

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS**Media Monitoring Report, 23 May 2007

(By Public Information Office)

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# Highlights

## UN/ Agencies/ Partners

### **Clarification from *Akhir Lahza* on Wau incident**

(*Akhir Lahza*) UNMIS stated through its Spokesperson Radhia Achouri that the inquiry conducted by OIOS and CDU did not prove that a boy was sexually assaulted in Wau city by one of UNMIS personnel, as was reported by *Akhir Lahza* on the basis of information provided to it by one of the sources that cooperates with the newspaper in Bahr Al Ghazal.

A letter sent to the Chief Editor [*of Akhir Lahza*] said that the inquiry results confirmed that the local police and Wau hospital were not notified of the incident.

For its part, *Akhir Lahza* would like to clarify that it did publish the news article without any motive, and did so only in the context of professional follow up [*the newspaper does not specify follow up of what exactly*], particularly when the newspaper has been always committed to a unbiased professional line.

*Akhir Lahza* states that the fact that the information in question is not the first of its kind, as the famous rape incident of minors in Juba by some UNMIS personnel, published by the UK newspaper the Daily Telegraph, is still present in everybody's mind, and its echo is still reverberating in the corridors of the UN and the GoSS, was the reason why *Akhir Lahza* dealt with the information without hesitation.

Nevertheless, *Akhir Lahza* apologizes to the UN Mission and also apologizes, as it is accustomed to, to its distinguished readers, for this publication [*he means the publication of the allegation I guess*]

The newspaper decided to dispatch a reporter from its main office to Bahr Al Ghazal to conduct field investigation in the area concerned."

### **Committee on welfare of Eritrean refugees in Sudan to stage procession before the United Nations offices**

(*AlWattan*) A committee on the welfare of Eritrean refugees in Sudan stages today a march to protest worsening conditions.

The secretary of the committee pointed out that a previous action on their part did not lead to the results they sought, conditions of their people continue to deteriorate and suicide rates amongst Eritrean refugees are on the rise because of the worsening conditions.

### **China must do more on Darfur - UN adviser**

(Reuters) China must do more to stop the Darfur conflict in Sudan, said former U.N. aid chief Jan Egeland, while the United States should focus on trying to build peace between the Palestinians and Israel.

Egeland, now a special adviser to U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, also said he spent too much time in Washington instead of Beijing as he tried to draw attention to Darfur while he was U.N. emergency relief coordinator.

"Darfur — I don't think the United States can unlock. In the Palestinian conflict I think they can," he told the Council on Foreign Relations in New York on Tuesday.

"The U.S. and the U.K. did all the right things on Darfur and it had little effect," he said. "We should have had a wider coalition in the beginning and I blame myself for not going to Beijing more and less to Congress."

He said public campaigns for action should have earlier targeted countries who invest in Darfur, like China and India, to push them to pressure Sudan to resolve the four-year-old conflict in Darfur. (Follow the link to the full text [China must do more on Darfur - UN adviser](#))

### **AU presses for improving Sudan, Chad relations**

(SudanTribune.com) The African Union has asked the Sudanese government to ponder on the obstacles that impede normalizing its relations with Chad along with striving to improve conditions in Darfur and endorse the Libyan role in the region.

The chairman of the African Peace and Security Council's mission, Dr. E. Philip Europa, following his meeting with the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Alsamani Al-wasila, yesterday stated that their visit to Sudan aimed at fact finding and probing the volume of the problem between Sudan, and Chad and Central Africa to later submit a report to the African Peace and Security council to adopt decisions that might resolve the problem.

The official spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Ali Elsadig, on his part revealed that the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Alsamani Al-wasila, had briefed the delegation of the African Peace and Security Council on the current standing of the Sudanese – Chadian relations, illustrating the problems they face and indicating that these relations are beginning to look up after the two countries have concluded an agreement prohibiting the launching of hostile actions from either terrain.

Elsadig reiterated that the AU delegation had impressed the need for expediting the convention of the Darfuri- Darfuri dialogue, boosting the efforts of the AU Envoy Salim Ahmed Salim, for realizing a political settlement for the region and appending the non-signatory factions to the Darfur peace deal.

### **Humanitarian needs remain high in Southern Sudan**

(*IRIN via SudanTribune.com*) Humanitarian needs in Southern Sudan remain high or have increased - despite the 2005 peace agreement between the government and former rebels, say aid workers in the region.

"Following the signing of the CPA [Comprehensive Peace Agreement], donors started to shift from humanitarian funding to funding development projects," said Nicolas Louis of the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Department (ECHO) in Juba, capital of Southern Sudan.

"We find ourselves in a situation where we have a lot of humanitarian needs but the funds available to cover those needs are reduced because development is not happening overnight," he added.

The shift has occurred largely due to a lack of implementing capacity on the part of Southern Sudan's fledgling government and partly because pledged resources have yet to be released.

[*Follow the link to the full text [Humanitarian needs remain high in Southern Sudan](#)*]

### **Government accused of opposing humanitarian relief efforts in Darfur**

(*The Citizen*) Several NGOs assess the Darfur region as a cemetery for humanitarian relief workers.

The NGOs identified 11 September 2006 as the worst day in the history of the relief field in Darfur. Armed militias attacked workers of the MSF prompting many organisations to wind up activities in the region thus leaving more than six million displaced people without assistance.

The Sudan government has promised in many international forums to support humanitarian relief organisations in Darfur but many NGOs maintain that the government does not issue entry visas to their staff and that Sudanese customs authorities usually confiscate their equipment.

UN Humanitarian Spokesperson Dawn Blalock says the humanitarian organisation could lessen malnutrition rates in Darfur to 15% but, she adds, these organisations face many problems of insecurity.

### **CPA**

#### **SPLA bars relief convoy to Julud, South Kordofan State**

(*AlWattan*) The SPLA has barred a relief convoy destined to Deling locality from Dinder in South Kordofan on the grounds that no one, save the SPLM/A, is allowed to ferry relief to the area.

The convoy was being headed by the commissioner for Dinder who had earlier received permission from the governor to bring in the relief but was surprised to be blocked by the SPLA.

### **Southern Sudan**

## **South Sudan to construct two airports in Malakal and Rumbek**

*(New Vision via SudanTribune.com)* Southern Sudan government will build two international airports in two states besides the upgrading of Juba airport, a Sudanese businessman said in here on Tuesday.

The Government of Southern Sudan is to build two international airports to promote business. Mobior Garang de Mobior, the head of the Alkebulan Investments and Promotions, said the airports would be built in Malakal and Rumbek.

Speaking about the business opportunities in Southern Sudan, Mobior, who is the son of the late former First Vice-President, Dr. John Garang, told the reporters that Juba Airport is also being upgraded to international standards, the New Vision reported.

He said Southern Sudan government was revamping infrastructure by building the new Juba Road.

“Business is booming in all the 10 states of Southern Sudan. It is not only in Juba as people think. “Business is booming in agro-processing, construction, transport, health and sanitation and in the hospitality sector,” Mobior said. [*Follow the link to the full text* [South Sudan to construct two airports in Malakal and Rumbek](#)].

## **Darfur**

### **Sudan bans reports on Darfur rebel groups**

*(SudanTribune.com)* The Sudanese press body has banned the local newspapers from publishing news reports related to the rebel groups because they undermine the security in the country.

The National Press and Publications Council Tuesday requested daily newspapers not to publish reports and activities of the rebel movements and not to interview its political leaders and as well as its field commanders.

The council urged newspapers not to “give publicity to the rebel movements and not to report on their threats and statements that undermine country’s security, instigate fear, and create instability”, the statement said.

This ban comes after a statement by one of Darfur rebel to the Khartoum based Al-Sahafa accusing the government forces and its backed militia of killing five civilian in North Darfur two days ago.

The council said all should agree not to give publicity to any rebel group, existing or under establishment, and not to give it a chance to issue false and irresponsible statements.

The Sudanese security service has ordered early today to stop the printing of al-Sahafa pre-texting that the printing workers did not fulfill an application dedicated to the security apparatus.

## **Security delegation holds secret talks with non-signatory faction**

*(AlSudani)* Informed sources report that a Sudanese security delegation is holding secret talks in Abeche with a non-signatory faction under the mediation of the Chadian government.

He said the Sudanese delegation is also in Chad to negotiate the release of Sudanese soldiers detained in Chad since the battle in Kariyari.

The JEM has meanwhile called on the visiting Chinese envoy to “open up on all sides to the conflict”.

The movement accuses the government of build-ups of its forces and the Janjaweed in North Darfur and South Darfur and says clashes have occurred in those areas. The movement says it captured 25 vehicles – four of them mounted with machineguns – and added there is a manhunt going on in the IDP camps for figures of the non-signatory groups.

## **Sanctions against Sudan won't bring peace in Darfur - China**

*(AFP via SudanTribune.com)* A Chinese envoy warned that threats of sanctions against the Sudanese government will not bring peace to Darfur as he toured the war-wracked western region Tuesday, official media reported.

Liu Guijin, the Chinese foreign ministry's Africa director, said the language of threats would only prolong the suffering of the 2.5 million people who have been displaced by the four-year-old conflict, the official SUNA news agency said.

Liu pledged that Beijing, Khartoum's major trade partner, would continue to play a constructive and positive role in seeking a settlement to the conflict, as he visited the region's main city of El Fasher and nearby displaced persons' camps, SUNA said.

The Chinese envoy announced in the capital of South Darfur, Nyala, that China would construct 120 schools in Darfur in order to enhance the educational process in the region.

## **Other Developments**

### **Counsel for the defence on the money laundering case demands lifting of immunity from minister**

*(AlWattan)* The defence attorney in a controversial lawsuit on money laundering says he has presented a memorandum to the Presidency of the Republic requesting that Justice Minister el-Mardi be stripped of immunity.

Attorney Baroud Sandal said he expects the Presidency to soon respond to his request.

Baroud Sandal is legal counsel for SudaCal Co. whose proprietors faces charges on money-laundering.

In an earlier issue of *AlWattan*, Baroud Sandal is quoted as saying that he had evidence enough to request that the justice minister be stripped of immunity from prosecution. He said that the justice minister had twice halted the legal proceedings on the case despite the fact that some of the suspects have been in prison for months and some have their vehicles and monies held by authorities.