

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS**Media Monitoring Report, 06 May 2007

(By Public Information Office)

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Highlights

UN/ Agencies/ Partners

ASRSG hails peacekeepers' role in returns

(RRR News Bulletin, Radio Miraya FM on 6th May '07) The Acting SRSG says UN peacekeepers in Sudan, besides peacekeeping operations, are also working to ensure that refugees and IDPs return to their homes.

Addressing peacekeepers in Juba on the International Day of UN Peacekeepers, ASRSG Taye-Brook Zerihoun explained that peacekeepers also ensure that refugees and Displace Persons can return to their homes; that ex-combatants can be disarmed and reintegrated into society; that children are taken off the battlefield and sent to school; that people exercise their right to vote in democratic elections; that individual human rights are respected and not violated.

On the other hand and speaking to a Radio Miraya FM reporter, SPLA Spokesperson Mjr. Gen. Kuol Diem said that peacekeeping is the responsibility of all in which every person is expected to contribute to not only in the Sudan but in the whole world.

Speaking also on UN Peacekeepers' Day, the army spokesperson also appealed to IDPs to come back home and contribute to the progress.

The force commander of the UN mission in Sudan visits southern Sudan

(*Radio Miraya FM website*) The Force Commander of the United Nations Mission in Sudan, Lt General Jasbir Lidder, visited UN peacekeepers in the Greater Bahr al-Ghazal States and Rumbek town in Lakes State.

In Rumbek town, Lt. Gen. Lidder praised the Kenyan forces for their role in peacekeeping in Sudan. "We are here for a common cause to bring peace to Sudan, and you as a neighbouring country have not only a normal attachment but I would say much bigger attachment because Kenya has got a lot of stake in peace in southern Sudan," Lt General Lidder said.

Lt. General Lidder added, "Kenya of course has been a driving force in bringing about the Naivasha peace agreement, not only economics, but security and others, so am very sure you people understand your role here".

Pressures on UNSG to call off trip to Sudan

(*AIRai AlAam*) The UN Special Envoy for Darfur will be briefing the Security Council next Monday on his efforts to rejuvenate the political process for a solution to the Darfur crisis and on steps taken so far to resume negotiations between the Sudan government and the DPA non-signatory groups.

Meanwhile an African diplomat at the UN has disclosed that Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is facing fierce pressures not to heed to President Bashir's invitation that he visit the country on the grounds that such a visit will give Khartoum a political boost. The diplomat went on to say that Sudan has informed the Secretary-General that cancellation or deferment of the visit will only be seen as part of the pressure currently being imposed on Khartoum.

On the other hand, it has been learnt that the Security Council delegation that will be engaging on a tour of some African states has agreed to put Khartoum as one of their destinations. Sources say the Security Council delegation arrives Khartoum on a one-day visit on the 17th of this month and will spend one day.

UN closes repatriation of Sudanese refugees in DRC

(*Xinhua via SudanTribune.com*) The UN refugee agency said on Tuesday it has officially closed its program for the organized repatriation of Sudanese refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

In a statement, the UNHCR said the program closed over the weekend after the successful return of more than 8,000 Sudanese refugees from a string of refugee camps in the northwest of the DRC.

The DRC becomes the second country - after the Central African Republic (CAR) — to complete organized repatriation to the vast region. Voluntary repatriation from CAR was officially closed on April 11. [Follow the link to the full text [UN closes repatriation of Sudanese refugees in DRC](#)].

Darfur JEM says ready for talks with Sudan under AU-UN auspices

(SudanTribune.com) The rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) reiterated its readiness to start peace talks with the Sudanese government within the framework of the AU and the UN efforts. The group however urged the AU and the UN to play a leading role in the peace process as it is agreed in the high level meeting of November 16, 2006.

Ahmed Hussein Adam, the JEM spokesperson told the www.SudanTribune.com that a joint AU-UN delegation headed by Sam Ibok of the AU and Pekka Haavisto from the UN held a meeting on Sunday June 3 with the JEM chairman, Khalil Ibrahim, in an unidentified area in Darfur to discuss a road map for peace and explore ways to end the four-year conflict in western Sudan.

According to Adam, the rebel leader expressed to the joint delegation JEM's keenness that the expected negotiations realize a genuine and comprehensive peace in the country. Khalil Ibarhim said Abuja accords should not be the reference point but talks can go beyond the peace pact signed last year if needed; "because our ultimate goal is to achieve peace and not preserve failing deals".

He further informed the visiting delegation that talks at a first stage of the talks can be focused on the cardinal issues — like the creation of one administrative entity in Darfur, the wealth sharing — and when an outline agreement is reached, the parties should recommit themselves to a ceasefire. [*Follow the link to the full text [Darfur JEM says ready for talks with Sudan under AU-UN auspice](#)*].

Sudan to prevent UN from imposing sanctions - FM

(Xinhua via SudanTribune.com) Sudanese Foreign Minister Lam Akol said on Tuesday that the government would do its best to prevent the UN Security Council from imposing sanctions on Sudan.

Lam Akol told the parliament that his ministry would "exert efforts to thwart any attempt of pressing the UN Security Council for adopting a new resolution on the sanctions on Sudan."

He denounced a recent decision taken by the U.S. administration on new sanctions on Sudan, saying it was aimed at aborting Khartoum's efforts to resolve the conflict in the western Sudanese region of Darfur.

He said all the pretexts for the decision, including the alleged failure of the Sudanese government to carry out its commitments of resolving the Darfur crisis and disarming the militia, and continue the so-called genocide, were "totally baseless." [*Follow the link to the full text [Sudan to prevent UN from imposing sanctions - FM](#)*].

Minister of Justice says Washington manipulates Human Rights Council from backstage

(Sudan Vision) Justice Minister Ali Al-Mardi affirmed that the USA has declined to sign or join the Human Rights Council but has been running the council from backstage urging European countries to pressure Sudan.

The minister was speaking at a meeting with media figures in Khartoum.

African Union Special Envoy for Darfur welcomes positive developments in relations

(Sudan Vision) The African Union Special Envoy for Darfur has welcomed the meeting on 3rd June between a delegation of the Joint Mission Support Team to the African Union-UN Special Envoys for Darfur comprising Ambassador Sam Ibok (head of the DPAIT) and Mr. Pekka Haavisto (Senior Advisor to the UN Special Envoy) with JEM leader Dr. Khalil Ibrahim.

Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim expressed his satisfaction at the positive spirit which surrounded the meeting and in particular with regards to the working relationship between the African Union and the JEM.

The African Union Special Envoy reaffirmed his readiness and willingness to continue to closely work with the JEM and all Darfur stakeholders in the renewed political process led by the African Union and the UN Special Envoys to bring about a comprehensive and lasting peace in Darfur.

Symposium on the role of voluntary agencies in Darfur

(AlSudani) Speaking at a symposium yesterday on the role of voluntary organisations operating in Darfur, the head of the Directorate-General for Organisations at the Humanitarian Aid Commission said that political motives are behind the influx of these agencies in the Darfur region.

He pointed out that the biggest humanitarian problem in Africa is in the Red Sea State that witnesses high rates of malnourishment but foreign agencies refuse to operate there.

Ahmed Adam points out that the priorities of these states that fund those organisations is that is to implement their agenda through these organisations. He revealed that a directorate for monitoring and evaluation has been formed and a team has been sent to Darfur to evaluate operations of these foreign agencies.

He pointed out that the UN has earmarked an amount of 193 million dollars in funds to the foreign agencies as compared to the amount of 182,000 dollars only for the national voluntary agencies.

On the other hand, the Sudan government has formally rejected the idea of a relief corridor through Chad. Deputy Commissioner of the HAC, Dr. Bakheit Yagoub, said however that the government reiterates its commitments to facilitate customs regulations for easier passage of humanitarian assistance and to facilitate airdrops. He warned that any organisation that violates the regulations will be held accountable.

Representatives of voluntary agencies called, among other things, for the formation of a unified information centre. They also called said humanitarian assistance should pass through the airports and not directly to the states of Darfur.

The UN support package to the AMIS

Sudan says studying proposals for hybrid force

(*Allintibaha*) The Sudan government has concluded its consultations over the proposals of the UN Secretary-General and the African Union Commission on the deployment of a hybrid force in Darfur.

Sudan says it will table its response to the plan in the forthcoming meeting of the African Union Peace & Security Council in Addis Ababa next Monday. The source at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that the Sudan has come up with firm decisions on the issue. He declined to elaborate.

CPA

SSDDRC suspends disarmament exercises in Jonglei State

(*Radio Miraya FM website, 6th May*) The Southern Sudan Disarmament, Demobilization and Re-integration Commission (SSDDRC) have temporarily suspended the disarmament exercises in Jonglei State. The Commissioner for the SSDDRC, Brigadier-General Arop Mayak, said that the suspension is due to the current evaluation of the past exercises. General Mayak said the Commission does not have any mandate to forcefully collect guns from armed civilians. General Mayak added that the responsibility of the SPLA is to create buffer zones to protect disarmed communities from becoming vulnerable to raids by the armed tribes.

General Mayak added that the SPLA is responsible for creating buffer zones to protect disarmed communities from becoming vulnerable to raids by the armed tribes. Brigadier-General Arop Mayak said there must be greater collaboration between Sudan and the neighbouring States in combating cattle rustling and controlling the proliferation of small arms across the common borders to achieve sustainable and credible disarmament.

Commander of the de-mobilized SSDF says disarmament must continue

(*Khartoum Monitor*) Mjr. Gen. Gabriel Kong commander of the demobilised South Sudan Defence Forces has reaffirmed adherence to the peace agreement and its implementation.

He said implementation of the CPA is going on well and that his forces would implement the security arrangements cited in the agreement.

He called on armed groups to adhere to the directives of the President of the GoSS to disarm and contribute to development in the region. He also called on the parties to the CPA to continue in the DDR programme.

Committee on Abyei boundaries to table its report next Monday

(AlSudani; Rai AlShaab) The committee of the parties to the CPA tasked with surveying the administrative boundaries of the Abyei region will table its report before the Executive Committee co-chaired by VP President Taha and GoSS VP Riek Machar next Monday.

It is worth noting that the last meeting held between the two sides on the issue saw them reach an agreement on the formation of a committee to survey the administrative boundaries of the Abyei region and table their findings before the executive committee.

In a surprise development, residents of the Abyei area have expressed their rejection to the agreement reached between the parties to the CPA over temporary boundaries for the Abyei area, *Rai AlShaab* reports. Yai Makuej who heads the revenues department in Abyei says the 9 clans of the Dinka Ngok will only accept the boundaries as mapped by the ABC panel of experts.

He said that the area as cited by the report of the panel of experts is Dinka Ngok land but added that other ethnic groups are welcome among the Dinka Ngok as citizens of Sudan.

Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs pledges to provide US\$ 13 million for IDP transportation

(SMC) The Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs pledged to provide US\$ 13 million for the transportation and reintegration of returnee IDPs to their areas of origin in southern Sudan.

Deputy Commissioner for Humanitarian Affairs at southern Sudan William Shan said that Humanitarian Aid Commission in southern Sudan needs up to US\$27 millions for constructing schools, and providing food and water for the displaced. He explained that the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs has pledged to provide half of the sum for supporting returns and stability of the displaced.

GoNU

Parliament fails to issue a condemnation of the US unilateral sanctions on Sudan

(AlAyaam) Parliament failed yesterday to issue a statement condemning the US unilateral sanctions imposed on Sudan.

Representatives of the SPLM expressed reserve over the issue especially on fierce wording appearing on the draft resolution. Parliament will resort to voting on the issue in its session today.

Nafei rebuffs accusations that he is a stumbling block to unity in Sudan

(AlHayat) Presidential Advisor Nafei Ali Nafei has blasted critics who say he is a stumbling block to unity in the country.

The Presidential Advisor who is also Vice-President of the National Congress Party pointed out that such criticism only serves to obstruct unity. He said that such critics only seek to find a scapegoat to their failures and could only come from a non-democratic political party.

Assets of West Darfur State frozen by judicial decision

(AlKhartoum) The legislative assembly at the Government West Darfur State has requested the regional finance minister to explain reports that the state's assets in the Central Bank and other banks have been frozen following a lawsuit filed by a trader demanding compensation of over 1 billion 600,000 dinars.

And informed source reveals that the assets have been frozen by judicial order.

Representatives at the States' Council warn against establishment of new localities on racial and political lines

(AlKhartoum) The States' Council has warned that the measures taken by some regional government to establish municipalities without regard to resources is a violation of the basic objectives of the 2005 Constitution.

Representatives agreed that no state should establish new municipalities without meeting certain conditions. They also called against the formation of municipalities along tribal lines.

Southern Sudan

White Nile oil company loses drilling rights in Sudan oil field

(SudanTribune.com) The British oil firm White Nile Ltd. (WNL.LN), has been kicked out of the disputed Block Ba in southern Sudan following a deal by the two major partners in the government of the national unity, Sudan Tribune has learned.

The French oil company Total SA (TOT) has assumed control of the the entire Block B after an agreement reached last week by the National Congress Party (NCP) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM). Under the terms of the deal the president of the southern Sudan cancelled the contract signed with the WNL.

Sources confirmed to Sudan Tribune that Total has operating rights for the block with a 32.5 percent stake, as it was the case in the initial deal, Kuwaiti Kufpec Sudan Ltd 27.5 percent instead of 25% and state-owned Sudapet maintains its 10 percent, the southern Sudan government owned Nilepet 10%. The remaining 20% should be offered in a public bid.

However the US based Marathon Oil Corp. (MRO) which is Total's partner in Block B, announced its withdrawal from the consortium as it is bound by US laws that prevent firms from doing business in Sudan.

The disputed Block Ba, is a 67,000-kilometer tract within Block B, an area the size of Greece thought to contain large reserves of oil.[Follow the link to the full text [White Nile oil company loses drilling rights in Sudan oil field](#)].

Ugandan rebels have 3 weeks to assemble in South Sudan

(*New Vision via SudanTribune.com*) Ugandan peace talks chief mediator, Riek Machar, has officially communicated the route LRA fighters must use to assemble at Ri-Kwangba.

“Yes, I have communicated the routes to the LRA,” Machar said in a telephone interview today.

“There was some declaration three days ago on the routes to be used by LRA fighters. They need to act and start moving and the monitoring team will monitor them,” Machar explained.

In his declaration, Machar gave the LRA another three weeks within which they have to assemble at Ri-Kwangba, the single gathering point they had demanded and haggled for since October last year.

The former deadline, according to the addendum signed in April by both the LRA and the Government, expired on May 26.

Initially, the LRA fighters from Northern Uganda were supposed to assemble at Owiny-ki-Bul in South Sudan, while those west of the Nile were to gather at Ri-Kwangba.

In a telephone interview with the press in Gulu, LRA second in command, Vincent Otti, advised all his troops in Sudan and northern Uganda to be ready to move to Ri-kwangba as soon as possible, reports Chris Ocowun. [*Follow the link to the full text [Ugandan rebels have 3 weeks to assemble in South Sudan](#)*].

Darfur

Police teams formed for South Darfur camps

(*AlSudani*) South Darfur State has formed teams to police the IDP camps. The step comes in implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony of the community police in el-Sharif IDP Camp yesterday, Governor Atta-el-Mannan said that training of these police teams will be carried out in coordination with the UN and the African Union.

Witnessing the ceremony were the African Union Police Commissioner, representatives of the UN, Darfur Peace Agreement signatory groups and of humanitarian agencies.

TDRA forms commission of inquiry into the attempted assassination of the SLM-MM second-in-command

(*AlAyaam*) The head of the Transitional Darfur Regional Authority has ordered the formation of a committee to investigate on the attempted assassination of the deputy leader of the SLM.

El_Rayah Mahmoud Juma survived an assassination attempt in Gireidha, South Darfur.

The state governor and representatives of the AMIS will be represented at the committee on an advisory capacity.

AbdulWahid cites 4 preconditions to start talks

(*AlAyaam*) Foreign Minister Lam Akol says he expects talks with DPA non-signatory groups to resume at the end of this month. This, he says, may coincide with the deployment of the hybrid forces that awaits a resolution for funding from the Security Council.

Meanwhile SLM leader AbdulWahid Mohamed Nur said he told UN envoy Jan Eliasson and the world at large that he would not sit for talks with the Sudan government unless a UN force is deployed in Darfur, the IDPs return to their villages, individual compensations and unless perpetrators of war crimes in Darfur be brought to book.

He said that the SLM has fought for the people of Darfur and does not want to deceive them by sealing an agreement that only provides constitutional positions but not peace for the people.

He says he asked the UN and the international community to urge government to accept these conditions and then, he adds, would they sit down for talks.

Darfur organisations network rejects fundraising concerts

(*Rai AlShaab*) The Darfur Organisations Network has criticised some groups for organising concerts in the name of the IDPs of Darfur.

The group pointed out that funds raised at these concerts do not go to the people of Darfur and go instead to meet the hotel bills and advertisement costs for the artists.

Chad rebuffs French idea for Darfur aid corridor

(*Reuters via SudanTribune.com*) Chad rebuffed a proposal by France on Thursday to set up a humanitarian corridor through its territory to channel aid to victims of violence in Sudan's Darfur, saying it did not see the need for such a strategy.

"Chad does not need this corridor because there is a perfect and full cooperation between the Chadian authorities and the United Nations organizations," Prime Minister Nouradine Delwa Kassire Coumakoye told a news conference in N'Djamena.

The idea foresees that French and European Union troops would protect the flow of aid to hundreds of thousands of refugees and displaced civilians in Chad and Sudan's Darfur, where ethnic and political conflict has raged since 2003.

Chadian officials said they had received no formal proposal from France so far about the initiative, which French spokesmen said Kouchner was raising with France's G8 and EU partners and with China, a major military and economic backer of Sudan. [*Follow the link to the full text [Chad rebuffs French idea for Darfur aid corridor](#)*].

Amnesty using satellites to monitor Darfur; images on web

(AP via SudanTribune.com) Human-rights activists are using high-resolution satellites to keep watch over imperiled villages in the Darfur region of Sudan and posting the images online to enlist help preventing violence.

The new Amnesty International Web site, www.eyesondarfur.org, was scheduled to launch Wednesday in conjunction with a conference at the University of California, Berkeley.

"We're hoping that by shining a light that we will deter the abuse from ever happening," said Ariela Blatter, director of the Crisis Prevention and Response Center for Amnesty International USA.

Satellite images have been used before to document destruction in Darfur and elsewhere. But the latest project offers clearer, more up-to-date images, allowing experts to better track developments, Blatter said.

The quality of the pictures is "very, very good," said Lars Bromley of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, an international nonprofit group that publishes the journal *Science* and provided technical assistance for the project. "We can see cows. We can see vehicles. We can certainly see houses and fences and other structures." [*Follow the link to the full text [Amnesty using satellites to monitor Darfur; images on web](#)*].

Reactions to US unilateral sanctions on Sudan

Sudan faces tough action if no Darfur progress

(Reuters via SudanTribune.com) Britain will push for tougher U.N. sanctions against Sudan if its government does not support international efforts to end the conflict in Darfur, Foreign Secretary Margaret Beckett said on Tuesday.

All sides in the Darfur conflict faced a choice of committing to the political process outlined by the African Union and United Nations or "face the consequences," Beckett told Britain's parliament during a debate on Darfur.

Sudan's cooperation would lead to an end of sanctions and more money for reconstruction and development, she said.

But if Sudan failed to honor agreements, Britain and its partners would seek to introduce a further sanctions resolution at the U.N. Security Council, she said.

"And what goes for the government of Sudan goes for the rebel groups: If they do not cooperate, if they are not willing to enter into a genuine ceasefire, then in our view they too should, and will, be subjected to sanctions," she said.

The United States and Britain have been working on an expanded U.N. sanctions resolution for weeks, but Russia and South Africa have questioned the timing and China has opposed further penalties. [*Follow the link to the full text [Sudan faces tough action if no Darfur progress - UK's Beckett](#)*].

US House urges China to press Sudan over Darfur

(*Reuters via SudanTribune.com*) The U.S. House of Representatives urged China on Tuesday to use its influence and economic leverage to stop what President George W. Bush has called the genocide in Sudan's Darfur region.

The lawmakers charged that China, which buys much of Sudan's oil, has stood in the way of halting bloodshed in the western Sudanese region, but stopped short of joining calls to boycott the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing made by some politicians, activists and celebrities. [*Follow the link to the full text [US House urges China to press Sudan over Darfur](#)*].

Sanction Sudan like apartheid South Africa, Tutu says

(*Reuters via SudanTribune.com*) The international community should press Sudan to end the conflict in Darfur with the same kinds of sanctions used to isolate apartheid South Africa, Nobel Peace Prize laureate Desmond Tutu said on Tuesday.

"I support wholeheartedly the imposition, in the face of intransigence, of specific targeted sanctions on Khartoum," Tutu, former Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town, told EU lawmakers during a hearing on Darfur.

"Especially when they are targeted, sanctions are effective, they worked for us," Tutu, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984 for his opposition to apartheid, told reporters after the hearing. [*Follow the link to the full text [Sanction Sudan like apartheid South Africa, Tutu says](#)*].