



## UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN

## UNMIS

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(By Public Information Office)

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## **UN/ Agencies**

### [Samar Samr calls provision of necessary protection to IDPs](#)

(Al-Sudani) The Governor of North Darfur State, Osman Yousuf Kibir, has affirmed GoNU readiness to cooperation with the Human Rights Council pointing out that the human rights situation in the State was stable by virtue of good professional performance of the judicial, justice and security organs in the State.

For her part, the Rapporteur of Human Rights, Sima Samar, has emphasized the need for provision of necessary protection to the displaced.

The governor at meeting with Sima Samar reaffirmed the readiness of the State Government to cooperate with the Human Rights Organization in a transparent and clear manner. He has delivered to Samar a complete dossier with regard to the trials particularly of those belonging to the organized forces.

Samar has expressed satisfaction over the transparency and clarity of the State Government with regard to human rights issues in the State adding that Human Rights was working in partnership with the State Government to improve situations of human rights not in partnership with the armed movements.

She said the Human Rights Organization is neutral and has no political agenda.

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

### [Federal Minister of Health: health situation in Abyei and Meiram is deteriorating](#)

(Al-Intibaha) The Federal Ministry of Health said health situation in Abyei and Meiram were deteriorating.

The Federal Minister of Health, Dr. Tabita Bhoutrous in press statements said mortality rate among mothers and children had gone up and attributed that to the remoteness of health centres and lack of medical cadres.

She announced the allocation of 360,000 pounds for provision of ambulances and life-saving drugs adding that the area was in urgent need of support.

### [JDB decides to refer contentious issues to the Presidency](#)

(Al-Sahafa) The Joint Defence Board (JDB) decided to submit two reports to the Presidency on the contentious issues that hindered redeployment of forces and the obstacles encountered by JIUs in oil areas.

The JDB spokesperson, Maj. Gen. Bior Ajang, said the Board was of the view that dispute over Abyei could be resolved by a political decision.

The spokesperson made the statements following JDB meeting in Juba yesterday.

### [Khartoum accepts apology of European Peacekeepers](#)

(Al-Sahafa) Sudan Government yesterday accepted an official apology from France over EUFOR having advanced into Sudanese territory where fired was exchanged resulting in killing two Sudanese, soldier and civilian.

France requested Khartoum's cooperation in the search for a missing soldier. The Sudanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs promised cooperation in the search for the missing soldier.

### [Sudan and Iran discuss ways to boost military cooperation](#)

(ST) March 4, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — Sudanese and Iranian delegations today started talks on military cooperation between the two countries in order to bolster bilateral military relations.

During an official visit to Iran in mid January 2007 Sudanese defence minister, Abdelrahim Mohamed Hussein signed a military cooperation agreement with his Iranian counterpart.

The talks between the Sudanese and Iranian sides touched upon ways to enhance military cooperation between the Sudanese and Iranian armies in the fields of military technology and the exchange of expertise and training.

Iran's Minister of Defense, Mustafa Mohamed-Najjar arrived today in Khartoum, at the head of a high-ranking delegation in a four-day official visit.

During his last year visit to Iran, the Sudanese minister inspected Iran HESA aircraft manufacturing industries and got a first-hand look at the specialized, scientific achievements of the complex. Hussein described as very good, the production of Iran-140 aircraft as well as design and manufacture of different kinds of helicopters. Welcoming the Iranian minister, Hussein pointed out that the Sudanese-Iranian relations are considered as model relations, indicating that the visit comes in the framework of the exchange of visits between the two countries, referring to a visit he paid to Iran.

He further said that the visit avails an opportunity to boost further the relations between Sudan and Iran.

Hussein reaffirmed Sudan's stance rejecting imposing sanctions on Iran as development of the Islamic Republic of Iran to its nuclear programme is for peaceful purposes, saying that "the Zionist entity is the one who develops nuclear technology for military purposes."

The Iranian Defence Minister, on his part, expressed hope that the visit would boost further the relations between the two countries, pointing that the strategies of Iran includes boosting security and stability in the world and in the region in particular.

The Iranian minister denounced the massacres being committed by "the Zionist military machine against the innocent Palestinian people in Gaza and the Palestinian territories."

### [Nafi welcomes Japan's contribution in Sudan peace implementation](#)

(ST) March 4, 2008 (TOKYO) — Sudan's presidential assistant, who is visiting Japan said that Khartoum will welcome Japan's contribution of troops for de-mining and infrastructure construction.

Asked about Japan's offer to consider sending Self-Defense Forces personnel to participate in U.N. peacekeeping operations in Sudan, Nafi Ali Nafi stressed that "enough forces are on the ground already" with the U.N. Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) but said that a contribution by Japan "will be welcomed."

"We will discuss the details as to what specific help is needed, where the site will be," he said, apparently referring to consultations between Sudan and UNMIS.

"But in principle, I think we have no problem in having the Japanese help to demine the southern area or to construct some facilities — roads, bridges or whatever," said Nafi, who is expected to meet Japanese Foreign Minister Masahiko Komura later this week during his visit to Tokyo.

Komura said in late February that Sudan is among a number of candidate locations that deserve consideration with regard to the deployment of Japanese personnel to U.N. peacekeeping operations. But he did not specify details.

With more than 70 countries, including China, South Korea, India and other Asian nations, currently participating in UNMIS, Japan is scrambling to catch up in order to promote its leadership as president of the Group of Eight countries this year and to score marks for its bid for a permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council.

The UN have two peacekeeping operations in Sudan. The UNMIS which is tasked with supporting the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed in January 2005 between the Sudanese government and the former rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement. The UNAMID which is in charge with the implementation of Darfur Peace Agreement of May 2006; and the protection of civilian population in the war strife region.

Speaking in an interview with Kyodo News in Tokyo, the Sudanese presidential official also urged that the United States lift its sanctions on Sudan.

"The transport of goods to southern and other parts of Sudan is definitely affected by the American sanctions," Nafi said. "At least spare parts needed to rehabilitate the transportation...should be exempted. Some progress has been done but obviously not adequate."

Washington slapped economic sanctions on Sudan in 1997 and listed it as a state sponsor of terrorism. The United States has criticized Sudan over the north-south conflict as well as the crisis in Darfur.

#### [Donors Convene in Paris to Support CPA](#)

(Sudan Vision) The two Naivasha partners have covered considerable ground towards the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, yet we still have to help them override the pending issues, the Chairman of Assessment and Evaluation Commission (AEC) Sir Derex Plumbly has stated.

At the press conference he held yesterday after chairing AEC monthly meeting, Sir Plumbly said the two partners are cooperating amicably for implementation of the pending protocols, precluding any international pressure on either partner for expediting implementation of those protocols. He invited the international community to support the two partners to build up confidence between them and to acquire the necessary driving force for implementing the peace agreement, revealing that during the coming period the Commission will draft the CPA Implementation Assessment Report for the first half to be submitted to the Presidency of the Republic in July.

Plumbly affirmed the donors' commitment to support the agreement's implementation, noting that they will hold a meeting in Paris next April to work out means of providing the required support for the agreement. He remarked that during the coming period the Commission's activities will center on serving the peace agreement and assessing its progress, denying knowledge of any pressure made on his predecessor, Tom Fransilin, to resign.

### [Taha Reaffirms Government Commitment to Implementation of Comprehensive Peace Agreement](#)

Khartoum, Mar. 4 (SUNA)- The Vice - President, Ali Osman Mohamed Taha, has reaffirmed the government commitment to implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). This came when Taha received Tuesday in the Republican Palace the new Governor of the Upper Nile State, Brig. Galwak Deng. The Vice - President called on the Governor to boost the process of peace, unity, stability, development and services in the Upper Nile State. In a statement to SUNA, Brig. Deng said that a genuine agricultural campaign will be launched in the Upper Nile State to guarantee food security and economic and social stability. He pointed out that development and enhancement of services, especially water, health and education, represents a priority of his government in the coming stage.

### **GoSS**

#### [Uganda peace talks concludes; Chief Mediator's role extended](#)

(ST) March 2, 2008 (JUBA) – The Ugandan government and the rebel Lord's Resistance Army/Movement (LRA/M) will sign the Final Peace Agreement before the end of this month, said the Vice President of the Government of Southern Sudan and Chief Mediator of the Ugandan peace talks, Dr. Riek Machar Teny-Dhurgon.

The two parties signed the last agreement on Friday in Juba, Southern Sudan, on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) of LRA former combatants in a series of agreements signed since August 2006.

Machar told the two delegations to reconvene in Juba on March 12, to put some final touches on implementation schedule of the Final Peace Agreement expected to be signed in Juba by both President Yoweri Museveni of the Republic of Uganda and Joseph Kony of LRA/M.

He said he would travel to Rikwangba Assembly Area at Sudan-Congo border accompanied by Ugandan religious leaders to consult with Joseph Kony to come to Juba for the signing.

Dr. Machar also acknowledged that he needed some time to compile into one document all the agreements reached by the parties and to give time to his President, Salva Kiir Mayardit, to process the extension of invitations to African heads of states and other dignitaries to come to Juba and attend the signing ceremony of the Final Peace Agreement.

The two parties on Friday also signed an agreement on implementation and monitoring mechanisms of all the agreements they reached so far. The mechanisms call for a transitional period of one month during which the Parties shall prepare for implementation of the Final Peace Agreement. The Transitional Period shall commence immediately upon the signing of the Final Peace Agreement.

The implementation and monitoring mechanisms also stipulate that the Parties shall agree on an Implementation Schedule which shall be attached to the Final Peace Agreement. The Schedule shall set out the dates and timeframes within which the parties and any implementers of the Final Peace Agreement should undertake their commitments.

The Final Peace Agreement shall consist of all the substantive agreements reached between the two parties in Juba since 2006. These include: the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement and its six addenda; the agreement on Comprehensive Solutions and its Protocol (that address Security Arrangements, Power and Wealth sharing); the agreement on Accountability and Reconciliation and its Annexure (that address issues of war crimes and crimes against humanity including how to deal with the International Criminal Court's (ICC) ) indictments on LRA leaders); the agreement on a Permanent Ceasefire; the agreement on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration; the agreement on Implementation and Monitoring Mechanisms; and the Implementation Schedule which shall be signed with and attached to the Final Peace Agreement.

The agreement on Implementation and Monitoring Mechanisms also stipulate that there shall be established an 'Oversight Forum' to oversee and monitor the implementation of the Final Peace Agreement and to provide advice and support to the parties and any relevant institutions established under the Final Peace Agreement. The Forum shall operate for a period of nine months upon the signing of the Final Peace Agreement and may be extended in consultation with the government of Uganda.

This Oversight Forum shall be chaired by the Chief Mediator, Dr. Riek Machar while the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary General for LRA affected areas and former President of Mozambique, Joaquim Chissano shall be the Spokesman of the Forum.

The membership of the Oversight Forum shall also include one representative from each of the African Union observer countries; one representative from the European Union; and one representative from each of the countries which are witnesses to the Final Peace Agreement and these shall include the United States of America, Norway, Canada, etc.

There shall also be established a Joint Liaison Group (JLG) with membership of three persons to be nominated by the government of Uganda and three persons to be nominated by the LRA/M. The agreement further stipulates that the chairperson of the JLG shall be nominated by the Chief Mediator in consultation with the two parties.

The functions of the Joint Liaison Group shall include monitoring the implementation of the Final Peace Agreement on the ground in accordance with the Implementation Schedule adopted by the parties; making recommendations to the government of Uganda or other implementing agencies on any aspect of the implementation of the Final Peace Agreement; furnishing the Oversight Forum with regular briefings; and making recommendations to the Chief Mediator concerning the holding of a stakeholders' conference.

The agreement also stipulates that the JLG shall propose the names of persons from the conflict affected areas to be considered for political and diplomatic appointments in the government of Uganda and shall ensure that all departments implementing national programmes relevant to the Final Peace Agreement cooperate with the work of the JLG and submit regular reports to the Group.

There shall also be established a 'Ceasefire Monitoring Team (CMT)' to monitor the implementation of the agreement on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of the LRA combatants who are not qualified or willing to join the Ugandan national army or other security agencies.

The Security Arrangement agreement stipulates that the leader of the CMT and deputy leader shall be senior officers from the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) with membership of five from each of the two parties, the African Union observer countries and the United Nations.

The agreement further stipulates that the Oversight Forum (chaired by the Chief Mediator) shall be responsible for addressing any disputes arising between the two parties and in the work of the JLG. The Forum shall also promote confidence-building measures between the parties and the parties undertake to cooperate with these measures.

As an obligation of the Government of the Republic of Uganda, the agreement on Implementation and Monitoring Mechanisms stipulate that during the Transitional Period of one month that shall commence upon the signing of the Final Peace Agreement, the Ugandan government shall urgently take the necessary steps to establish national mechanisms of accountability and reconciliation as provided for in the agreement and shall also request the United Nations Security Council to adopt a resolution under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, requesting the International Criminal Court (ICC) to defer all investigations and prosecutions against the leaders of the Lord's Resistance Army.

As an obligation of the LRA/M, it shall observe the Permanent Ceasefire and its combatants shall fully assemble during the Transitional Period at Rikwangba Assembly Area within ten kilometers radius from the Rikwangba administrative headquarters.

The agreement also calls for establishment of a buffer-zone of ten kilometers around the Rikwangba Assembly Area while a full battalion of the SPLA forces shall be deployed to protect the Assembly Area and the buffer-zone.

In his closing remarks during the signing ceremony of the last agreement on Implementation and Monitoring Mechanisms on Friday at Juba Raha Hotel, Dr. Riek Machar congratulated the two parties for completing all the necessary agreements for the Final Peace Agreement, but reminded them that only the upcoming signing of the Final Peace Agreement would trigger a new phase from peace negotiations to peace agreement implementation. He urged the two parties to sign the Final Peace Agreement as soon as possible, adding that guns should now permanently get silent in northern Uganda.

“We have had sleepless nights, but we have now achieved peace,” Machar referred to the intensive and marathon peace talks that sometimes spent the whole day and night until five or six o’clock in the morning.

Speaking on the same occasion, the former President of Mozambique and Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary General for LRA affected areas, Joaquim Chissano, said he was emotional to witness the last agreement signed between the two parties. Chissano commended what he described as the Government of Southern Sudan’s ‘skillful mediation and successful guidance’ to the two parties during these difficult negotiations.

He hailed President Museveni and LRA Chairman Joseph Kony for their peace assurances.

Chissano told the parties that the United Nations agencies and donor countries were ready to support the implementation of the Final Peace Agreement in northern Uganda.

The Minister of Internal Affairs in the Republic of Uganda and leader of the government delegation to the Juba peace talks, Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda, said northern Uganda which was being referred to as conflict-affected area because of the 21 years of war in the country, may now be referred to as rapidly developing area because of the peace agreement. He praised the successful mediation efforts of the Government of Southern Sudan, saying that this would not only benefit Uganda and Sudan but also the region as a whole.

Earlier, the leader of the LRA/M peace delegation, Dr. David Nyekorach Matsanga, described the agreement as one of the best negotiated peace agreements. Matsanga said his Chairman Joseph Kony accepted to stand trial in a Special Court in Uganda for any alleged serious crimes he committed during the war, but not in ICC.

The twenty-one years of war in northern Uganda resulted in the death of tens of thousands of people and displacement of nearly two million people to over two hundred Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) camps across the region.

#### [South Sudan villagers, environment suffer from oil boom](#)

(ST) March 4, 2008 (RIER, Sudan) — Kicked out of sleepy Nile fishing hamlets lost forever to Sudan’s oil boom, villagers in the south curse a refinery for causing forced relocations, for spreading disease and ravaging the environment.



Activists also warn that the 2006 arrival of White Nile Petroleum Company (WNPOC), a consortium led by Malaysia's Petronas, in Unity State threatens the Sudd wetlands, the world's largest maze of swamps, lagoons and tributaries.

Villagers say thousands were forcefully evicted to make way for a low-sulphur crude oil venture in south-central Sudan. They say they lost venerated ancestral homes, died from contamination and saw livelihoods jeopardised.

"Since 2006, 27 adults and three children have died because of contaminated water from the oil field," said Paul Bol Ruoth, county commissioner in Koch, about 70 kilometres (44 miles) from Bentiu, the state capital.

The oil firm has not been reachable for comment on the allegations.

But more than 1,000 people are now sick with unknown illnesses and among the fatalities, only three have been compensated by WNPOC, local officials said.

Despite US-led sanctions to push Sudan to resolve the bloody war in Darfur, direct foreign investment in Sudan soared to 2.3 billion dollars in 2006, fueled by energy-hungry Asian economies led by China and Malaysia, just seven years after the country began exporting crude oil.

"The company (WNPOC) has no right. It's our people who have the right over their land because they need it for grazing and clean water," said Ruoth.

Deluged by a barrage of complaints from hapless villagers whose lives were already fractured by decades of civil war, he led a delegation in mid-February to assess the toll on the environment from the oil refinery.

"Since water is contaminated, we have lost several cows and goats," said an elder from the Nuer ethnic group, too fearful to give his name when talking to reporters on a visit to the area.

"We need help," he said, staring hopelessly at plumes of smoke from the Thar Jath oil refinery, named after the former village evacuated to make way for the complex and sitting in the heart of the partly drained Sudd swamp.

Villagers may be mesmerized by new roads and electricity cables, but they have seen little tangible improvement to their squalid lifestyle.

Now they are furious at the prospect of swanky hotels and malls in the swampy heartland, where government troops and ex-southern rebels pounded once each other with high explosives in the 21-year-old civil war.

"We do not care about the new development they promised us. All we need is our old, clean environment," said unemployed Peter Riek Gieng, 25, who worked as a casual labourer to help build the refinery.

When oil is extracted, large amounts of saline water, or brine, are injected into the sub-surface to maintain the pressure of oil reservoirs, which enhances oil recovery, said human rights and Christian aid group Sign of Hope.

Sample results seen by AFP indicated that brine from the refinery produced a high salinity, putting the concentration of nitrate at 81.6 mg/l, well above the 10 mg/l recommended by the the US Environmental Protection Agency.

"A nitrate concentration amounting to 81.6 mg/l can have serious effects especially on young children," said Sign of Hope in a statement.

"Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in this dose could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die," it said.

The head of the organization, Reimund Reubelt, called on the authorities to act now to prevent an ecological catastrophe.

"We also see a looming ecological catastrophe for the largest swamplands of the world. To secure public health the government must now improve the quality of drinking water dramatically and at the same time prevent an ecological catastrophe," he added.

At Riek village, where local residents were relocated to make way for the Thar Jath refinery about 6.5 kilometers (four miles) away, children play around a bore-hole abandoned as a source of water for health concerns.

One oil employee, who requested to remain unnamed, told journalists that he witnessed oil workers dumping industrial waste into a nearby isolated pit in a dried swamp, which will flood in the rainy season.

"I usually see men in aprons dig up huge pits and dump toxic wastes. They do not let anybody near that area," he said.

But aid workers complain that the administration in southern Sudan is reluctant to address the issue since officials are profiting from oil wealth.

Some villagers promised a Nigeria-like struggle on oil companies.

"If the government ignores, us we will go Nigeria style," said Martin Luang, a rugged middle-aged villager alluding to the wave of kidnappings of oil workers and relations of prominent Nigerians in the restive Niger Delta.

Sudan's oil production is estimated to reach between 500,000 and 600,000 barrels per day this year, but output is expected to rise in coming years and the boom in exploration is mainly in the southern region.

Although the north-south Sudan civil war ended with a peace agreement in 2005, both sides still bicker over shares of oil revenue.

#### [GoSS donates 15 trucks to UNHCR for refugees' repatriation](#)

(Khartoum Monitor) The Government of Southern Sudan has donated fifteen trucks to the UNHCR for repatriation of refugees from neighbouring countries of Uganda, Kenya and Ethiopia.

The handing over ceremony of trucks by the Southern Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission took place yesterday, at Abersi Company at South, where the keys of the 15 trucks were handed over to the country director of UNHCR in Sudan, Mr. Chrisantus Ache, in the presence of the representative of HAC in the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs of the GoNU.

## **Darfur**

### [Ministry of Interior reveals misconducts by hybrid soldiers in Darfur](#)

(Al-Rai Al-Aam) the Ministry of Interior revealed violations committed by the hybrid troops in El Fasher, North Darfur State.

The Ministry said misconduct on the part of the hybrid troops were reported to police there adding that their immunity prevent the arrest of those misbehaved.

At a seminar on “hybrid force: advantages and disadvantages”, organized by the Centre for Society Studies in Khartoum yesterday, the representative of the Ministry, Lt. Gen. (police) Adil Ajib Yagoub, said the Ministry had fears about sexual abuses on the part of the hybrid troops in Darfur.

He said the police did not know anything about what was going on in the camps of the hybrid operation, UN mission in Darfur and in Khartoum. He said it was difficult for the police to arrest them under the Sudanese laws when they commit an offense because of immunity.

He added that there was no guarantee that they would be tried by their countries when they are handed over upon commission of an offense. “Even those in contracts with the Government enjoy immunity”, he said.

He said,” many of those who commit offenses escaped aboard UN planes over which we have no control”. He said Police submitted several memos to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs alerting it at such happenings. Adil complained that most of the hybrid soldiers are selected randomly from their countries.

For his part, the Director of the Directorate of Crisis Management at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Siraj Al-Din Hamid, said the Foreign Office was following up the trials with the TCC’s adding that the perpetrators are dealt with in coordination with the United Nations.

He added that those in contracts with Government enjoy no immunity and they can be arrested and prosecuted if they commit an offense outside the context of their work

## **Miscellaneous**

### [The Diplomat who disappears in South arrives in Khartoum \(SMC\)](#)

The Sudanese diplomat who works for ministry of foreign affairs Hussni Mustafa arrived today in Khartoum from Juba.

The diplomat reportedly had disappeared under ambiguous circumstance in Juba last month. Criminal investigation commissioner of the ministry of interior Gen Abdeen Al Tahir told (SMC) that the diplomat is in good health. He said Mustafa was investigated to get acquainted on the circumstances behind his disappearance.