



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN

UNMIS

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(By Public Information Office)

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Highlights

UN/ Agencies/ Partners

Coverage on the UNMIS Briefing to the Press

(SUNA via BBC Monitoring) The UN secretary-general representative to Sudan, Taye-Brook Zerihoun, has reached the HQ of Western Darfur State, el-Geneina. He was accompanied by a high-ranking UN and AU delegation.

The aim of their visit was to explain the Addis Ababa agreement between the UN, the AU and the Sudan government.

Briefing the delegation on the security situation in the region, the Deputy Governor of West Darfur State said the security situation was improving except in some areas in the north of the state and in the Jabal Mara where non-signatory rebels are based. He added that the IDPs were prepared to farm this rainy season.

The Deputy Governor welcomed the agreement on a hybrid operation in Darfur and said the state will closely work with the AU and the UN to save Darfur.

For his part, The UN secretary-general representative said the visit was to discuss the next steps following the Addis Ababa Agreement especially by creating coordination between the African Union and UN and to bring them under one leadership. He said Gen. Henry who is from the AU and who was responsible for aid in Addis Ababa will be the UN and AU special representative to Sudan [*reproduced as is. H. J.*].

He said the troops will be reinforced in the next few months.

He said they will also visit Nyala [southern Darfur] and Al-Fashir [northern Darfur], adding that there were efforts being made by the UN to positively work in Darfur following Sudan's acceptance of the hybrid force.

The UNMIS Regular Press Briefing of 20th June '07 did not enjoy much coverage in the press today. The little coverage found [Rai AlShaab, etc.] has been factual with extensive quotes from the transcript. None of the papers printing in the English language has made mention of the briefing.

Akhbar Alyaum daily reproduces a full length of the Arabic version of the opening remarks of the briefing.

Parts of the briefing were also highlighted in the UN Daily News Digest of 20 June '07.

All transcripts of UNMIS Briefings to the Press could be accessed through the website: www.unmis.org.

UN radio in Juba goes live online

BBC Monitoring [on 20 June '07] observes that Juba-based radio station Miraya (Mirror) FM is now available on a live stream from the broadcaster's new website at www.mirayafm.org.

The station broadcasts round the clock from studios in Juba and Khartoum, broadcasting on 101.0 MHz FM for Juba, with coverage extended by relay transmitters in Malakal, Rumbek and Wau. Programming is in Arabic, English and local languages.

Miraya FM was launched on 30 June 2006, and is operated in partnership between the United Nations Mission in Sudan (www.unmis.org) and Swiss journalists' organization Hironnelle Foundation (www.hironnelle.org).

Minister of Information in Wau urges Miraya FM to allow space for state Radio

The Minister of Information in Western Bahr el Ghazal State, Baptist Sebit Francis has urged Miraya FM administration to halt broadcasting in Wau when the State Radio is broadcasting. Miraya FM Emmanuel Levai has filed the story... Speaking to Miraya FM in Wau, Minister Sebit recommended the good work that Miraya FM is doing in South Sudan but decried overshadowing of the State radio in by saying...

"If we say there is a curfew, and the citizens have not heard it in our radio, because they are listening to Miraya, as such the citizen might be exposed to a very big problem because during the time the citizen was suppose to listen to Wau Radio, but instead he/she is listening to Miraya," Sebit told Miraya FM. The minister said that Miraya has the privilege to attract people. However he said, "but I am urging the administration of Radio Miraya to give us two hours when ever Wau Radio is broadcasting, or let Miraya not broadcast until 0830, it will be better". Minister Sebit further said, outstanding presentation from Miraya FM has completely overshadowed local presenters and the State's radio. In another development, the Minister said Wau is open to any communication company interested to invest in the State adding that MTN Company will start its services in Wau soon.

Meanwhile, the chief of Miraya FM, Leon Willems, said that Miraya FM is ready to broadcast any important information that the minister of information has to disseminate, "and Miraya FM is very willing to corporate with the minister of information to disseminate important information about curfews," said Willems in an interview with Miraya FM. He added, "Miraya FM is there to serve the people of Sudan at large and also in Western Bahr el-Ghazal, so we can not seize our transmissions".

Willems said that Miraya FM has supported the State radio in Wau with important equipment so as to facilitate their work, adding, "we are also conducting training efforts to help them". "The State radio has an important function; it has to create its own audiences," Willems emphasised. The chief of Miraya FM said that the State radio has an important function to fulfil, particularly to broadcast in local languages for which the UN does not have the complete resources.

UNHCR gearing up to meet Southern Sudan government census demands

(*Gurtong.com, Juba*) The head of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) António Guterres said on Tuesday that his agency is hastening get as many Southern Sudanese back home as possible in time for national census currently planned for early 2008 and elections later the same year.

“We’re gearing up our capacity to bring more and more people into Southern Sudan ... if you look at the figures in the first four months of this year we have brought more people than all of last year, this shows acceleration is taking place,” said Guterres in a press meet in Juba airport on Tuesday.

In order to ensure as many people are back as possible, UNHCR will continue to provide transport through the rainy season said Guterres.

Analysts have however said that returnees potentially face more difficulties during this time, sometimes arriving too late to cultivate in time and struggling to find shelter.

In a separate story, a representative of the Commissioner of Southern Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (SSRRC), Mr. Stans Yatta, said that repatriation of southern Sudanese returnees to their respective states is vital and demanding because returnees and refugees alike are needed to participate in rebuilding their war torn southern Sudan.

He made these remarks during an annual occasion organized by UNHCR to commemorate World Refugee Day at Juba Way station center, about eight kilometer from Juba capital of southern Sudan. [*Follow the links to the full texts [UNHCR gearing up to meet Southern Sudan government census demands](#); [UNHCR opens reception center for returnees in South Sudan’s Juba](#)].*

UN rights body extends Darfur mission by six months

(*AFP via SudanTribune.com*) The United Nations Human Rights Council on Wednesday decided to extend the work of its experts present in the strife-torn Sudanese western region of Darfur for a further six months.

The decision was adopted by consensus and under its terms the experts will submit an update to the council in September, and a final report to the following session.

In a report to the council last week, the seven experts highlighted "the seriousness of ongoing violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in Darfur as well as the lack of accountability of perpetrators of such crimes."

They urged the council to adopt more than 30 detailed "recommendations" or targets that Sudan should meet — including clear orders to stop attacks on civilians, disarming militia and full cooperation with the International Criminal Court — in the short term (three months) and the mid term. [*Follow the link to the full text [UN rights body extends Darfur mission by six months](#)].*

WHO, Ibsar International Foundation organize 5-day eye treatment in Wau

(*Miraya website*) The World Health Organization in partnership with Ibsar International Foundation has set up a five-day free eye camp in Wau town to treat eye patients in and around the town. A team of fourteen Professional eye surgeons will be working day and night at Wau Hospital until Sunday to consult patients.

The head of the delegation Dr. Hala Ismail who is also the WHO representative said the team has started consulting patient today adding that the practitioners have the capacity of treating up to 4,000 patients a day. The Saudi based Ibsar Foundation is currently running eye clinics and hospitals in parts of Asia and Africa. The two agencies are expected to set up an eye clinic in the town soon.

The UN Support Package to the AMIS and related issues

Parliament endorses foreign ministry report on the hybrid operations for Darfur

(*AlRai AlAam; AlAyaam; AlSudani*) Parliament endorsed yesterday the foreign ministry's report over the agreement on the hybrid operation in Darfur.

Deputy Speaker Mohamed el-Hassan el-Amin pointed out that the tripartite agreement also provided for a regular quarterly evaluation of all aspects of the hybrid operation, i.e. the political, security and humanitarian tracks.

The session also saw foreign minister Lam Akol assure the House that Sudan's consent to the hybrid operation does not contradict earlier vows by the President of the Republic not to allow international forces into the country. The minister pointed out that the President had vowed not to allow UN troops into Darfur and this, he said, had nothing to do with the hybrid operation.

The foreign minister further pointed out that the agreement on a hybrid operation was a major victory for the Sudan in that it put an end to prospects for confrontation with some quarters of the international community, has averted possibilities for the imposition of Security Council or UN sanctions on Sudan and has overtaken UNSCR 1706 that tried to bring in the UN to replace the AMIS in Darfur.

The minister also asked MPs not to mix up between the issue of command and control of the hybrid operations. He pointed out that the operations will be under African Union command and control but said the UN system of command and control will be employed. This, he adds, is because such a hybrid operation is unprecedented and because the African Union command structures are not as developed as the UN system when it comes to peacekeeping operations.

He further assured the House that the UN will contribute not more than 3,000 troops for the hybrid operation.

The Sudanese foreign minister expected the UN Security Council to issue a resolution within one month for the funding of the hybrid operation, which would begin next year and said Sudan and the international community were working closely together to implement the hybrid operation agreement.

He said the task of the hybrid operation, according to the agreement, was to help implement the Darfur Peace Agreement which the Sudanese government signed in 2006, especially with regard to the security arrangements.

Yesterday's evening session of the National Assembly did endorse the report but not before a heated debate on the agreement over the hybrid operation.

Expert on strategy says Sudan will foot the bill for the hybrid forces in Darfur

(*AlHayat*) Mjr. Gen. (retired) Mohamed AlAbas AlAmin, an expert on strategy and lecturer on Strategic Studies at the Zaiem al-Azhari University in Khartoum warns that Sudan may have to foot the bill for the hybrid operation in Darfur next year.

The expert who was speaking at a forum organised by the Sudan Centre for Strategic Studies on the hybrid operation described the hybrid operations as an infringement on Sudan's sovereignty but said it is a reality from which the Sudan has to emerge with the least casualties.

Muttrif Sidiq, who led the government delegation to the Addis Ababa talks defended the agreement for the hybrid operation and pointed out that it was a compromise position between accepting UNSCR 1706 and safeguarding national sovereignty.

CPA

Returnees to Western Equatoria find reverse of their expectations

(*Gurtong.com, Yambio*) Returned refugees to Western Equatoria State (WES) are facing a wide variety of obstacles to easy reintegration including a lack of sufficient plots to settle in, high prices in the market, as well as inadequate medical and other services Gurtong discovered through a series of interviews.

Operations for United Nations High Commission (UNHCR) assisted returns closed for the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in June and the Central African Republic (CAR) in April of this year, after a total of 15,536 people were assisted to return. Many of these returnees – as well as former refugees and internally displaced people who travelled without assistance – came back home to Western Equatoria.

William Kumbo 53, a returnee from DRC, in an interview confessed that, “what we have found here is beyond imagination. Look, we have just arrived and have nowhere to lay our heads and we are without money or employment”. [*Follow the link to the full text [Returnees to Western Equatoria find reverse of their expectations](#)*].

GoNU

Sudanese envoy accuses ex-rebels of inciting embassy staff in Washington

(*AlRai AlAam via BBC Monitoring, 20 June*) Relationship between the Sudanese embassy in the US and the office of the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement [SPLM] in Washington has strained.

The Sudanese ambassador to the US, John Ukec who is a member of the SPLM has accused staff of the movement's office of harassing the workers in the embassy.

John Ukec bitterly criticized members of the [SPLM] office, saying they are misusing powers of the government of national unity by using Sudanese passports and at the same time mounting pressure on embassy workers and inciting them.

In a statement to Al-Ra'y al-Amm newspaper, he said he was intending to file an official complaint in that regard to the government through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs upon his arrival to Khartoum in the near future.

He said members of the [SPLM] office were propagating rumours that the ambassador was from the ruling National Congress party [NC].

He said he represents Sudan's foreign affairs and adopts its positions agreed upon by the cabinet which represents the government in which the SPLA leaders are part of.

He said all should work to serve Sudan's interest and achieve its unity.

Sudan studying Garang assassination claims

(*The Monitor, Nairobi*) The Sudanese Embassy in Nairobi yesterday described as “too sensitive” claims by the widow of former Sudanese Vice-President John Garang de Mabior that he was assassinated.

Ambassador Majok Guandong said he was not ready to comment on the issue raised by Rebecca Garang, over the weekend, which he described as “personal.”

He, however, said they were still studying the claims before making an official statement later this week.

Speaking through his press attaché Somaya Abdel Sadig, Mr Guandong said the widow did not accuse anyone or group of people of master-minding the alleged assassination plot. [*Follow the link to the full text [Sudan studying Garang assassination claims](#)*].

Other Articles:

- Chinese investments in Sudan oil industry tops \$6 billion (*AlSahafa*)
- Finance ministry concedes drop in revenues in the first quarter of 2007 (*AlSahafa*)
- 74.1% of candidates pass Sudan School Certificate (*AlSahafa*)

Southern Sudan

South Sudan Health Care Assembly discuss Household Health survey

(<http://miraya> website) The South Sudan Decentralized Health Care Assembly has discussed education, child health, HIV and Environmental Protection in the Sudan Household health survey.

The Head of the Directorate of Research and Health System Development in the Ministry of Health in the government of South Sudan, Dr Olivia Lomoro, addressed key issues during the meeting. The meeting, which opened on Monday, also discussed resource allocation, coordination and communication in the Ministry of Health.

Darfur

INTERVIEW: Sudanese communist leader urges govt to admit Darfur crimes

(*SudanTribune.com*) The leader of the Sudanese Communist Party (SCP) has called on the Sudanese government to acknowledge crimes committed in Darfur and to assume its responsibility.

In an interview with the Sudan Tribune, Mohamed Ibrahim Nugud, the Secretary General of the SCP said that Khartoum has to "admit to all the crimes they have committed in Darfur, in any venue of their choosing, be it in the International Criminal Court or inside Sudan – they have to admit what they have done"

Nugud also, accused the Sudanese government of backing the Jajaweed militia and urged their disarmament "because [the authorities] have funded and trained them and made the whole situation so complex and tragic."

The communist leader praised the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed on January 9, 2005 between the Sudanese government and the former rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement

"The CPA as an end result is a positive agreement; it stopped the war, opened the road to peace, and gave southern Sudan the right for self-determination after a referendum."

However, he regretted that the CPA "addressed many issues in abstract terms and did not take into account the experience of the Sudanese political movements." [*Follow the link to the full text [INTERVIEW: Sudanese communist leader urges govt to admit Darfur crimes](#)*].

Chadian delegation in Libya may meet rebels

(*AFP via SudanTribune.com*) A Chadian government delegation left Wednesday for Tripoli where it is expected to hold talks with rebel leaders hostile to President Idriss Deby, a government source said.

Libyan leader Moamer Kadhafi has invited both sides to talks in Tripoli, where rebel leaders met him on Tuesday.

Infrastructure Minister Adoum Younousmi, the Chadian government number two, is leading the delegation, the source said.

"We are going to try to have a discussion with our brothers (the rebels) in order to find a definitive solution to end a war which has done so much damage to our country," a delegation member told AFP on condition of anonymity.

The heads of the main armed opposition groups were received on Tuesday by Kadhafi, who urged them "of the necessity to find a political resolution to the conflict," a spokesman for the rebels, Ali Izzo, told AFP by telephone.

Other Developments

Sudanese authorities free detained journalists

(Akhir Lahza via BBC Monitoring) Security authorities yesterday evening released four journalists who were arrested in aftermath of the incidents which took place at Kajbar area in the northern state [clashes between police and locals who were protesting against dam construction].

The journalists have been released following a memorandum submitted to security and justice concerned bodies by the Sudanese Journalists Association in addition to contacts made by the committee delegated by the association to handle the issue of the detained journalists.

The security authorities have released reporters Abu-Ubaydah Abdallah from Ra'y al-Sha'b newspaper, Abu-Al-Qasim Farahna from Alwan newspaper, Qadhafi Abd al-Mutalib from Al-Ayyam newspaper and Al-Fatih Awad from Al-Sudani newspaper.

Meanwhile the deputy secretary general of the journalists association Afaf Bukhari said that the security authorities yesterday allowed a delegation of four people from the association to visit the journalists at Khobar prison [in Khartoum] [Passage omitted].

Ex-rebel forces to enter eastern Sudan 20 June

(Sudan Radio via BBC Monitoring) Kassala State is entering a new post-war stage. Arrangements were made this morning to welcome the Eastern Front forces that will arrive in the state as part of the implementation of security arrangements.

Chairman of the security arrangements Gen Muhammad Abd-al-Qadir Nasr-al-Din talks about the event.

[Nasr-al-Din] A stately ceremony will be held and attended by political and executive authorities from Kassala State, as well as high-ranking personalities and a large crowd of civilians, God willing. We will all receive these forces in Kassala.

Chairman of the Joint Integrated Committee Maj-Gen Abd-al Mun'im Sa'ad Ibrahim talks about the task of the committee.

[Al-Mun'im] [The first task of the committee] is to set up camps to accommodate the Eastern Front forces, which are returning to the homeland. They will be provided with all the necessary services in the camps. The second task is to classify them by ranks so that they can be included in the armed forces, the police, the security or the civil service. [Passages omitted].