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UN/ Agencies

[Aid workers must have full access to victims of violence in West Darfur – UN](#)

3 March 2008 – United Nations officials in Sudan are calling on all parties to the recent surge in violence in West Darfur to grant aid workers unhindered access to victims caught up in the deadly clashes in the already war-racked region.

“We must have guarantees from all sides of unimpeded access to affected areas now,” UN Humanitarian Coordinator Ameerah Haq told a press conference in Khartoum today. Her call was echoed by local representatives of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

Ms. Haq, who is also the Secretary-General’s Special Representative for Sudan, stressed it was particularly important that aid workers have access to the Jebel Moun area of West Darfur – which Sudanese national security forces have granted but the rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) has denied.

Up to 58,000 people in West Darfur remain affected by the recent spike in fighting, according to the latest UN estimates, with whole communities forced to flee after attacks on a string of villages north of the state capital, El Geneina. Dozens of civilians have died and many more were injured.

Two inter-agency assessment teams visited the affected area, finding that in the towns of Sirba and Sileah many homes were burned and health clinics, schools, water systems and aid agency compounds had been either looted or destroyed.

“The impact on communities is devastating,” Ms. Haq said. “The United Nations in Sudan seeks strong assurances that civilians and their communities will be protected from such indiscriminate attacks. These civilians have a right to protection.”

The priorities for aid agencies include food, medical supplies, plastic sheeting and blankets, she added, noting that it was also vital to restore and treat water supplies.

UN agencies are especially concerned about the impact of the fighting on women and children, with many children becoming separated from their families or otherwise remaining unaccounted for.

Ted Chaiban, a representative of UNICEF, told reporters that it was not yet clear how many children had been separated because many had fled from their schools during the attacks. None of the parties to the conflict had taken steps to prevent the use of child soldiers, he added.

Across Darfur’s three states, more than 200,000 people have been killed and at least 2.2 million others injured since 2003 because of fighting between rebels and Government forces backed by allied militia known as the Janjaweed.

Since the start of this year the hybrid UN-African Union peacekeeping mission known as UNAMID has been deployed in Darfur in a bid to quell the suffering.

JEM rebels blocking access to affected Darfuris - UN

March 3, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — The United Nations in Sudan accused a rebel group on Monday of blocking access to a mountainous area in Darfur where 20,000 people are trapped after fighting between government and rebels.

Ameerah Haq, the U.N. humanitarian chief for Sudan, said the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) denied an assessment mission to the Jabel Moun area access.

"We as a humanitarian community want unimpeded access," she told a news conference, calling on JEM "to give us that access."

Al-Tahir al-Feki, a JEM official, said the group has not received any U.N. request to visit the area in western Darfur, where he said civilians were staying without shelter after government attacks.

"If the U.N. submits a request, they will be most welcomed," he told Reuters by telephone.

Asked in an interview with the BBC whether people in the area were now trapped, Haq said: "Yes in a sense they are."

She said there was concern about their welfare.

"We have no access to them and we are worried."

She said the U.N. had reports of government troop movements in the area. "We don't know what the security conditions are."

Darfur has been beset by strife since early 2003 when mostly non-Arab rebels took up arms against the government, accusing Khartoum of neglect. Rebel splits and the government's mobilisation of mostly Arab tribal militia has created a chaotic mix of armed groups and a breakdown of law and order.

International experts estimate that 200,000 have died and more than 2 million displaced since the violence flared. Khartoum says only 9,000 people have lost their lives.

FEBRUARY ATTACKS

The Sudanese army said it had launched a "cleansing" operation in February to open the way for humanitarian access and to rid the area of Darfur and Chadian insurgents.

Witnesses said government-allied militia and bombing raids had killed 114 people in a February 8 offensive on towns and villages in the West Darfur state. The army denies any link to the militia, known as the Janjaweed, and says many of those killed were rebels in civilian clothes.

The U.N. said the attacks forced 13,000 people to flee to Jabel Moun, joining a resident population of 7,000.

Haq, who visited western Darfur twice in the last two weeks, told reporters up to 58,000 civilians in the state "remain affected" after the February offensive.

"We have a population attacked by soldiers from all sides, from all parties," she said.

Feki said JEM troops still controlled "100 percent" of Jabel Moun, but a Sudanese army spokesman said government forces "control Jabel Moun from the east, west and all directions."

In addition to the burning of homes, the U.N. team said they had seen that schools, clinics, water systems and aid agencies' compounds had either been looted or destroyed.

Sudan has agreed to allow the deployment of 26,000-strong U.N. and African Union peacekeeping force, known as UNAMID, but only 9,000 troops have deployed so far.

(Reuters)

GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

[Senegal mediates between Chad and Sudan](#)

(ST) March 3, 2008 (DAKAR) — Senegal said would mediate between Sudan and Chad to defuse tension and to amend relations between the two countries during the Islamic conference next week.

Senegal will host the 11th Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Summit in Dakar on March 8-14. Sudanese Omer al-Bashir and Chadian Idriss Déby are among the 57 Islamic delegations to attend the meeting.

Senegalese president Abdoulaye Wade said in statements published on Sunday by the local press that he managed to organize a meeting between presidents al-Bashir and Déby on March 12 on the eve of the Islamic summit in order to settle differences between the two African countries.

Wade further indicated that his Gabonese counterpart, Omar Bongo, and the former Chairman of the African Union Commission, Alpha Oumar Konare would take part in the meeting.

He also said that the UN secretary General, Ban Ki-Moon could take part in the meeting.

"The UN secretary-general reviewing his agenda to be able to take part in this 'mini-summit', said President Abdoulaye Wade adding, "We hope that this summit will bring definitive peace in that part of Africa which, unfortunately, is very deeply affected for years".

"Miracles, one must believe. God can bring peace to this region at the Dakar summit" he said.

Chad and Sudan, both of whose heads of state are expected to be in Senegal for a summit of the world's Muslim leaders, repeatedly trade accusations one is hosting the other's rebels. Analysts say each country supports rebels hostile to the other.

Wade says that Deby asked him to intervene.

Senegalese president returned over the weekend from a trip to Libya and Egypt, where he said he brought up the Chad-Sudan crisis with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Libyan leader Muammar Gadhafi, both of whom said they encouraged him to hold the planned mediation session.

Sudan and Chad had already signed two peace agreements one mediated by Libya Tripoli Agreement in February 2006 and the other brokered by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in May 2007.

Sudan says Chad did not implement Tripoli agreement signed in February 2006 and asks Chad to provide troops for the agreed joint patrols to monitor

War of words after scores killed in Abyei

(ST) March 3, 2008 (NAIROBI) — Fresh clashes between Sudan People's Liberation Movement units and fighters from the Misseriya community in the oil-rich Abyei region have left scores dead and the two sides trading blame over who was responsible for the latest skirmishes.

At least 70 people were killed in the violence, which occurred on 1 March in south Al-Mayram, aid workers in the Southern capital of Juba said.

The UN's Radio Miraya quoted the head of the Abyei Liberation Front, Mohammed Omer Al-Ansari, as saying the clashes were in retaliation for recent SPLM attacks. However, the SPLM Secretary in Abyei, Chol Chan, instead accused the Sudanese government in Khartoum of arming the Misseriya.

A senior SPLM leader and minister for presidential affairs in the government of Southern Sudan, Luka Biong, said a group he named as the Popular Defense Forces, supported by the Sudan Armed Forces, carried out the attacks. He called for investigations into the clashes.

The weekend battles were only the latest in a series of incidents that have raised tensions in Abyei. In December 2007 and January 2008, violent clashes between the SPLA and the Misseriya resulted in the deaths of at least 75 people.

In a report to the UN Security Council on 19 February, Ashraf Jehangir Qazi, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sudan, warned that Abyei, which lies between North and South Sudan, was a possible trouble spot from which conflict could resume.

Abyei has experienced an administrative and political vacuum after disagreements over its status since a comprehensive agreement was signed to end the civil war three years ago.

The people of Abyei, Qazi said, had been denied the dividends of peace since the signing of the agreement and had been deprived of an administrative structure and basic services related to the provision of security, education, health and employment.

Analysts have warned that no area in Sudan is perhaps more volatile and carries more implications for the country's future than Abyei. According to the International Crisis Group, the risk of a return to war is rising because of the Abyei stalemate.

SPLM leaders say the North has ignored its proposals over Abyei because of oil revenues from the region - estimated at US\$529 million in 2007. The government in Khartoum denies the claims.

[Minister of Justice affirms full readiness of Sudan for cooperation with the Human Rights Council](#)

Geneva, March 3 (SUNA) - Minister of Justice Abdul-Basit Sabdarat affirmed in his address before the seventh session of the Human Rights Council Monday full readiness of Sudan for cooperation with the Human Rights Council and all international organizations concerned with human rights. The minister said Sudan celebrates the 60th anniversary of the Universal Human Rights Declaration through disseminating awareness on the human rights principles enshrined in the declaration. He underscored the positive cooperation of Sudan with the international institutions concerned with human rights, the previous committee of experts and the special rapporteur on human rights in Sudan Dr. Sima Samar. The minister referred to the tireless efforts exerted by the government of Sudan to unite the negotiating stance of Darfur movements, affirming cooperation of Sudan with the hybrid operation to carry out its tasks as stipulated by Security Council Resolution No. 1769. Sabdarat said in affirmation of the commitment of the government of Sudan to review the laws to cope with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement the political forces in Sudan are engaged in wide consultations to adopt the Elections Act, 2008. The minister affirmed that Sudan is still greatly concerned with the issue of abduction of children carried out by the French Zoe's Ark organization, describing the act as a criminal act that contravenes the international charters on children rights. He expressed regret of Sudan over insults to religions in some countries under the pretext of freedom of expression and strongly condemned the Israeli aggression on the innocent civilians, children and women, calling on the Human Rights Council to adopt immediate measures to protect the innocent civilians in the Palestinian territories.

[French peacekeeper goes missing in Sudan](#)

(ST) March 3, 2008 (PARIS) — A French soldier from the European peacekeeping force in Chad was reported missing Monday after his vehicle accidentally crossed the border into Sudan.

The 3,700-strong EUFOR has a UN mandate to provide security for more than 400,000 Darfuris refugees or Chadian IDPs in eastern Chad. France will provide more than half of the force.

"A single soft-skinned Land rover-type vehicle strayed unintentionally three kilometers (two miles) into Sudan" in the Tissi area, southwest of the European force's (EUFOR) area of operations, it said in a statement.

"An attempted recovery of the vehicle was met with hostile fire and they left the area." The incident occurred nearly two miles across the Sudanese border in the Tissi area, where Chad, Sudan and Central African Republic meet.

"At this time, it can be stated that one EUFOR personnel is currently missing but no further information can immediately be released for operational reasons."

The army headquarters in Paris said the missing soldier was French, adding that another French soldier found in the vehicle was recovered.

The second soldier, lightly wounded, was evacuated by helicopter to Birao field hospital in the Central African Republic.

The EUFOR mission was deployed last month after a brief delay caused by a rebel attack on the Chad capital Ndjamena.

At least 200,000 people have died from the combined effects of war, famine and diseases in Darfur since ethnic minority rebels took up arms against Sudan's Arab-dominated regime in February 2003, resulting in a crackdown by government troops and Janjaweed militias.

EUFOR is commanded from France by Irish Major General Pat Nash and in Chad itself by French Brigadier General Jean-Philippe Ganascia, who has expressed hope of getting the force to operational capacity by the end of March.

[Sima Samar meets with relatives of victims of Port Sudan incidents](#)

(Al Wahdah) The Rapporteur of Human Rights, Sima Samar, held a lengthy meeting in Port Sudan with families of victims of the notorious Port Sudan incidents in which 22 persons killed besides those affected in the area of Hoshiery where Bashaer oil exports facilities were built on their lands.

The representative of the families of the victims, Mr. Ali Muneeb, said in press statement that Samar listened attentively to their statements about the manner in which the massacre was committed. He said Samar promised to take necessary action to safeguard the rights of the families of the victims.

He said the Rapporteur also received petitions from the affected persons.

[State Minister for Finance Dr. Luwal Deng: UN does not provide funds, 90% of funds go for salaries and other privileges](#)

Eelaf newspaper interviewed the State Minister at the Ministry of Finance & National Economy, Dr. Luwal Deng, on a range of economic issues.

Asked for comment on the announcement by the UN and its Partners of their humanitarian and relief programme for 2008 for which about \$2.29 billions will be allocated, he said, "the UN does not have funds, it prepares plans and programmes and then look for funding. It directs calls for its programmes in Darfur and Sudan. However, 90% of the funds raised by this organization go for salaries and privileges for its staff. Only little amount of the raised funds spent on the relief programmes it announces. Perhaps you have followed the recent irregularities occurred in UN, giving contracts to some American company for projects in Darfur. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs alerted the Ministry of International Cooperation to take action to block this move as it lacked full transparency. We have also notified UN about this mistake, demanding equal

competition for contracts between national and international companies. We asked how such company is allowed to enter Sudan, bearing in mind that America itself bans its companies' investment in Sudan. It is a strong argument”

Asked whether the Ministry of Finance takes part in agreements signed between UN and similar organizations he said, “This is the job of the Ministry of International Cooperation but we have requested that the Ministry of Finance be involved in technical discussions”.

GoSS

[Undersecretary of Ministry of Finance Dr. Al-Tayeb: GoSS oil revenue share for Jan 2008 amounts to \\$231.39 million](#)

(Sudan Vision) Government of South Sudan oil revenue share for January 2008 amounted to \$ 231.39 million out of which \$194 million were in terms of oil export proceeds while the remaining balance of \$ 37.25 represented GoSS share in domestically consumed oil.

Oil producing States received \$ 10.88 out of their total share of \$ 11.88 where \$3.49, \$4.6 and \$ 2.79 have been remitted in favor of Unity, Upper Nile and South Kordofan States respectively.

Undersecretary to the Ministry of Finance, Dr. Altaib Mustafa, disclosed that Federal Government oil revenue share for the same month amounted to \$ 350.38 million. He further remarked that total transfers in favor of GoSS for the same period hit \$ 223.07 million while amounts deposited in the Concentration Account for the month totaled \$ 95 million without any effected withdrawals.

Undersecretary to GoSS Finance Ministry, Agri Tisa Saboni affirmed the accuracy and transparency of oil revenue figures.

It is worth mentioning that total national oil revenues for Jan, 2008 hit \$ 582.12 million out of which \$ 464,7 million were in terms of exports and the balance of \$ 117.53 million constituted local consumption value.

Darfur

[Egypt, Ethiopia to deploy Darfur troops in March](#)

(ST) March 3, 2008 (ADDIS ABABA) — The African Union Peace and Security Council (AU-PSC) reiterated in a meeting held last week that Egyptian and Ethiopian troops would be deployed in Sudan’s Darfur region during the current month.

Egypt and Ethiopia will send a battalion, numbering 850 troops each, as the first batch of their contribution to the UN-AU Joint African Peacekeeping force in Darfur. Ethiopia pledged to 5000 soldiers while Egypt is expected to participate with 2100 troops.

The council in its 112th meeting held last Thursday in Addis Ababa agreed that the planned deployment of Egyptian and Ethiopian troops will take place during March 2008 within the framework of the implementation of the UNAMID early effect package.

The African body praised Sudanese government for its cooperation and urges it to continue to extend full cooperation for the implementation of the mandate of UNAMID including in the force generation in order to ensure the full deployment of UNAMID.

The meeting also urged Sudanese government and Darfur rebel groups to accept in good faith, without any precondition and further delay the start of the substantive political talks.

It further appealed to all the Sudanese parties to show flexibility, take into consideration the suffering to their people and to seek a political settlement as this is the only way to reach lasting solution in Darfur.

The Council stressed the need for regional and international cooperation for a peaceful solution to the crisis in Darfur and called upon the mediation team to lead and coordinate the effort of partners.

The meeting discussed the current tension between Sudan and Chad. The AU council reiterated its appeal to the governments of Chad and Sudan to normalize their bilateral relation and to maintain to secure environment at their common border in accordance with the agreement that they have signed

[Darfur rebels deny accusations of mistreating captured Sudanese officers](#)

(ST) March 3, 2008 (LONDON) — The Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) dismissed report published by Amnesty International on the mistreatment of four Sudanese officers captured by rebel group.

Amnesty International, in a statement issued on Friday February 29, accused JEM rebels of committing war crimes and violating Geneva Convention. The rights group said that the four officers are "suffering ill-treatment and their lives are in danger."

In a press statement on Sunday, JEM denied the use of Sudanese army officers as human shields. "AI's claim that JEM puts its war prisoners in a truck ahead of their attacking force is a bizarre accusation." The rebel group said.

In addition, it said it allowed them to phone to their families and assure them of their safety and good treatment dismissing accusation of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment.

"The allegation that JEM further mistreats its prisoners is not correct. JEM has no hotels or houses in the field. Its prisoners experience the same hardship that is faced by JEM soldiers. They all share the same food, water and shelter."

The four officers were captured in Darfur, Lieutenant Colonel Mahdi Hamed and Lieutenant Abdel Moneim Mohammed Zein in West Darfur in the area of Siniya in December 2007, Brigadier General Kemaleddin and Lieutenant Colonel Ihab in Haskanita area in South Darfur earlier that year.

Amnesty had said it received information about the Sudanese officers from three men, who were arrested with them, belonging to a splinter group, JEM Collective Leadership and managed to escape on February 7 from captivity.

However, JEM said Amnesty had to check its information and not to rely on what is said by a "JEM splinter group which cannot be neutral."

It also invited the rights group to visit its war prisoners describing Amnesty report as "false allegations."

[Sudan says exchanged fire with troops straying from Chad](#)

(ST) March 4, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — Sudanese troops exchanged fire with foreign troops who twice strayed across the border from Chad into west Sudan killing at least one civilian, the Foreign Ministry said Tuesday.

Sudanese authorities said "non-African" forces twice crossed the remote unmarked border between southeastern Chad and war-ravaged Darfur on Monday, sparking deadly exchanges of fire.

The EU peacekeeping mission in Chad reported one soldier missing after troops "accidentally" strayed into Sudan.

"At a Sudanese checkpoint five kilometers (three miles) inside Sudanese territory, a military jeep crossed and exchanged fire with the checkpoint inside Sudanese territory," said foreign ministry spokesman Ali Sadiq.

"The jeep is totally damaged. Five or six white soldiers fled back to the Chadian territories on foot. They have not been pursued.

"An hour later another three military jeeps protected by military helicopter came back and some casualties have been reported," Sadiq said.

Army spokesperson Osman Mohammed al-Agbash said a Sudanese soldier and a civilian were killed, accusing the foreign forces of deliberately entering Sudanese territory.

"There was a brief exchange of fire when a vehicle carrying non-African forces entered Sudanese territory and was fired upon. Then three more non-African forces vehicles arrived. There were no casualties on their side.

"You can't do something twice and say it was a mistake," said Agbash.

The Sudanese foreign ministry said it had no information that anyone was detained in the incident.

A spokesman for the joint African Union-United Nations peacekeeping mission in Darfur, a vast, impoverished region in the throes of a civil war between ethnic rebels and the Khartoum government, had no immediate information.

"We're still trying to establish what the details are," Adrian Edwards told AFP by telephone from Darfur.

In Paris overnight, EUFOR said one soft-skinned Landrover-type vehicle strayed unintentionally three kilometres into Sudan in the Tissi area.

"An attempted recovery of the vehicle was met with hostile fire and they left the area. At this time, it can be stated that one EUFOR personnel is currently missing," it said.

The army headquarters in Paris said the missing soldier was French, adding that another French soldier found in the vehicle was recovered.

The second soldier, lightly wounded, was evacuated by helicopter to a field hospital in the Central African Republic.

Sudan said it was working to ensure that such a "serious" incident does not happen again, warning EUFOR it had no mandate to cross international borders.

"This is serious. We are working to make sure this would not happen again. The EU force in Chad has a clear mandate and this does not give them the right to cross into Sudanese territory," said the foreign ministry spokesman.

The 14-nation EUFOR mission of 3,700 troops to Chad and the Central African Republic deployed last month after a brief delay caused by a rebel assault on the Chadian capital Ndjamena

It has a United Nations mandate to protect refugees from western Sudan's strife-wracked Darfur region as well as people internally displaced by rebel insurgency in Chad and the northern CAR.

Since the Darfur conflict began five years ago, at least 200,000 people have died and 2.2 million have fled their homes after ethnic minority rebels took up arms against Sudan's Arab-dominated regime, the United Nations says.

Last month, a senior UN official warned in New York that violence between Sudan and Chad fought out by rebel groups on each side threatened to destabilise the region and could lead to a regional war.

"Continuing accusations by both governments of their support for rebel movements on each side of the border increase the climate of mistrust, fuel tensions between the two countries, and once again demonstrate the potential for a conflict of international dimensions in the area," said Jean-Marie Guehenno, the head of UN peacekeeping operations.

Miscellaneous

(JEM Website) Sudanese Justice & Equality Movement (JEM) issued a press release refuting statements made by DSRSG at press briefing yesterday.

According to JEM, Ms Ameera Haq, claimed at press briefing yesterday that JEM denied access to humanitarian mission to west Darfur.

"So far JEM received no official request from Humanitarian Agencies or humanitarian workers for access to JEM-controlled areas in Jebel Moon," JEM release said.

“JEM has no interest to deny relief workers and international humanitarian agencies access to assist victims forced to flee due to attacks launched by GoS and the Janjaweed” it added.

The press release said, “JEM will allow unimpeded access of humanitarian agencies to JEM-controlled Jebel Moon. It appreciates the role of all international humanitarian agencies and relief workers who provide assistances to Darfur people. Requests for access should be addressed to JEM”.