



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN

UNMIS

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By Public Information Office

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## **Highlights**

### **Main News**

#### **FVP refuses any concessions on Abyei, fact-finding mission arrives in the area**

**(Al-Sahafa)** The FVP Salva Kiir has refused to make any concessions with regard to implementation of Abyei protocol.

“GoSS and people of South Sudan oppose making any concessions on Abyei. Abyei Protocol should be implemented in full and so does the ABC report,” FVP Salva Kiir told inauguration of a new session of South Sudan Parliament.

Meanwhile, NCP, SPLM and UN committee headed by Al-Dirdiri Mohamed Ahmed, Deng Alor and Therese Guiti respectively arrived in Abyei area to investigate the cause of burning down the town and displacement of population.

On the other hand, Arab League Secretary General Umro Musa will visit Sudan shortly in a bid to mediate to resolve Abyei.

#### **SPLM calls for international intervention in Abyei under Chapter VII**

**(Al-Rai Al-Aam)** SPLM in Abyei has called upon the investigation committee from NCP, SPLM and AEC which visited the area yesterday to implement the ABC report, to withdraw army from the area and to free POWs.

The newspaper has learnt that SPLM handed over a memorandum to committee in which it called on UN to intervene under Chapter VII to protect civilians and to declare Abyei a “distress area”.

The committee is still meeting with the parties and is expected to come up with decisive decisions.

#### **Sudan Armed Forces continue troops build-up in Abyei – Salva Kiir**

**(ST)** May 28, 2008 (JUBA) — The first vice president of the republic and president of the government of southern Sudan, Lt. Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit said today northern Sudan army is still building up troops in the disputed area of Abyei.

Salva Kiir accused the Sudan Army Forces of amassing troops despite presidency agreements for immediate SAF withdrawal from Abyei area, ceasefire and cessation of hostilities, "SAF is still building up its forces along roads leading to northern Sudan," he said.

The southern Sudan president said the unfolding latest situation compelled him to send his Vice President Riek Machar to meet and discuss with president Bashir the current emerging crisis in Abyei area, last Saturday.

Kiir assured the lawmakers that the government of southern Sudan and its people stand in fully support of the provision of the Abyei protocol and the Abyei Boundary Commission report, which he said will neither be renegotiated nor compromised but be implemented.

Officiating the first session of Southern Sudan legislative assembly today, president Kiir, reiterated that the people of southern Sudan will resist all attempts to push them into war by its partner the NCP. "We must not allow ourselves to be dragged into war but when attacked, we would respond only on the basis of self defense," Kiir emphasized.

However, Kiir explained that the government of southern Sudan will work with all peace loving people in Sudan and the world at large to ensuring that Comprehensive Peace Agreement is fully implemented to the letter and spirit.

The Ceasefire Political Commission agreed yesterday in Khartoum to send an investigation team with the participation of the UN and the peacekeeping force to Abyei.

Kiir observed that there are no necessary laws for effective functioning of southern Sudan judicial system which has post great challenges on both the government of southern Sudan and the legislative assembly as legislatives priorities are not proceeded timely. He urged the august house to explore other options if it's due to lack of capacity.

He further said the coming two major events of the general election in 2009 and the popular consultation for the people of Nuba Mountains and southern Blue Nile in 2009 and the simultaneous referendum for self determination for the people of southern Sudan and Abyei in 2011 need serious enlightenment to cross-section of southern Sudanese that needed to be based on the unity of the people of southern Sudan.

With regard to food security which is a major concern to all people of southern Sudan, the head of southern Sudan government directed the ministry of agriculture to address it comprehensively. Otherwise, "if the Uganda and Kenya close their borders for any given reason, our people in Juba will starve to death because we are depending on food from outside Sudan", Kiir observed.

He also hailed the international community for their assistance to the people of southern Sudan particularly the people and the government of Norway for their renewed commitment and pledges for the second phase of the CPA implementation.

## [\*\*UN/Agencies\*\*](#)

### [\*\*Security Council delegation to conduct five-nation tour of Africa\*\*](#)

**(UN News Centre)** 28 May 2008 – A Security Council delegation will this weekend begin a five-country visit to Africa to obtain a first-hand assessment of the crises engulfing Somalia, Sudan's Darfur region and neighbouring Chad and to help with efforts to promote peace and reconciliation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Côte d'Ivoire.

The delegation will start its 10-day mission in Djibouti, where talks are being held between representatives of the Government and the opposition in neighbouring Somalia, a United Nations spokesperson told reporters today.

The Council members then head to Sudan for three days of talks with Government officials in Khartoum and a visit to El Fasher, the capital of North Darfur state and the headquarters of the hybrid UN-African Union peacekeeping force (UNAMID) to the troubled region.

The delegation travels next to N'Djamena, the capital of Chad, for a two-day visit that will also include a trip to the far east of the country to tour camps for refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) near the town of Goz Beida, which is close to the border with Darfur.

On 7 June the delegation is scheduled to arrive in the Congolese capital, Kinshasa, for discussions with the country's leadership and civil society and the UN peacekeeping mission (known as MONUC).

The group is expected to also visit Goma, the main town in North Kivu province in the far east of the DRC, which has experienced continued violent unrest since the official end of the civil war.

The last stop on the trip will be Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire's commercial capital, for meetings with key figures in the implementation of the Ouagadougou peace agreement, reached last year to end the protracted political stand-off in the West African country between the Government and the rebel Forces Nouvelles.

### **Ban Ki-moon makes two key appointments for peacekeeping operations**

**(UN News Centre)** 28 May 2008 – United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today announced he is appointing a Nigerian Lieutenant General and a Nepali Major General to two key positions in the UN's peacekeeping operations around the world.

Lieutenant General Chikadibia Obiakor of Nigeria is to take over as Military Adviser for the UN's global peacekeeping operations.

Currently serving as the Force Commander of the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), he began his military career with the Nigerian army in 1973. Among other offices, he has served as the Commander of the Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) Artillery Brigade in Liberia in 1996 and 1997 and also as its chief coordinator of the country's elections.

Mr. Ban has also appointed Major General Paban Jung Thapa of Nepal as Force Commander of the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS).

General Thapa was recently commander of the Infantry Division in eastern Nepal during his country's recent Constituent Assembly elections and he has also served on UN peacekeeping missions in the former Yugoslavia and in Lebanon.

### **SG pledges strict action against perpetrators of SEA against children in southern Sudan**

**(Al-Sahafa)** SG Ban Ki-Moon has pledged disciplinary action against the aid workers and peacekeepers involved in SEA against minor children in Southern Sudan.

In a press release, SG expressed concern over Save the Children report on SEA against children.

### **UN: Save the Children's abuse report will be taken seriously**

**(Miraya FM)** The United Nations Mission in Sudan said it would take seriously the findings of a report by UK Charity Save the Children which alleged child abuses committed by UN aid personnel and peacekeepers.

The Spokesman of the Mission Zerrouk Kouider told Miraya FM that the UN has a clear policy in the cases of sexual abuse, adding that the UN is taking measures against anybody convicted in these actions.

The UNMIS Spokesman said the mission in southern Sudan lacks enough information on the report but it will deal seriously with it.

A report by the UK charity Save the Children indicated that some UN aid workers in southern Sudan, Ivory Coast and Haiti have abused children.

The charity called for setting up an international mechanism to deal with these cases in the post conflict areas.

Meanwhile, the UN welcomed the report and said it will carefully study it. The report does not mention the number of child sexual abuse cases in southern Sudan.

### **GoNU**

### **Controversy in the Parliament over Elections Act crisis**

**(Ray Al-Shaab)** The Parliament witnessed yesterday intense controversy over the Elections Act as many MPs expressed displeasure over delay of the Electoral Act by the Presidency.

The Electoral law was submitted by the NCRC to the Presidency for finalization and return to Parliament.

According to some MPs the remaining part of the current Parliament session is just three weeks while others wondered what would happen if the law is not received within the specified period.

Some MPs stressed the need for submission of an urgent memo to the Presidency to urge it to expedite the law.

### **President Bashir holds UN responsible for hybrid deployment delay**

**(Ray Al-Shaab)** The President of the Republic Omer Bashir said UN was to blame for the delay of deployment of hybrid troops in Darfur because of failure to provide necessary funding and equipment.

The President made the statement yesterday at meeting with the President of Tanzania who is also the Chairman of the African Union.

### **Sudan opposition leader says ruling party not implementing CPA**

**(ST)** May 28, 2008 (WASHINGTON) — The leader of a Sudanese opposition party blamed the ruling National Congress Party (NCP) for not following through on its obligations under the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA).

Mubarak al-Fadil who heads the Umma Reform and Renewal Party (URRP) told Sudan Tribune by phone that the NCP “is in the habit of signing agreements and not honoring them”.

“The Naivasha accord [CPA] contained many items which are still outstanding. This resulted in a situation where the decision making process in the government is dominated by the NCP” he said.

“The laws restricting freedoms were supposed to be abolished and the role of the Sudan Security bureau should have been redefined as well many laws that had to be rewritten to be consistent with the spirit of Naivasha” he added.

Al-Fadil also recounted the “lack of transparency” in the workings of the oil commission, election law and the dispute over oil rich region of Abyei as examples of CPA violations.

The opposition leader was speaking from Juba where he delivered remarks at the second convention of Sudan People Liberation Movement (SPLM) and met with senior officials in Sudan’s semi-autonomous south including President Salva Kiir.

Concurrently Al-Fadil’s cousin and leader of the mainstream Umma Party Sadiq al-Mahdi signed an agreement in the Sudanese capital with President Omar Hassan Al-Bashir known as “National Reconciliation Agreement”.

In 2002, Al-Fadil defected from the Umma Party led by the former Sudanese Prime Minister Al-Mahdi. Al-Fadil was of the view that the Umma party should take part in the Sudanese government while al-Mahdi rejected any participation in a non-democratically elected body.

But the URRP chief sounded skeptical on whether the agreement would signify a breakthrough in Sudan’s political arena.

“As a matter of principle we welcome any form of understanding that leads to overcoming rivalry in the Sudan’s politics particularly the ones relating to the governance crisis” Al-Fadil said.

“But the facts on the ground clearly tell us that we are not in need of more agreements but rather implement the ones already signed” he added.

The Umma party came under criticism from opposition parties, particularly the Sudanese Communist Party (SCP) following the signature of the accord.

“The national reconciliation agreement is in essence a bilateral in nature.....and goes as far as forging a strategic alliance when they talk in the agreement about “enhancing the relations between the parties’ associates” the SCP said.

The SCP also said that the accord “enforces the idea of the religious state and a return to square one that the Ingaz [NCP] has started the September 1983 Shari'a laws from”.

But Al-Mahdi defended the agreement and told Sudan Tribune yesterday that it is a “first step towards comprehensive national conference”.

However the URRP leader said that the NCP was supposed to prepare a national reconciliation conference in accordance with the CPA and “is dragging its feet”.

“They [NCP] don’t even want to form the committee that will prepare for that conference” Al-Fadil said”.

### **Abyei a ‘region of co-existence’**

During Al-Fadil’s stay in Juba the border area between North and South Sudan witnessed the most violent clashes last week between Sudanese army and SPLA that left at least 22 people killed and scores injured.

Tens of thousand of civilians fled Abyei last week during clashes between northern and southern troops, prompting fears of further conflict.

SPLM secretary general Pagan Amum said on Monday Sudan was on the brink of a fresh civil war following the clashes.

Al-Fadil said the issue of Abyei can be resolved through “sharing the oil revenue flowing from there”.

“Our view in the party that reaching an agreement on the Abyei oil is the key to resolving the crisis regardless of the borders issue. This was successful in similar situations like the one between Tunisia and Libya” he said.

The opposition leader also disclosed that the British government extended a similar advice to the NCP to defuse tensions in Abyei by reaching “a long term agreement” that goes beyond the 2011 referendum in the South. He also said that the UK offered to send experts to help both sides on the issue.

The sticky issue of Abyei was left undetermined in the Comprehensive Agreement (CPA) signed between the North and South in 2005.

However, under a protocol which was part of the CPA, a commission known as the Abyei Boundaries Commission (ABC) was to “define and demarcate the area of the nine Ngok Dinka Chiefdoms transferred to Kordofan in 1905, referred to herein as Abyei Area”.

The ABC concluded that the Ngok “have a legitimate dominant claim to the territory from the Kordofan–Bahr el-Ghazal boundary north to latitude 10°10' N, stretching from the boundary with Darfur to the boundary with Upper Nile”.

However, Al-Bashir said that the NCP is committed to the Abyei Protocol only with the border of 1905. He further said the government is not concerned with the ABC report and that the latter is of no value to them.

Al-Fadil said that the Arab Misseriya tribe “recognizes the chiefdoms North of Bahr El-Arab River. They just want assurances that they won't lose their cattle grazing pastures. When they were denied access they took arms. They are not really worried about the issue of border demarcation”.

“That disputed region can be treated in a manner similar to the Vatican. The rest of the area can be one of coexistence and turned into a free trade zone. Its residents can enjoy dual citizenship” he said.

Under the 2005 peace accord residents of Abyei will chose to join the north or south in 2011, when the entire south will vote on secession from the north.

The opposition leader also dismissed the notion that the Misseriya tribesmen are loyal to the ruling NCP.

“They have a great deal of bitterness towards the NCP. Until recently they were not allowed to be employed in the oil fields. This is why thousands of them joined the SPLA. One of their figures told the energy minster Awad Al-Jaz as to why their cow is milked in Khartoum” he said.

Al-Fadil was appointed as presidential adviser for economic affairs in 2002 but was sacked by Al-Bashir two years later after receiving an invitation to visit the US as head of the Umma Reform and Renewal party. The invitation angered the Sudanese president who saw a pattern of him acting in his own capacity without consultation.

The opposition leader has been critical of the Sudanese government particularly in dealing with the conflict in the war ravaged region of Darfur. He was arrested last year for his role in an alleged coup attempt before being released four months later for lack of evidence.

### **US envoy seeks resolution in Sudan Abyei region**

(ST) May 28, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — The US special envoy for Sudan vowed on Wednesday to press diplomatic efforts towards resolving a brewing crisis between the country's north and south sparked by fighting in an oil flashpoint.

Speaking upon arrival in Khartoum, Richard Williamson said he would use his upcoming meetings while in Sudan to raise the issue of Abyei, whose main town was leveled in fighting between government forces and southern ex-foes.

He also said he intended to hold talks with the south Sudan leader and first vice president in the central government, Salva Kiir, and travel to the war-racked region of Darfur, in western Sudan.

For his part, Kiir accused government armed forces of sending reinforcements into Abyei, where his Sudan People's Liberation Army has fled further south, in comments before the legislative assembly in the southern capital Juba.

"SAF forces have been building up in Abyei area particularly along the roads leading to northern Sudan ... (We) are committed to peace but shall retain the right of protecting the people of southern Sudan and their property," he said.

"I again call upon President (Omar al-) Bashir as the commander in chief of the SAF forces to order for a pullout of that Brigade 31 in Abyei to enable the JIUs (joint northern-southern units) deployed in the area to restore peace."

Kiir described the Abyei crisis as a violation of Sudan's three-year Comprehensive Peace Agreement and a "crime against humanity".

Williamson jetted into the crisis one day after Kiir's Sudan People's Liberation Movement said it would boycott Sudanese-US talks to normalise relations on the grounds as a response to the "destruction" of Abyei.

"We are only going to resume participating in this dialogue until there is a way out, until the Abyei problem is resolved and the Abyei protocol is going to be implemented," Yaser Arman, SPLM deputy secretary general, said on Tuesday.

Under a 2005 deal, Abyei was accorded a special status and was to be governed by a joint administration until referenda in 2011 decided whether it remained part of north or went south, or whether the south would secede.

President Beshir's National Congress Party has pinned the blame on the south for allegedly unilaterally appointing its own Abyei governor, Edward Lino, without their approval in the weeks leading up to the fighting.

On Monday, SPLM secretary general Pagan Amum said Sudan was on the verge of civil war over the dispute in the border zone between north and south, whose estimated half a billion dollar oil wealth lies at the heart of the troubles.

UN officials warn that up to 90,000 people could have been displaced by two rounds of fighting this month that flattened Abyei's once bustling main town.

The United Nations warns that the conflict could sink the three-year peace process, to which US mediation was key, that ended Africa's longest-running civil war between north and south Sudan killed more than 1.5 million people.

### **Umma Party leader says ABC to blame for deterioration in Abyei**

**(Al-Rai Al-Aam)** The US Envoy, Richard Williamson, upon arrival engaged in meetings with Umma Party leader Sadiq Al Mahdi and expressed optimism over future of relations between Khartoum and Washington.

Mr. Mahdi has ruled out full normalization of relations between Khartoum and Washington at the present stage. He said US pursues double standard policy in the world and its bias towards SPLM would not lead to full normalization of relations.

Mr. Mahdi said the experts report on Abyei was to blame for deterioration of relations and that dialogue at the present stage would be futile.

### **Sudan reportedly seeking French neutrality to topple Chadian President**

**(ST)** May 28, 2008 (PARIS) — The head of the Sudanese security service met with the Gabon president twice this month seeking his help to obtain the neutrality of the French government in a planed attempt to topple the Chadian president, a press report said today.

According to the French newspaper, Le Canard Enchaîné, Salah Abdalla 'Gosh' the chief of the Sudanese Intelligence and Security Services met twice with President Omer Bongo, to inform him about a plan to overthrow president Idriss Deby and to ask his mediation to obtain the French neutrality in this operation.

The French weekly said Bongo transmitted a message to his friend President Nicolas Sarkozy saying Sudan wants to topple the Chadian president Idriss Deby, "guilty of having delivered vehicles, weapons, fuel and means of transmission to a rebel movement in Darfur."

"The future war should allow him to install a new president in Chad, Mahamat Nour, a vice-president of the Zagawa ethnic group and a prime minister from southern Chad," the newspaper reported.

Following an attack by the rebel Justice and Equality Movemnt against the Sudanese government in Khartoum, Sudan accused the neighbouring Chad of supporting the rebel coup and severed its diplomatic ties with Chad.

This news comes at a time where Sudan publicly launched an insinuated accusation against the French government saying it has provided intelligence information to the Sudanese rebels.

The Chadian president who had the support of the western African chiefs has lost gradually their solidarity due to his refusal of proposed mediations with Chadian rebels and political opposition. Relations between Bongo, the wise man among central and West African leaders, are particularly deteriorated. Informed sources also say

President Denis Sassou Nguesso of Congo Republic also started to criticise his friend Deby.

However, a Sudanese official at the presidency denied the report saying Sudan has no interest to destabilise the regional stability. He also added that Sudan's policy is not to respond to the Chadian provocations.

In accordance with defense or military cooperation treaties with some former colonies, France has thousands of troops at four military bases in Africa, the largest at Djibouti in the Horn of Africa. The other bases are in Senegal, Gabon and Ivory Coast in West Africa. France also has troops in Chad and Central African Republic.

During a visit last February to South Africa, President Sarkozy said France will renegotiate all its defence cooperation agreements with African countries.

Sarkozy said that in the future France also wanted to pay greater attention to human rights and democracy, describing delays in free and fair elections in Ivory Coast and Chad as "unacceptable."

### **UNMIS should distance itself or get involved**

(**The Citizen**) last week, the SPLM Secretary for Information in the South Sector Mading Deng Kuol Wrote an article in which he explained the role of UNMIS in Abyei. We published his article as it came. UNMIS too wrote its own article, clarifying all the issues raised by Mading. UNMIS article denied that they supported SAF.

With due respect to the two opinions, I do not know what took place in Abyei. I was not there and my reporters were not there.

But I want this issue to be said: That UNMIS by all standards have double standards in important issues that may affect the CPA.

I take the Miraya Radio as an example. Miraya Radio was supposed to operate from Khartoum, according to provisions of CPA, but Khartoum refused to give them a frequency – an action, which pushed Miraya to move south.

Strange but Miraya was given lands and rights to put its stations all over the south, but the editorial content on the radio is shared between the northerners recruited to this radio and foreign UN employees. Is this not bias on the side of Miraya?

The editorial content is controlled by elements of the North. What we are enjoying today was achieved through armed struggle and can not be compromised because we have Miraya. If UNMIS can not protect the CPA, it should go. We know how to resolve the problem.

Within the lines, Miraya should understand that we fought for survival and we will sustain our survival. If changes do not take place in the editorial soon we shall say farewell to Miraya. Our focus is referendum and popular consultation and we can not

achieve them unless the editorial content of this Radio is independently managed as prescribed by CPA.

## **GoSS**

### **Salva Kiir inaugurates Mundiri Bridge**

**(Miraya FM)** The President of the Government of Southern Sudan, Salva Kiir Mayardit has officially inaugurated the Mundiri Bridge, which links Western Equatoria, Central Equatoria and Western Bahr el-Ghazal States.

Addressing the ceremony, Salva Kiir said the bridge would facilitate delivery of goods and services to the people as a sign of tangible peace dividend. He urged the citizens of Western Equatoria State to use the bridge for transporting their agricultural products to Juba. The World Food Programme has spent over one million dollars to renovate the Mundri Bridge, which was destroyed during the 21-year civil war in the country.

## **Darfur**

### **US presidential candidates united on Darfur**

**WASHINGTON (Reuters)** - The three major U.S. presidential candidates issued a rare joint statement on Wednesday condemning atrocities against civilians in Sudan and demanding an end to the violence.

"After more than five years of genocide, the Sudanese government and its proxies continue to commit atrocities against civilians in Darfur," said the statement signed by Democratic presidential hopefuls Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama and Republican candidate John McCain.

"This is unacceptable to the American people and to the world community," the candidates said, adding that it was clear the Sudanese government was behind the violence.

They made clear that tough policies against the violence in Darfur would continue when the next president is seated in the White House in January, whichever of the three wins takes office in January. Obama is the front-runner to win the Democratic Party nomination to contest McCain in the November election.

Excerpts from the statement were placed in Wednesday's New York Times in an advertisement sponsored by the Save Darfur Coalition, an alliance of more than 180 religious, human rights and advocacy groups.

"It would be a huge mistake for the Khartoum regime to think that it will benefit by running out the clock on the Bush administration," the candidates said. "If peace and security for the people of Sudan are not in place when one of us is inaugurated as president on January 20, 2009, we pledge that the next administration will pursue these goals with unstinting resolve."

The Bush administration has labeled the conflict in Darfur as genocide, a charge the Sudanese government has rejected.

International experts say 200,000 people have been killed and more than 2 million made homeless by the Darfur violence. Khartoum says the actual figures are far lower.

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