

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS**Media Monitoring Report, 16 May 2007

(By Public Information Office)

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HIGHLIGHTS :

UN/ Agencies/ Partners

VP of the GoSS rules out UN rape allegations of 11 year old in Wau

(*Sudan Vision*) Vice-President Riek Machar of the GoSS has dismissed allegations that a UN peacekeeper has raped an 11-year old boy in Wau.

He told the *Sudan Vision* that the GoSS has received reports about sexual assault by UN personnel in Maridi and Juba but could not confirm the incident in Wau. He said that the GoSS will not tolerate any moral misconduct in southern Sudan.

To date, the UN has issued no statement on the allegations but sources say the organisation is carrying out investigations into the allegations.

Akhir Lahza daily had first reported the Wau allegations and said that the 11-year old had been transferred to hospital. The paper had then pointed out that police, legal and judicial authorities had demanded that the UN hand over the culprit but the (sector) Commander had promised an investigation.

Other Reports:

- The press has of late been busy commenting on recent statements attributed to the Minister of Justice and the Humanitarian Aid Commission [*reported in earlier editions of the MMR*] criticising Spokesperson Radhia Achouri for recent reports on the humanitarian situation in Darfur. Attached separately are some of the comments from the local dailies.

UN support Package

AMIS spokesperson stresses importance of the UN support packages

(*Sudan Vision*) AMIS Spokesperson Nouredine Mezni has stressed the importance the mission attaches to the support packages provided by the UN since they are considered as vital elements for boosting the mission's work and enabling it to perform its tasks.

Mezni said that the tripartite mechanism, on following up of the Light Support Package, would hold its 11th meeting Wednesday at the UN premises in Khartoum.

He said that the meeting would assess what has been implemented and the necessary steps for completion of implementation of the package.

The meeting, it is noted, was scheduled for last week but postponed due to the visit of envoys Eliasson and Salima and the meeting of the Joint Ceasefire commission.

Government welcomes Egyptian contribution of troops for the UN support package to AMIS

(AlKhabar) Government says Egyptian offer to contribute troops as part of the Heavy Support Package to the AMIS is welcome.

State minister for foreign affairs el-Sammani el-Waseela said that this Egyptian offer of support for the peace process for Darfur is only natural. He noted that the Arab League had, in recent resolutions, resolved troop contribution from Arab states to the AMIS.

State minister el-Waseela explained that the forces deployed under the HSP are support forces like engineer corps and technical units for aircraft, maintenance and medical units. These will number 3,000 and will be drawn from African states and will be under African command with UN financial support. He said that steps have been taken to request the Security Council to provide the necessary funds.

UN funding a prerequisite for implementing second support phase

(SudanTribune.com) The Sudanese government said today that it will not provide the logistics needed for the accommodation of the UN troops that will be deployed in Darfur, before agreeing on funding needs of the African Union forces.

In his statements, published by the Al-Sahafa daily, the spokesman for Sudan's foreign ministry Ali al-Sadek blasted the US and other countries for portraying his government as the stumbling block to the deployment of the heavy support package.

Al-Sadek said that the most important step is for the UN Security Council to authorize funding of the African Union forces so that African nations can come forward to donate troops to the joint UN-AU mission. He also added that the tripartite commission formed in accordance with the Addis Abbaba communiqué has proven very effective in resolving these issues. Al-Sadek stressed that it is up to the UN Secretary General to follow through on the financial commitments of the world body outlined in the Addis Abbaba communiqué.

The U.K., France and the U.S. have met with the UN Secretary General last week to express their concern about the slow progress in deploying the UN troops as part of the second phase of the hybrid force. Analysts say that Western nations are concerned that Khartoum is not serious about following through on its commitments.

China calls for dialogue to resolve Sudan's Darfur crisis

(AP via SudanTribune.com) China urged dialogue as the way to resolve the Darfur crisis as it defended its continued involvement Tuesday in the war-torn region.

China has been "playing a constructive role in getting these problems settled," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu said.

"We hope to press ahead with relevant parties to solve this issue peacefully and properly," she said at a regular briefing. "Dialogue and consultation are the correct and effective way to solve the Darfur issue." [Follow the link to the full text [China calls for dialogue to resolve Sudan's Darfur crisis](#)]

CPA

Governor of Blue Nile State threatens to expel UN forces

(AlAyaam) The Governor of Blue Nile State has vowed to expel UN forces from Blue Nile State should they interfere in the internal conflicts between the National Congress Party and the SPLM. [The paper gives no further details].

He also pointed out that his state will not allow any portion of its territories to be ceded to southern Sudan and will proceed ahead to appoint a commissioner for new-formed Tadhamon locality. He said that the state will this week celebrate the appointment of the commissioner.

On its part, the SPLM argues that the National Congress Party ignored its requests not to form the new locality.

Misseiriya warn of looming conflict in Abyei

(AlSharei AlSiyassi) A prominent member of the Misseiriya community who opted for anonymity says government should have put the Abyei issue as a priority since the signing of the CPA but chose instead to drag its feet with the SPLM.

He warned against further suspension of the issue and pointed out that some political groups he declined to name are planning to utilise the crisis for cheap political capital.

He warned that polarisation amongst the citizens of the area only predicts of conflict ahead and called on the parties to the CPA to resolve the issues.

GoNU

President Bashir receives message from Libyan counterpart

(AlKhabar) Foreign minister Lam Akol received yesterday the Libyan ambassador who delivered a letter through him to President Bashir from President Gadhaffi.

In the letter, Gadhaffi has invited the Sudanese president to participate at the forthcoming plenary summit meeting of the Sahel and Sahara group to be held in Libya on 2 and 3 June.

Bashir, Gadhaffi and Mubarak to hold meeting in Alexandria

(*AlWihda*) Informed sources reveal that a tripartite meeting between Presidents Bashir, Gadhaffi and Mubarak in Egypt is in the pipeline in a bid to prepare for a meeting between the Sudan government and non-signatory Darfur armed groups.

Sources also say that the Egyptian leader had asked US Vice President Dick Cheney who recently visited Cairo to push the US Administration to put pressure on the non-signatory groups instead of focusing all pressure on the Sudan government and the deployment of a UN force thus sending wrong signals to the non-signatory groups.

VP Kiir meets Suwar-el-Dahab committee

(*AlSahafa*) Vice-President Salva Kiir met yesterday with members of the Suwar-el-Dahab committee and expressed confidence in their suggestions for unification of ranks in the country.

Kiir who was handed a copy of the recommendations said he will leave it upon the competent SPLM committee to come up with the final approval of the SPLM. He underlined the need for coordination of efforts between the Suwar-el-Dahab and the SPLM committees in a bid to unite the non-signatory armed factions of Darfur and bring them to Juba for consultations.

A spokesperson for the committee says that responses the committee has received to their suggestions from some political forces has mainly been positive.

Chadian president to visit in early June

(*AlSahafa*) State minister at the foreign ministry, al-Samani al-Wasila told *SUNA* that Chadian president Idriss Deby would visit the Sudan early next June.

The Sudanese official describes the visit as part of the normalization of relations between Sudan and Chad in accordance with Tripoli recommendations reinforced by the Riyadh reconciliation agreement signed on May 3, under the auspices of the Saudi King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz.

He said that the visit by the Chadian leader was due to have taken place at the end of last April but was postponed for reasons concerning the Chadian side.

He said that Khartoum views with satisfaction the initiatives led by Libya, Saudi Arabia and Eritrea.

SPLM caucus rejects parliamentary deliberations on White Nile Petroleum company

(*Khartoum Monitor*) An MP on an SPLM ticket said that the Standing Committee on Oil and Energy is busy preparing recommendations to be submitted to the Presidency on the issue of the

White Nile Oil Company but pointed out that he rejects attempts to include the issue in the parliamentary agenda because the issue is currently under discussion between the parties to the CPA.

He pointed out that the Minister of Energy had last month briefed parliament on his ministry but did not make mention of the company. He explained that the issue had therefore been stirred by some MPs.

Southern Sudan

SPLM focuses on building transparent govt in South Sudan - Amum

(*SudanTribune.com*) SPLM Secretary General Pagan Amum praised efforts by the movement as a ruling party in the south to realize the welfare of citizens in this part of the country. He further said that the ruling party intends to build a transparent administration.

The Sudan People's Liberation Movement Secretary-General, Pagan Amum, stated that this year's celebration of the SPLM anniversary represents a special event in the sense that the SPLM as the ruling party in southern Sudan is focusing attention to build a transparent government which responds to the need of the people.

The Sudan People's Liberation Movement Secretary-General, Pagan Amum, today arrived in Juba from a working visit to Australia where he met with the SPLM chapter and organized rallies to mark the 24th anniversary of the foundation of the movement on 16 May 1983.

On the occasion of this celebration of the 24th birthday, the Secretary General called on the Sudanese people to rally under the leadership of the movement to build a better life, schools, renovate existing infrastructure and construct more roads in southern Sudan and the three areas under the SPLM administration.

Amum noted that although below expectations of the people, the SPLM led government of Southern Sudan has started doing a lot for the development of the region, and he indicated that so far 2000km of roads had been constructed in southern Sudan.

The Secretary General said that he is delighted that in this year the number of children enrolled in school has doubled.

Amum pointed out that the GoSS is providing life saving medicines to hospitals freely, and he said that the GoSS and would rectify the rough health situation in the region.

He said that the SPLM is tasked with the challenge to rebuild a country of justice and peace. The Secretary General extended his congratulations to the Sudanese people, the SPLA combatants and members of the SPLM on the 24th anniversary of the birth of the movement.

Darfur

Elders of IDP camps in S. Darfur renew 10 demands to the Darfur rehabilitation commission

(Rai AlShaab) Elders in IDP camps in South Darfur have cited 10 demands to the visiting members of the Darfur rehabilitation commission.

These include protection of the IDP camps, provision of food to the IDPs, provision of mechanisms for shelter necessary to face the rainy season, support for the Koranic schools in the area, rehabilitation of primary schools, the provision of drugs for the health centres, construction of mosques in the IDP camps, support for the existing mosques, assimilating graduates into the commission to ease the problems of unemployment, individual compensations, provision of services to the villages destroyed by the war and organising of mass marriage drives in the IDP camps.

The head of the commission said that the commission could assimilate some graduates and organise mass marriages but pointed out that some of the demands require funding. He pointed out that the commission intends to establish good relations with all parties to the conflict.

It is worth noting that members of the commission and representatives of the African Union, the UN and voluntary agencies witnessed yesterday the signing of a reconciliation agreement of residents of six IDP camps in South Darfur.

SLM-Freewill warns of possible return to a war footing

(Rai AlShaab) SLM-Freewill protests that authorities arrested on 4th May its secretary for legal affairs and member of the Security Arrangements committee and released him one day later without pressing any charges against him.

A prominent member of the movement says such action may hamper the implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement and may spur a return to war.

He called on all parties concerned to cooperate to bring about trust and implement the Darfur Peace Agreement.

Seven dead, 10 injured in armed attack in South Darfur

(AlHayat) Press reports quoting local sources report that a group of Fallata tribesmen going to check out on rumours circulating in the Tulus area in South Darfur that the NRF has positioned some troops around the outskirts of the area fell into an ambush by armed groups alleged to be NRF leaving seven people dead and ten injured. Press reports add that the police has taken the injured for treatment in hospital.

The local police has however denied knowledge of the attacks but says there was an incident of banditry in Burrum locality and the police is pursuing the perpetrators but there is no NRF force positioned at the borders of Tulus.

Parliament to review issue of alleged mass graves in Darfur

(AlIntibaha; Alwan) An MP for Gireida intimates that some MPs for Darfur have request parliament to summon the Ministry of Interior and Presidential Advisor Minnawi over the uncovering of a mass grave in the Gireida area in South Darfur.

The lawmaker pointed out that despite the pardon issued on the issue by SLM-Minnawi, the movement has not released any of those people it arrested in Gireida in the wake of attempts to assassinate its deputy leader.

Nine bodies identified as part of the 63 people missing in Gireida were uncovered in the mass grave.

Eritrean leader says the next period is crucial for the Darfur peace process

(AlAyaam) The Eritrean president told a visiting GoS delegation in Asmara yesterday that his country is finalising preparations on the peace process for Darfur and bringing the non-signatory groups on board the Darfur Peace Agreement.

President Affewerki underlined the need to unite the armed groups in one negotiating position.

Addressing the Sudanese delegation led by Presidential Advisor Mustafa Osman, the Eritrean leader said that the coming phase will be crucial and will see the setting of a timetable for talks between the non-signatory groups and the Sudan government. He also said that the Eritrean delegation stationed in Chad continues in coordination with Libya and Chad to make contact with representatives of the non-signatory groups.

Meanwhile reactions of non-signatory groups towards next Sunday's meeting in Cairo on Darfur have varied. AbdulWahid says his SLM has not been contacted on the issue and insists that protection of civilians, not the multiplicity of initiatives, is the key to solutions to the Darfur crisis. He also cites as prerequisite steps an end to Janjaweed attacks, the deployment of UN forces to help in returns and individual and collective compensations. AbdulWahid called on Egypt to pressure the Sudan government into accepting a deployment of UN troops to Darfur and says any initiative is doomed to failure if these demands are not met.

But the spokesperson for the JEM has confirmed his movement will participate at the Cairo meet.

Sudan ratifies economic accord with Chad

(SudanTribune.com) Parliament has ratified a bilateral protocol to promote investments between Sudan and Chad. This move confirms signs of improvement in the relations between the two neighbors.

The National Assembly, chaired by its Deputy Speaker, Atim Garang, Tuesday ratified a bill on agreement on encouragement and protection of investment between the Government of the Sudan and the Government of Chad for the year 2006.

A report was presented to the parliament by the Chairman of Industry, Investment and Trade Committee Abdul Hamid Musa Kasaha.

On the other hand, the state minister at the foreign ministry, al-Samani al-Wasila told the official SUNA that the Chadian president Idriss Deby would visit the Sudan early next June.

The Sudanese official describes the visit as part of the normalization of relations between Sudan and Chad in accordance with Riyadh reconciliation agreement signed on May 3, under the auspices of the Saudi King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz.

Workshop on Darfur peace held in Cairo*

(*AlAyaam*, 15 May) A workshop in Cairo on peace in Darfur has culminated in recommendations on “practical steps to resolve the crisis in Darfur”.

The workshop saw the participation of representatives of Sudanese, Arab and African civil society organizations operating in the human rights domain.

** A full text of the Communiqué follows in tomorrow's Media Monitoring Report*

Editorial:

The *AlAyaam* editorial today says VP Salva Kiir seems to be optimistic of his efforts to bring the non-signatory factions of Darfur around a united negotiations position and has indeed said that progress has been made following contacts with the non-signatories and that he expects them to participate the meeting he has invited them to in southern Sudan.

The editorial under the title, “Salva Kiir and the Crisis in Darfur”, goes on to say that despite the importance of the regional and international initiatives for Darfur, this initiative by the GoSS is worthy of support because of its higher chances of success based on, among other things, past links between the SPLM and the movements of Darfur and the unity of purpose.

The paper goes on to point out that most important than all the above is the fact that it is a truly Sudanese effort being exerted at a time when internal efforts have been depleted and all the problems in the country are discussed in foreign fora.

The editorial calls for the full support of the effort by VP Salva Kiir.

Other Developments

DUP member warns a Darfur crisis may be in the making in the Kajbar Dam area

(*AlSahafa*) The deputy Secretary-General of the Democratic Unionist Party warns that the Kajbar area, the construction site of a new dam, may turn into another Darfur and called upon the parties concerned to move fast to clear the misunderstandings that have caused tensions between the government and citizens of the area.

Former eastern Sudan rebels ready to implement peace accord

(SudanTribune.com) Seven months after the signing of a peace deal with the Sudanese government, the former rebel East Sudan Front presented names of its candidates for posts agreed between the two parties. This measure will allow the implementation of the Eritrean sponsored pact.

The Presidential Advisor and head of the government delegation for East Sudan negotiations, Mustafa Osman Ismail, Tuesday evening received in the Eritrean capital the nominations of the East Front for constitutional and executive positions in the federal government and the states.

The lists of nominees was handed to Ismail by Chairman of the East Front, Musa Mohamed Ahmed, in the presence of the Eritrean mediator, Yamani Gebrab, Deputy Chairman of the East Front, Dr. Amina Dirar, the Secretary General of the East Front, Mabrouk Salim Mabrouk.

The candidates for the four federal posts which include presidential assistant, presidential advisor, state minister and an advisor for the government of Khartoum State are Musa Mohamed Ahmed - the leader of the East Front, Amina Dirar - deputy leader - Mabrouk Mubarak Salim - the secretary-general and Abdalla Kuna, who is also one of the leaders of the Eastern Front.

Ismail said that he will submit the nominations lists for the President Omer al-Bashir, toward issuing republican decrees in this regard. But informed sources said that the decree of appointments would be issued before 21 May, the day which Eastern Front forces are expected to enter the country.

He pointed out that the government and the East Front have made wide strides in implementing the security arrangements' protocols of the peace agreements, announcing convocation of a meeting of the Joint Security Committee on Monday in Kassala city.

The Presidential Advisor indicated that preparations are underway to celebrate the return of the East Front members to the homeland, as well as paving the way for convocation of the consultative conference of east Sudan.

China to establish security measures to protect overseas workers

(Xinhua via SudanTribune.com) China said on Monday it would set up security alerts and emergency-handling mechanisms to safeguard overseas Chinese workers.

China will also enhance international security cooperation and increase security spending to protect its overseas workers against terrorist attacks, conflicts, natural disasters and other threats, said a conference jointly held by the Ministry of Commerce (MOC) and the Ministry of Foreign affairs.

The country had invested 73.3bn US dollars overseas and had 670,000 overseas workers at the end of 2006, the MOC said and added that China's direct overseas investment reached 16.1bn dollars in 2006, up 31 per cent year on year.

In three years, China will complete an education campaign to provide security training for 2,000 officials from 1,000 enterprises, said MOC minister Bo Xilai.

The Chinese government will instruct firms with overseas projects to assume their social responsibilities, take part in local public welfare development, fit in with the local culture and protect the local environment, he said.

China will encourage these enterprises to share benefits with the host country, for example by expanding local employment through outsourcing, Bo said.

Last month, a group of gunmen attacked a Chinese oil company site in the Ogaden region of Ethiopia, killing nine Chinese workers and kidnapping seven others.

China responded by vowing to step up security evaluations for overseas Chinese, according to Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao.

However, China will not change its policy of encouraging its firms to cooperate with all countries, including those in Africa, on the basis of equality and mutual benefits, said Liu.