, the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, has accused National Security and Intelligence of overstepping their mandate of collecting information and presenting the same to the police, reports *Alwan* daily. He pointed out that the Ministry of Interior, through its police force, should have been responsible for such arrests and that the arrests carried out by security area violation of the constitution and the CPA.

## **Al Jazeera slams Sudan's accusations of false reporting**

(*SudanTribune.com*) The Al-Jazeera Arabic news channel blasted a statement issued by Sudan's ruling National Congress party (NCP) accusing it of breaching "all journalistic and press ethics".

Ahmed Sheikh, editor-in-chief of Al-Jazeera television, speaking by phone to Sudan Tribune from Qatar called the statement "pathetic on the part of the Sudanese government".

"We are one of many news agencies and newspapers who quoted Nafi so why are they picking on us? This is ridiculous" Sheikh added.

Last Sunday Al-Jazeera quoted Sudan's presidential adviser Nafi Ali Nafi as saying that Washington was behind the sabotage plot foiled in Khartoum over the weekend.

But the NCP issued a statement yesterday denying that Nafi made any mention of US involvement in the plot.

The statement accused Al-Jazeera of "working to incite and create sedition by contradicting all the news headlines of newspapers and other news agencies which had covered the story".

Sheikh criticized singling out Al-Jazeera by the Sudanese government and said that "We cannot be blamed for being widely popular. Do they want us to curtail our news coverage?"

The secretariat of the NCP called on Al-Jazeera "to correct the news and to apologize in order to keep its credibility and neutrality".

However Sheikh rejected the call for an apology saying the news story was "well sourced and verified".

Sudan's denial of US involvement brings into the spotlight contradictory statements by Sudanese officials regarding foreign links to the sabotage plot.

Last week Sudanese security officials said that the sabotage plot leader Mubarak al-Fadil sought help from a neighboring Arab country and a "major world power".

Sources told Sudan Tribune that the countries in question are Libya and the United States respectively.

However Sudanese officials later tried to downplay any foreign role in the operation.

NCP statement said that "It has not been confirmed up to now whether any foreign or local quarters were involved in this action. Only the party is known to have been involved with two of its leaders giving political cover to the operation."

But security officials who spoke to the Associated Press on condition of anonymity said al-Fadil had sought support from Libya. The officials said Libya had turned him down and informed Sudanese authorities.

Sudanese security services on Saturday arrested the leaders of the Umma Reform and Renewal opposition party over allegations of planning sabotage across the country.

### **Khartoum and Cairo in contacts to halt migration of Sudanese to Israel**

(*AlRai AlAam*) State minister for foreign affairs, AlSammani AlWaseela, has revealed that the Sudan government is in contact with counterparts in Egypt to stem the flow of Sudanese migrants to Israel and to verify the identity of those claiming to be Sudanese.

The ministry has expressed doubts that the majority of those claiming to be Sudanese and who migrated to Israel or Europe may not be Sudanese.

He confirmed the ministry's commitments to assist those Sudanese who face dire consequences abroad and wish to return home.

### **Shortfall in budget for IDP repatriation**

(*SMC* – 16 July) The GoSS said it has a deficit of US\$27m. in the budget allocated for the repatriation program targeting southern Sudanese IDPs living in the north.

It said the program may also be hindered by the slowdown of the de-mining process in some towns and villages of the south.

The Repatriation Program Coordinator says it is a very costly operation that needs collaboration from the three partners, namely the GoNU, the GoSS and the UN. He said that the total cost of the program was estimated at US\$161m with US\$100m paid by the UN, \$10m by the GoNU and \$24 by the GoSS.

### **High-level Sudanese Joint Military and Security Committee holds meeting**

(*Government of Eritrea, via Reliefweb* – July 17, ASMARA) In line with the agreement concluded between the Sudanese Government of National Unity and the East Sudan Front on October 14, 2006 under the care of the Government of Eritrea, the High-level Joint Military and Security Committee held its first meeting on 16 and 17 July in Asmara.

In the meeting, the Joint Committee assessed the effective integration of the East Sudan Army and held extensive deliberations on the activities carried out thereafter. Furthermore, the Committee drew up a timetable regarding the implementation of future work programs in the military and security domains. It also reached agreement to hold continuous contacts between the two sides and resolve obstacles on time.



In conclusion, the Joint Committee, after adopting work programs for implementation in the future that would facilitate its mission, concluded an 8-point agreement.

The agreement was signed by Maj. General Mohammed Abdelkadir on the side of the Sudanese government, and veteran fighter Mussa Osman on the side of the East Sudan Front, as well as Brig. General Tekle Kiflai as mediator on the Eritrean side.

## **GoSS**

### **South Sudan speaker urges Diaspora to be SPLM disciples**

(*SudanTribune.com* - JUBA) The Speaker of Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly, James Wani Igga has urged all SPLM chapters in Diaspora to become the real disciples of SPLM within their respective countries of asylum.

Speaking at the closing ceremony of the six days conference on behalf of President Salva Kiir Marydit, Speaker Igga described the conference as being of a Marathon nature but ended successfully in organization and stargazing for SPLM as a national political party of Sudan. "This is a political battle that we the SPLM must win and we will win the coming election come 2008", he declared.

He explained that SPLM organization starts from village to Boma to County to regional sector and to National Convention, and the party is now the most popular in the whole Sudan. Nevertheless, Speaker Igga cautions participants by saying that, "When you are laying a trap, never do it while the bird is watching."

### **With help from the Government of Japan, Southern Sudan rebuilds its schools**

(*UNICEF via Reliefweb* – July 17, NEW YORK) Japan has contributed \$8.6 million to Southern Sudan, aiding the region's school-rebuilding efforts following two decades of civil war that devastated the education system there.

"With this \$8.6 million contribution from the Government of Japan, we have been able to focus on school construction," explained UNICEF Representative in Sudan Ted Chaiban. "We have been able to construct 20 schools in south Sudan and rehabilitate another 20 schools, and the work is still ongoing."

To see this progress firsthand, the Japanese Ambassador to Sudan, His Excellency Yuichi Ishii, recently visited remote villages where new schools have been built through a partnership between Southern Sudan, Japan and UNICEF.

### **Former GoSS finance minister released on \$10 million**

(*AlSahafa* - JUBA) Juba town was the scene of dramatic developments on Monday evening when nine vehicles with SPLA soldiers on board broke into a prison cell to release former GoSS Finance Minister Arthur Kuein who was arrested by authorities earlier during the day.

Arthur was taken back to his house and the soldiers went on to raid the houses of members of the legal counsel attending to the fraudulent purchase of GoSS vehicles. The lawyers were not in their houses at the time.

Talks between the government and the jail breakers resulted in agreement that the former minister be returned to the police cell and would be released on a \$10 million bail.

Sources say Kuein had offered the guarantee of a house and factory for the bail but did not produce proof of ownership and was nevertheless released.

Sources go on to say that this development is proof of GoSS commitment to fight graft.

### **Some 53 Kenyans said stranded in southern Sudan**

*(NTV via BBC Monitoring, July 17, KENYA)* At least 53 Kenyans are claiming to be stranded in Rumbek, southern Sudan. The former employees of a Kenyan registered company Tracks Construction say the company has refused to pay their dues after terminating their contracts and confiscating their travel permits.

Kenya's *NTV* television station reports that at least 100 landed jobs with Tracks Construction Company which had been sub-contracted to rehabilitate the Malo Military Barracks but now 53 of them say their employer has disowned them, refused to pay their dues for several months leaving them stranded at the barracks in Rumbek. Now the Sudanese People's Liberation Army, SPLA, wants them out of the barracks, reports *NTV*.

We have been harassed, threatened, and chased away from the camp by the SPLA, the former employees say in a letter to media houses. Tracks Construction Company has refused to honour our rights by not paying us for the last seven months, the letter goes on to say.

Kenya's ambassador to Southern Sudan Katana Angore in an interview with *NTV* says the employees have a genuine case.

## **Darfur**

### **African Union blames EU for non-payment of Darfur salaries**

*(Rwandan News Agency – July 17, KIGALI)* The African Union has said the European Union has not released the funding meant to cover the salaries of the mission in Darfur contrary to comments by EU officials claiming otherwise, *RNA* reports.

"The EU is yet to avail to the AU the seventh round of funds amounting to 14m euros and that is why the soldiers have not been paid for the last four months," Mr. Assane Ba, the AU spokesman told *RNA* from Ethiopia.

According to him, the EU was supposed to fund the African Union to the tune of 288m euros but by August 2006, only 202 m Euros had been disbursed. He said the AU was even "forced" to use money from its "General Fund" to cover the upkeep of the soldiers.

Rwanda has also complained that the AU has not paid the money the organization owes it. Rwanda says it has spent 12m dollars on its deployment so far, but has only received half of that back from the AU.

### **BU scientists find ancient underground Darfur lake**

(AP – July 18, BOSTON, USA) Boston University scientists have discovered the underground remnants of an ancient lake in Sudan's arid Darfur region, where decades of scarce water and other resources stoked low-intensity local conflicts that eventually led to a devastating civil war.

They hope to drill at least 1,000 wells in the dusty region and pump the precious water to ease tensions among communities living there -- and strengthen ongoing efforts to restore peace in Darfur.

"In real life, much of the unrest in Darfur and the misery is due to water shortages," said geologist Farouk El-Baz, director of the Boston University Center for Remote Sensing, who led the effort that discovered the massive lake in northern Darfur using radar data from space.

"There have been two long episodes of drought during the past 20 years, each lasting for about seven years," the Egyptian scientist said, adding that the drought aggravated tensions between Darfur's ethnic African tribesmen and nomadic Arabs.

El-Baz said water pumped from the underground reservoir -- measuring as large as the state of Massachusetts -- could help ease tensions in Darfur. The wells could enable Darfur's nomadic Arabs to maintain their lifestyle, sedentary communities to flourish and irrigation to kick-start agriculture activities that may feed trade and economic growth in the region, he said during a telephone interview.

### ***Humanitarian:***

#### **Flood alert in IDP camps in Darfur**

(*Alintibaha*) Authorities in Kass municipality have sent out a plea for assistance from the federal government to some more than 7 villages destroyed by heavy floods that hit Kass yesterday.

The IDP camp has also been hit leaving thousands of IDPs shelterless.

Reports from eastern Sudan also say floods have swept out the Atbara-Haya railway line while in North Kordofan 42 people have been reported dead and 10,000 families rendered homeless by the floods.

### ***Security:***

## **No peace in Darfur without UN sanctioning against movements**

(*AlEhram*) Egyptian *AlEhram* daily writes in its editorial article of 15<sup>th</sup> July 2007 that it seems the Darfur problem should remain moving in a vacuum as a result of the split phenomenon amongst the Darfur rebel factions..

The newspaper said it is frustrated that peace may not be achieved in the near future if the UN does not intervene to penalise movements that sabotage the peace process.