

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS**Media Monitoring Report, 9 May 2007

(By Public Information Office)

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HIGHLIGHTS :

UN/ Agencies/ Partners

Congo's Adada to head Darfur peacekeeping mission

(Reuters via SudanTribune.com) Congo's Foreign Minister Rodolphe Adada will head a joint U.N.-African Union peacekeeping mission in Sudan's devastated Darfur region, which has been resisted by the Sudanese government.

The appointment of Adada, who has been Congo's foreign minister since 1997, was announced in a statement on Tuesday by U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and the AU commission chairman, Alpha Oumar Konare.

Ban is also expected to appoint a European, not yet named, as his special envoy for the U.N. Mission in Sudan, known as UNMIS, which oversees 10,000 peacekeepers helping to enforce a peace pact in southern Sudan after decades of civil war.

UNMIS has been without a chief of mission since Khartoum expelled Dutchman Jan Pronk last October. [*The African Union Press Release on the appointment is attached separately*].

Darfur conflict is close to "moment of truth"- UN

(Reuters via SudanTribune.com) The conflict in Darfur is approaching a "moment of truth" requiring Sudan and rebel groups to open peace talks, a senior United Nations official said on Tuesday.

Eliasson said he had arrived with African Union special envoy Salim Ahmed Salim "in the spirit of action" and wanted to see movement that would help end the crisis.

"We are moving closer to the moment of truth, mainly when ... the parties have to start seriously to prepare for negotiations," he told reporters at the airport.

"We will among ourselves now take some concrete steps...I think the conflict has gone long enough. Impatience is great."

The diminishing possibility of deploying a large U.N. force in Darfur due to Sudan's rejection has pushed efforts for a political solution to the forefront, with initiatives to unite the rebel groups for possible peace talks with the government.

Only one main group signed a 2006 peace agreement with the government in the Nigerian capital Abuja although small factions later committed to the deal. Other rebels say they want a bigger share of power and more compensations.

The government has said it was only prepared for minor changes to the agreement, but the AU's Salim said the concerns of the non-signatory factions could be addressed.

"The Abuja agreement is an important agreement but it is neither the Koran nor the Bible," he said. The fragmentation of the rebel groups along with government attacks against their positions have thwarted previous attempts to bring those factions to the negotiating table.

Before the arrival to Khartoum of the two envoys non-signatory SLM leader AbdulWahid accused in a statement to *SudanTribune.com* the international community of ignoring the root causes of Darfur conflict. "The government confiscated the land, killed Darfurians and replaced them by new comers. So, we need to stop the killing, reinstitute the land to evicted legitimate owners and allocate individual compensations for IDPs and refugees," he stressed.

He said the international mediators are working to conclude a new deal and to legalize the status quo. Al-Nur blamed the international actors saying they avoid meeting him, while they are preparing a "New Abuja" under worse conditions: appropriate the land and put pressures on the victims of the conflict.

Nur warned that as long as the legitimate demands of Darfur peoples are not realized his movement will not stop the struggle. He also warned that they are patient enough up to now but he can't promise to maintain this situation indefinitely."

He declined to elaborate on this regard.

He added that he does not seek a position because to be appointed in important function as it is the case for the signatories of the Darfur Peace Agreement didn't resolve the crisis.

According to Nur, the resolution of the crisis can be reached if Khartoum: a) stops the killing of the people of Darfur, restitution of the land — or what Darfur people call Hwakir (land ownership) —, b) disarms the Khartoum backed militias and; c) implements the UN resolution 1706 related to the deployment of UN forces in Darfur.

Al-Nur said Darfur crisis has become an experimentation field for fruitless organizations. He pointed out that during Abuja talks in 2006 he proposed the supplementary document to address unresolved issue in the DPA but at that time the proposal was rejected by the mediators. [*Follow the links to the related stories [Darfur conflict is close to "moment of truth"- UN](#); [SLM leader raises doubts over Darfur peace efforts](#)]*

AMIS receives \$60,000 in equipment for the LSP

(*Alwan*) The AMIS has received equipment to the tune of \$60,000 as part of the LSP and is expecting to receive 36 armoured carriers and technical experts.

A high-rank AMIS official said that the equipment was handed to AMIS headquarters in el-Fasher in th presence of representatives of the Sudan government, the African Union and the UN. He expressed appreciation to the total cooperation of the Sudan government in providing assistance to facilitate the work of the AMIS forces in Darfur.

United Nations military staff sexually assaults 11-year old in Wau

(Akhir Lahza) The local community in Wau was shocked by a recent incident in which a United Nations peacekeeper sexually assaulted an 11 year old causing serious bleeding as a result.

The victim has been taken to Wau hospital for treatment for the physical and psychological injuries inflicted.

Sources say a case has been filed with the police and legal and judicial authorities have demanded that UNMIS-Wau hand over the perpetrator but the head of office said that the mission will carry out an investigation and interrogate the peacekeepers at the site of the crime. He did not mention handing over the perpetrator thus bringing the feeling among the local community that the mission wanted to let the issue pass without taking punitive or legal measures against the perpetrator.

CPA

Proposal for a National Committee on Abyei rejected by both parties to the CPA

(The Citizen) The National Assembly yesterday postponed discussions of a report made by the Peace and Reconciliation Committee on the implementation of the CPA on the grounds more time was required to study the report.

A recommendation that an Abyei National Committee be formed got no support from National Congress Party and SPLM representatives who argued that such a committee would cause confusion and open the door for new negotiations on Abyei. They agreed to find an effective mechanism to resolve the Abyei issue.

Parties to the CPA to discuss next Friday the differences over oil exploration in southern Sudan

(AlSudani) The joint executive committee of the parties to the CPA chaired jointly by VPs Taha and Machar sits next Friday to discuss issues pertaining to oil exploration in southern Sudan.

White Nile Petroleum had announced earlier it will not wait for a court ruling to decide over the controversy of concessions with Total Petroleum

SPLM doubts police impartiality

(Rai AlShaab) The SPLM has issued a statement condemning what it described as the “media trials” practiced by the police against the SPLM in every incident in which the SPLM is party to.

The statement pointed out that these police press releases issued before any trial of suspects takes place shade doubts on its impartiality and are to be deplored.

Government of National Unity

Suwar-el-Dahab committee tables its proposals to the country's problems before the political forces

(*AlSahafa*) Proposals by the Suwar-el-Dahab committee tasked with forging a way to national accord has been well received by the political forces in the country.

The committee had proposed that either a comprehensive conference or a round-table conference be held with the participation of the National Congress Party, the SPLM, the DUP, the Popular Congress Party, the Communist Party and other key political players be launched to discuss the problems of the country and seek solutions to the same. The National Congress Party has expressed agreement to the proposals.

PCP leader Dr. Turabi gave a cautious welcome to the suggestions and said only time will tell if these are genuine efforts for accord or just a political manoeuvre while the leader of the Communist Party said that all solutions lie in the hands of the regime.

Southern Sudan

SPLA kills three LRA in Equatoria

(*Khartoum Monitor*) SPLA soldiers killed last Saturday 3 Lord's Resistance Army soldiers and captured three others during a clash in Equatoria, says SPLA Spokesperson Mjr. Gen. Kuol Diem.

The army spokesperson said that the Lord's Resistance Army soldiers were attempting to loot Obbo village, west of Magwe county in Eastern Equatoria State.

Two SPLA soldiers were injured during the attack- one of them serious.

Ugandan rebels have one week to assemble in South Sudan

(*Xinhua via SudanTribune.com*) Uganda's rebel group, the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) have been given one week to leave all its hide-outs and assemble in Ri-Kwangba in southern Sudan.

Henry Okello Oryem, the deputy head of the Uganda government delegation negotiating a peace deal with the LRA in Juba, southern Sudan, told the press in Kampala on Tuesday that the Uganda People's Defense Force (UPDF) and the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) have mapped out the routes for the rebels.

"Two routes have been designed for the LRA to follow and assemble in Ri-Kwangba within seven days from the day the Peace Talks Mediator communicates to them," said Oryem while reading a communiqué by the UPDF and the SPLA.

Oryem said after the lapse of the seven days, any armed group that is outside Ri-Kwangba will be dealt with by the UPDF and SPLA.

"Any armed group outside Ri-Kwangba after the stated period will be considered a source of insecurity and will be considered not party to the truce agreement," Oryem said.

Last month the LRA and the government renewed the truce agreement they signed last August and expired in February this year.

In the renewed agreement the parties settled that the LRA fighters assemble in one area instead of two areas in southern Sudan.

Darfur/ Darfur Peace Agreement

Gadhafi lashes out at Saudi Arabia over Sudan-Chad peace deal

(AP via SudanTribune.com) Libyan leader Muammer Gadhafi on Tuesday criticized Saudi Arabia for hosting a Sudanese-Chadian summit last week during which a peace agreement was signed.

Gadhafi said that a similar agreement had already been signed in Tripoli, in February, when Libya hosted a similar summit with the two nations.

"We are happy with anybody trying to contribute to solving the issue, either Saudis or anybody else, but ... why sign the same agreement? Does this mean the former one has been canceled," Gadhafi said.

Gadhafi's comments came after Libyan, Egyptian and Chadian leaders met Tuesday in the Libyan capital to discuss the situation in Sudan's troubled Darfur region. The talks came a day after Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir's surprise visit to Cairo.

Gadhafi on Tuesday alleged that Deby and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak conveyed to him a message from al-Bashir, who visited Egypt on Monday, that Saudis forced the deal on the two Africans.

Gadhafi said al-Bashir and Deby were invited "to sign a ready-made deal, despite assurances by the two that they already signed" such a deal in Libya. "This is funny," Gadhafi told reporters.

The outcome of Tuesday's talks on Darfur in Tripoli was not immediately known.

Joint ceasefire monitoring commission to hold talks today in Khartoum

(Alwan) A meeting of the joint ceasefire monitoring commission kicks off in Khartoum today to discuss a number of issues.

The meeting is likely to take place amidst considerable international and regional presence.

Other Developments [*the arms embargo*]

Amnesty says China, Russia supplying arms used in Darfur

(AP via SudanTribune.com) China and Russia are supplying arms to Sudan that are being used to fuel violence in the strife-torn Darfur region in violation of a U.N. arms embargo, a human rights group said in a report Tuesday.

China and Russia quickly rejected the report, and Sudan's government said it was "not justified."

"The irresponsible transfer of arms to Sudan and its neighbors are a significant factor in the massive human rights catastrophe in Darfur and its spread into eastern Chad," London-based Amnesty International said in a statement.

The report said "the bulk" of the arms were transferred from China and Russia, without giving specific up-to-date figures.

It said Beijing and Moscow should have been aware that their military equipment was "deployed by the Sudanese armed forces and militia for direct attacks on civilians and indiscriminate attacks in Darfur."

Sudanese government spokesman Bakri Mullah denied the report's accusations, calling them "not justified."

"The report is totally incorrect. ... It is the sort of claim that has no material proof," Mullah said in a telephone interview.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu said Chinese sales to African nations were "very limited and small in scale" but refused to say whether any were being made to Sudan.

Jiang said China's weapons sales to Africa were made to sovereign nations and not individuals and that the resale of Chinese weapons to third parties was forbidden. She said China does not sell arms to regions under U.N. embargo.

Russia's Foreign Ministry said in a statement that "no Russian weapons have been shipped to Darfur."

"Russia's military and technical cooperation with other countries is in line with international rules and norms. Russia has fully abided by the provisions of resolutions of the United Nations Security Council, which ban arms shipments to Darfur," the ministry said.

The Amnesty International report said it was particularly concerned about Russian Mi-24 helicopter gunships acquired by the Sudan Air Force that were allegedly being used to launch attacks in Darfur.

A photo, allegedly from March, of three Chinese "Fantan" fighter jets on the tarmac of an airport in Nyala, the capital of the southern Darfur region, was also in the report. It said the aircraft were "specifically designed to be used for ground attack operations. [The full report is available at; <http://web.amnesty.org/library/index/engafr540192007>].

US urges "abundance of caution" in arms deals with Sudan

(*AFP via SudanTribune.com*) The United States urged governments to exercise "an abundance of caution" in selling arms to Sudan following reports that Khartoum was using Chinese and Russian weapons in Darfur in violation of a UN embargo.

The State Department said it was well known that "an illicit flow of arms" was reaching Darfur despite the UN embargo on weapons shipments to the region.

Spokesman Sean McCormack said he was unable to confirm or deny a report by the human rights group Amnesty International accusing Russia and China of supplying weapons used in Darfur.

The 24-page report by the London-based Amnesty provided photographs of Russian and Chinese warplanes it said were deployed at Nyala airport in Darfur in the last few months.

"We do know that there is, by the Sudanese government, an illicit flow of arms into Darfur, contrary to Security Council resolutions," McCormack said.

"We don't know, at this point, the origins of those arms," he said.

McCormack noted that China has extensive trade and economic relations with Sudan, but said it was up to Beijing to describe its military ties.

"But in light of the fact that we do know ... it would seem prudent to exercise an abundance of caution in any kind of trade relationship with Khartoum that involves the sale of weapons," he said.

McCormack reaffirmed that Washington and some of its allies were preparing a package of coercive measures against Khartoum if the government does not fully comply with a UN resolution demanding the deployment of 20,000 UN-led peacekeepers to Darfur.

He said the administration was still willing to honor a request from UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon for more time to negotiate with Khartoum about the peacekeepers before further sanctions are enacted.

Kuwait dismisses accusations of sending arms to Sudan

(*Xinhua via SudanTribune.com*) Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad al-Sabah on Tuesday condemned as "baseless" a report by Amnesty International which accused Kuwait of supplying Sudan with weapons to be used in Darfur, the official KUNA news agency reported.

"I am as a matter of fact very surprised because these accusations are baseless," Sheikh Mohammad was quoted as saying, voicing a hope that Amnesty International would maintain its credibility.

According to KUNA, Amnesty International had accused Sudan in its latest report of violating arms embargo imposed on Darfur, and regretted that China and Russia were allegedly supplying Khartoum with arms.

The organization also accused Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Belarus of supplying Sudan with weapons, and said all members countries in the UN should be stopped from sending arms that could be used in the conflict in the troubled province of Darfur.