



## UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN

## UNMIS

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(By Public Information Office)

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## **Highlights**

### **UN/ Agencies**

#### **UN Security Council discusses today preparations for Sirte peace talks (AlRai AlAam)**

The UN Security Council holds today a consultative meeting to review the progress of implementing the hybrid operation and the current preparations for convening the anticipated talks between the government the Abuja peace none- signatory rebel movements.

On the other hand, the second report of the UN Secretary-General regarding the deployment of the hybrid operation was issued in which Pan Ki Moon stressed the Secretariat's keenness on the commitment to the timetable for the deployment of the hybrid forces as stipulated in the UN SC Resolution No. 1769.

### **Three WFP drivers killed in Darfur**

*Sudantribune.com*, October 17, 2007 (KHARTOUM) — Three truck drivers working for the U.N.'s World Food Program have been killed in the past few days while delivering food aid to Darfur, the WFP said in a statement Wednesday.

Two of the men were killed in an ambush Tuesday near the South Darfur town of Ed Daïen, close to where 10 African Union peacekeepers were slain in September, the statement said.

A third driver was killed Oct. 12 on the road from Nyala, the capital of South Darfur state, to El Fasher in North Darfur.

The U.N. food relief agency said it didn't know the identity of the attackers.

"WFP is deeply saddened and shocked by the killings of these brave men, who knew the dangers they were facing but continued to work tirelessly to alleviate suffering and bring food to the hungry in Darfur," Kenro Oshidari, head of WFP in Sudan, said in a statement.

All three men worked for a contractor company that delivers WFP food aid to storehouses in Darfur, from where the U.N. agency and multiple aid groups then distribute it to some 3 million people.

Over 60 aid vehicles have been hijacked this year alone by Darfur's various warring parties, and 12 humanitarian workers have been killed. Aid groups and U.N. agencies have also pulled out nonessential staff from several localities because of the ongoing violence.

### **International Criminal Court official raps UN chief for ignoring Sudan report**

*Text of report by Wasil Ali entitled "ICC prosecutor criticizes UN chief over Darfur war crimes suspects" in English by Paris-based Sudanese newspaper Sudan Tribune website on 16 October*

The Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), Luis Moreno-Ocampo, criticized UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon for neglecting the issue of justice in his monthly reports on Sudan.

"Justice was not mentioned in the UNSG subsequent reports on Darfur where the UN Secretariat developed a three-pronged approach with humanitarian, political and security components only," Ocampo said in prepared remarks to the eleventh diplomatic briefing at the ICC headquarters in the Hague.

The judges of the ICC issued their first arrest warrants for suspects accused of war crimes in Sudan's Darfur region in early May.

The warrants were issued for Ahmed Haroun, State Minister for Humanitarian Affairs, and militia commander Ali Kushayb. So far, Sudan has rejected handing over the two suspects.

The warrant for Haroun lists forty-two counts including murder, torture and persecution, while the warrant for Kushayb lists fifty counts including murder and intentionally attacking civilians.

Last month Sudan appointed the second war crime suspect, Ahmed Haroun, as head of a committee investigating human rights complaints in Darfur. Sudan's Foreign Minister, Lam Akol, also announced earlier this month in New York that Kushayb was released from jail due to "lack of evidence" against him.

Ocampo said that he explained to Ban Ki-moon and other UN officials that the ICC "needed first and foremost words expressing their political support."

The Chief Prosecutor warned that silence on the issue of enforcing the arrest warrants "could be interpreted as a weakening resolve of the international community" and "could encourage the provocative gesture of promoting Harun instead of removing him from office."

Ban Ki-moon made remarks to the press during his visit to Khartoum in September hinting that the ICC arrest warrants should be kept in the background for the time being while the cooperation of the Sudanese Government is secured on the deployment of peacekeeping forces in Darfur.

However, the UN Chief later admitted that he brought up the issue of the ICC arrest warrants during his meeting with Sudan's President Omar Hassan Al-Bashir despite denials by Khartoum.

The Chief Prosecutor stressed that "the issue [of Darfur arrest warrants] will not go away" and that he will inform the UN Security Council next December that Sudan is not complying with Resolution 1593, which referred the situation in Darfur to the ICC.

Ocampo also disclosed for the first time that he has been approached by a number of countries suggesting that he should try to indict "lower level perpetrators, easier to arrest than Ministers or powerful militia leaders."

It is not clear what prompted the requests by these states or whether they pertain to a specific case handled by the ICC. The Darfur case is the only one thus far to yield an arrest warrant against a government official.

Some diplomats have suggested that the ICC is a stumbling block for resolving the Darfur crisis given Khartoum's refusal to hand over suspects.

However, Ocampo emphasized that he will only prosecute individuals based on the criminal evidence we collect and subject only to the judicial review of the Chambers [judges]."

Sudan has not ratified the Rome Statute, but the UN Security Council triggered the provisions under the Statute that enable it to refer situations in non-State parties to the world court if deemed a threat to international peace and security.

*Source: Sudan Tribune website, Paris in English 16 Oct 07*

BBC Mon ME1 MEEau 171007/hs

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

### **Security, police, elections laws to be tabled before Parliament's new session**

**AlRai AlAam**, President Omer Albashir will address next Monday the inauguration of the National Legislative Authority (National and States Assemblies), where he will review the current political developments, the peace process and the government's efforts to end Darfur crisis as well as the government's programs for the up-coming period.

The national security act, the police and the elections laws in addition to the draft of the fiscal year 2008 will be tabled before the parliament. But (Alayam daily) sources rule out the discussion of the press and publication act during this session.

According to the sources, eight deputies representing the East Front will be admitted to the parliament in line with the Eastern Sudan Peace Agreement (ESPA). Twelve deputies were absorbed to the parliament from the Abuja signatories within the previous session.

### **Bashir sets up higher mechanism for following up hybrid operation**

**(AlSahafa)**, President Omer Albashir has approved the establishment of higher and technical committees under the chairmanship of President Assistant Dr. Nafie Ali Nafie and Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary Mutraf Alsiddeg respectively.

The Presidential decree stipulated that the technical committee will be responsible of the daily cooperation with the regional and international peace keeping missions, facilitating the task of the peace keeping forces, taking decisions pertinent to the incoming queries of the mechanism complete supervision over the various issues of the mechanism and solving any problem confronting fulfillment of the government commitments.

The decree commissioned the Higher Committee to oversee the signed agreements with AU and UN as regards the hybrid operation, taking decisions on issues of political dimension and adopting policies dealing with peace keeping missions in Sudan.

### **NDA submits memo to SPLM on bilateral ties**

**(AlSahafa)**, The National Democratic Alliance is expected to submit today a memo to decide on the SPLM's future relations with the NDA during the coming period

following the apology of the SPLM to take part yesterday in the NDA' leadership meeting.

NDA leadership member Dr. Alshfie Khider told (Alsahafa daily) that the SPLM's delegates apologized to attend the meeting and requested to set a new deadline, adding that the NDA discussed the crisis of the SPLM suspension of participating in the national unity and its future relations with the NDA.

He said that the meeting set up a mini- committee to coordinate NDA's meetings to evaluate the experiment of the NDA participation in the government.

### **Reactions to ministerial reshuffle in SPLM federal portfolios**

#### ***SPLM officials will not rejoin government before Kiir meets with al Bashir***

***Sudantribune.com***, October 17, 2007 (KHARTOUM) — The Sudanese president snubbed a request by his First Vice President not to announce the cabinet reshuffle before they meet in Khartoum, reliable sources said. Sudan Tribune has learnt that the cabinet reshuffle announced late Tuesday night by President Omer al-Bashir was a "blatant disregard" to the instructions of Salva Kiir as outlined in his letter.

"Kiir has clearly told Bashir in his letter to not announce the reshuffle before their meeting." The sources said.

The Sudanese president reshuffled three ministerial posts, two presidential advisors and six state ministers. The official said that Al-Bashir overlooked some of the proposed names for ministerial posts and the advisors. SPLM Deputy Secretary-General, Yasir Arman, "was the first one on the list of nominees for presidential advisors but Al-Bashir chose to ignore it." Said the sources.

Pagan Amum the SPLM Secretary General told the Agence France Presse that the new posts announced by Bashir corresponded roughly to a list the SPLM handed the president though "some names were not chosen."

However Amum said that the movement would not rejoin the government until a raft of other demands are met. "The southern ministers are ready to take their new positions as soon as the differences with the National Congress Party are resolved," he said. The outcome of the Bashir-Kiir summit on Thursday will be crucial for the participation of the newly appointed ministers in the central government.

#### ***Reshuffle different from what requested by SPLM***

***Reuters***, October 16, 2007 (KHARTOUM) — SPLM officials said that the cabinet reshuffle announced by Sudanese president Omar Al-Bashir was different from what they had originally requested. SPLM sources told Sudan Tribune that Lam Akol was not nominated to be the minister of cabinet affairs to replace Deng Alor.

"President (of south Sudan) Salva Kiir is going (to Khartoum) tomorrow and there he will make a statement ... swear in the new ministers and then they will start work," southern Information Minister Kwaje told Reuters.

But other senior SPLM officials said the formal decision on whether to return to government would be taken after a meeting between SPLM Chairman Salva Kiir and Bashir on Thursday. "Until Salva is satisfied with the outcome of the meeting with Bashir ... the one who is going to decide about resuming work or not is Salva," said one senior SPLM official who declined to be named.

"Definitely they will go back to work ... but ultimately on the directives of the President (Kiir)," said Michael Makuei, the Minister for Legal Affairs and Constitutional Development.

Arrived at after more than a week of intense dialogue within the SPLM political bureau, diplomatic sources said not all within the party were happy at the latest position.

***Reporting from Nairobi Nick Wadhams*** said the South Sudanese leaders say they are not ready to rejoin a unity government, even after Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir reorganized the Cabinet in a bid to satisfy them. As Nick Wadhams reports from Nairobi, the former rebels say the government is not meeting their most important demands.

But the SPLM says the National Congress Party should have waited to change the ministers until later this week, after Mr. Bashir met with the former-rebel leader and Sudanese Vice President Salva Kiir in Khartoum.

A chief SPLM official in Kenya, John Andrug Duku, tells VOA News that Mr. Bashir still must meet several other commitments under the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement before it rejoins the government. Chief among them, he says, are the withdrawal of troops from border regions between north and south and the end of harassment of SPLM officials in Khartoum.

### ***Reshuffle fails to convince Sudan's ex-rebels***

Source: Agence France-Presse English Wire Date: October 17, 2007

by Mohamed Hasni

KHARTOUM, Oct 17, 2007 (AFP) - Sudan's President Omar al-Beshir has reshuffled his cabinet in a bid to win back southern former rebels who pulled out of the unity government last week, an official said Wednesday.

The Sudan People's Liberation Movement however said it would not rejoin the government until a raft of other demands are met.

"The southern ministers are ready to take their new positions as soon as the differences with (Beshir's National Congress Party) are resolved," Bagan Amon, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement secretary general told AFP. The group's demands focus on getting Khartoum's troops out of the south and resolving the fate of the disputed oil district of Abiye.

The new ministers "will stay out of government until the application of the terms of the peace accord which have not yet been implemented," Amon said.

### ***Sudan's Bashir reshuffles cabinet to defuse crisis***

(Wraps south Sudan and Darfur stories)

By Opheera McDoom, Reuters

KHARTOUM, Oct 17 (Reuters) - Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir has approved a cabinet reshuffle, one demand of former southern rebels who withdrew from a coalition government last week triggering the country's worst political crisis in years. Bashir's decision to approve the cabinet reshuffle, which had been delayed for three months, followed his first meeting on Tuesday with SPLM officials since the crisis began.

SPLM Information Minister Samson Kwaje told Reuters earlier after the cabinet reshuffle that his group would rejoin the government to try to work to resolve outstanding issues. But he later clarified his statement to say participation in the government was "not automatic" and would depend upon Kiir's meeting with Bashir on Thursday. Calling the reshuffle a positive step, Kwaje said: "There are other contentious issues ... it is not automatic that the ministers will return to work ... the meeting tomorrow is very crucial, if not resolving this issue, then at least to find a way forward to resolve it".

Another SPLM official said: "Until Salva is satisfied with the outcome of the meeting with Bashir ... the one who is going to decide about resuming work or not is Salva."

***AlRai AlAam***, Ambiguity Tuesday shrouded the stand of the SPLM as regard commitment to the decrees issues recently by President Albashir and the replacement of a number of its ministers.

As SPLM officials' statements seem to be contradictory on whether its ministers will swear in today before the President or not prior to unleashing the freezing decision regional and international efforts continued to contain the crisis between the Navasha partners.

SPLM's Secretary-General Pagan Amum expressed his dismay from negligence of the names of some persons nominated the SPLM' Polit-bureau among them was Yassir Arman, who was nominated as Advisor to the President

Amum hoped the negligence of those would not made intentionally saying that the southern ministers are ready to take their new positions as soon as the differences with the NCP are resolved.

The new ministers "will stay out of government until the application of the terms of the peace accord which have not yet been implemented," Amon said.

GOSS Minister for Culture and Information, Samson Kwaje, denied reports that the SPLM has rejoined the Government of the National Unity. Mr Kwaje, who is also the GoSS spokesman, said that, though there was a breakthrough in the crisis, by



President Omar Al-Bashir's approval of the cabinet reshuffle, which is one of the SPLM demands, there are still other outstanding issues.

Mr Kwaje was reacting to reports going around that the SPLM has ordered its ministers back to the Government of the National Unity, one week after a sensational suspension of their participation in its work.

In a related development, Khartoum and Juba witnessed a shuttle regional and international movement with the aim of containing the crisis, starting with the envoys of the Egyptian President, who met President Albashir and his deputy Kiir.

The French Ambassador to Khartoum conveyed to GOSS Vice-President Dr. Machar proposals from the French government calling for convening an international conference to discuss the progress of the CPA's implementation.

*AlRai AlAam* quoted informed sources as saying that President al Bashir, according to CPA provisions, is not required to accept as is the recommendations of the SLM for the portfolios of presidential advisers. The statement was made to justify why al Bashir has not accepted SLM nomination of Yasir Arman.

### **AU chief concerned about political crisis in Sudan**

(ST), October 17, 2007 (ADDIS ABABA) — African Union Commission Chairperson Alpha Oumar Konare said on Wednesday he was concerned about the political crisis created when Sudan's former southern rebels pulled out of the coalition government.

In a statement issued from the AU headquarters, Konare said he is following with concerns the recent developments regarding the implementation of the comprehensive peace agreement (CPA), in particular the decision by the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) to suspend its participation in the government of national unity.

He urged the parties to the CPA to take all steps required to address outstanding issues and ensure the successful implementation of the CPA, "in both letter and spirit," in order to promote a lasting peace in Sudan.

(Xinhua)

### **US Senate backs divestment efforts against Sudan govt**

(ST), October 17, 2007 (WASHINGTON) — The Senate Banking Committee unanimously approved legislation Wednesday endorsing some state and local governments' efforts to use their investments to pressure Sudanese government to ease suffering in its Darfur region

The bill quickly moved forward on a 21-0 vote after Sen. Chuck Hagel, R-Neb., withdrew a proposed amendment that would have empowered President Bush to override decisions by the local governments.

"I don't think we want to give local governments authority in foreign policy decisions," Hagel said. But he said he was stepping aside to back the bipartisan measure already approved in July by the House.

Sen. Christopher J. Dodd, D-Conn., chairman of the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee, said the aim was to ease "grinding misery" in Darfur.

Since 2005, 20 states and more than 50 universities have protested the violence by adopting policies of divesting funds from companies that invest in Sudan. Typically, this includes legislation to block state pension funds from investing in foreign companies that provide revenue for the government of Sudan. But the tactic has sparked legal battles, with opponents arguing the states are trying to conduct their own foreign affairs in violation of the Constitution.

The legislation would authorize such divestment as within investors' rights, so long as the states follow certain standards and notify the Treasury Department of their actions.

The bill also would prohibit the U.S. government from awarding contracts to companies directly investing or conducting business operations in Sudan in four sectors: oil industry, power production, mineral extraction and military equipment.

The House passed a similar bill July 31 by a 418-1 vote.

(AP)

### **Kenya urges dialogue to save Sudan peace deal**

(ST), October 17, 2007 (NAIROBI) — Kenyan special envoy to Sudan on Wednesday pleaded with the country's government and ex-southern rebels to start dialogue aimed at ending a crisis that threatens the landmark peace agreement.

Kenyan former president Daniel Arap Moi made the appeal days after the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) withdrew from the government of national unity, accusing the National Congress Party (NCP) of balking in implementing the accord.

"All parties are encouraged to exercise restraint, respect past commitment [to the agreement], and adopt the route to dialogue," Moi said in a statement.

"It is my genuine concern that failure to address the present crisis may lead to undesirable consequences in that country, which will threaten peace and stability in the region and disrupt normal life," said the ex-president.

Moi, who launched the Sudan peace talks in 1994, called on the feuding sides "to embrace dialogue and reconciliation" that would lead to "an amicable solution ... in the interest of the people and nation of Sudan.

"This is to remove all forms of suspicion that the spirit of equal partnership between the parties in the implementation of the Sudan Comprehensive Peace Agreement [CPA] is not being honored," said Moi, who was appointed in July to monitor its implementation.

(AFP)

## **Sudan's NCP accuses SPLM of jeopardizing Darfur peace talks**

(ST), October 16, 2007 (KHARTOUM) — A Sudanese official from the ruling National Congress Party (NCP) accused on Tuesday the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), a peace partner which suspended its participation in the national unity government, of jeopardizing the upcoming peace talks between the government and Darfur rebels.

This came during a meeting between Sudanese Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Ali Ahmed Kerti and Deputy Representative of the UN Secretary General in Sudan Taye-Brook Zerihoun.

"Ali Kerti clarified to the UN envoy that the timing of the SPLM's decision is jeopardizing the Darfur peace negotiations", said Sudanese Foreign Ministry spokesman Ali al-Sadig after the meeting.

"This decision has sent wrong signals to the negotiations as well as the participants," the spokesman added.

It was the first time for the Sudanese government to link the SPLM's decision to the Darfur peace negotiations to be held in Libya on Oct. 27.

At the weekend, Zerihoun paid a visit in Juba, capital of southern Sudan, where he held meetings with Salva Kiir Mayardit, the Sudanese first vice president and chairman of the SPLM, and other officials of the movement in a bid to ease the current crisis.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has voiced concern over the governmental crisis in Sudan and called on the two sides to resolve their dispute in a way that preserves the 2005 peace accord.

"The Secretary-General urges the parties, in particular the National Congress Party, to urgently take the necessary steps to address the outstanding issues related to the implementation of the (peace agreement)," his spokeswoman Michele Montas said in a statement on Friday.

(Xinhua/ST)

## **Bentiu tense as north, south armies take defensive positions**

(*The Citizen*), In Western Upper Nile fighting broke out between the state police and the SPLA soldiers after the police tried to arrest and SPLA soldier who participated in demonstrations to support the pull out of forces.

In Bahr el-Ghazal, at least two soldiers from the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) were killed and three wounded as the northern army exchanged fire with the SPLA.

While demonstrations erupted across southern Sudan to support the SPLM decision to pull out of the national government, sporadic gunfire erupted in the frontline states.

The incident in Bahr el-Ghazal happened after a SAf soldier shot at the SPLA, according to witnesses.

### **Khartoum political parties throw weight behind decision, Round UP: Widespread support for SPLM walkout in north**

*(The Citizen)*, A number of political leaders and ordinary citizens expressed their full support to the SPLM political bureau's resolutions regarding the partnership with the NCP.

Many political experts and lecturers told the Citizen that the current political status and the country's crises were more than the NCP abilities alone.

In separate statements some political leaders called upon the SPLM to enlighten the public with the CPA protocols. They criticized the performance of the national radio and TV, which work for the NCP interests.

### **President Al-Bashir to Address Opening of Fifth Session of National Legislative Commission**

Khartoum, Oct. 17 (SUNA)- President of the Republic, Field Marshal Omer Omer Al-Bashir, will address next Monday the opening of the fifth session of the National Legislative Commission, which is composed of the National Assembly and the Council of the States. In his address, President Al-Bashir will review the current situation in the political arena, the developments in the peace process, the government efforts to achieve solution for Darfur issue, besides the plans of the government for the coming stage. In a press statement to SUNA, a senior parliamentary source said that the coming fifth session of the National Legislative Commission will witness ratification of a number of laws and legislations relating to the coming stage, especially the Elections Law and other legislations pertinent to the democratic transition. He pointed out the new commission's session will also witness approval of the general budget and appointment of eight parliamentary deputies to represent East Sudan Front, in accordance with East Sudan peace agreement. It is to be recalled that the past session of the National Legislative Commission has witnessed appointment of 12 parliamentary deputies who represented Darfur movements, in compliance with Darfur peace agreement.

### **Ex-Sudanese rebels reportedly give Khartoum until January 2008 to implement pact**

*Text of report by Radio France Internationale on 17 October*

The SPLM, Sudan People's Liberation Movement, has asked Khartoum to ensure the implementation of the main provisions of the [comprehensive] peace agreement concluded in 2005 between now and 9 January 2008, the 3rd anniversary of the [signing of the] treaty. Last week, SPLM withdrew from the government of national unity to protest against the non-implementation of certain clauses.

*Source: Radio France Internationale, Paris, in French 0730 gmt 17 Oct 07*

BBC Mon Alert ME1 MEEau 171007 sm

## **Sudan: Egyptian Vice-President in Juba to hold talks with SPLM leaders**

*Text of report by state-owned Sudanese news agency Suna website*

Juba, 17 October: The Egyptian foreign minister, Ahmad Abu-al-Ghayt, arrived in Juba this morning accompanied by the head of intelligence, Umar Sulayman.

In a press statement, the Egyptian foreign minister said the visit was aimed at holding meetings with the first vice-president, Gen Salva Kiir Mayardit and members of his government to discuss issues concerning the implementation of the peace agreement and strengthening ties with the south through projects the Egyptian government had pledged to implement at the educational and service level, as well as activate the Egyptian consulate in Juba.

*Source: Suna news agency website, Khartoum, in Arabic 17 Oct 07*

BBC Mon ME1 MEEau 171007/hs

## **Opposition forces form body to resolve Sudan's 'universal crisis'**

*Excerpt from report by private Sudanese newspaper Al-Ra'y al-Amm on 17 October*

Opposition political forces have called for the crisis between the [ruling] partners to be taken as an opportunity to change the governing regime through civil means and public mobilization.

This follows the formation of what the forces have called the national all-inclusive entity based on a proposal by the [opposition] National Ummah Party [NUP].

The forces further approved a memorandum to be handed to the president of the republic, the first vice-president, Salva Kiir Mayardit, and international forces.

At a press conference yesterday at the NUP HQ, Prof Muhammad al-Amin Ahmad al-Tom said the entity's primary committee had approved complete reliance on the Sudanese people to overcome what he described as the 'universal crisis'. He further said the entity was committed to adopting established peaceful means of dialogue.

Al-Tom said the entity was not interested in playing a mediating role between the partners and described the current crisis as a fraction of the problem. "The crucial issue is to resolve the universal crisis," he emphasized. [Passage omitted.]

*Source: Al-Ra'y al-Amm, Khartoum, in Arabic 17 Oct 07*

BBC Mon ME1 MEEau 171007/se-hs

## **Sudan's leader holds talks with Egypt foreign minister over north-south crisis**

*Excerpt from report by state-owned Sudanese news agency Suna website*

The president of the republic, Umar Hasan al-Bashir, has today received a verbal message from his Egyptian counterpart Muhammad Husni Mubarak on bilateral ties and Egyptian stances and concerns over the realization of peace and stability in Sudan.

After the meeting he held with the president of the republic while accompanied by Egypt's Head of Intelligence Services Umar Sulayman, Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmad Abu al-Ghayt said the message of the President Mubarak reflected his concern and Egypt's concern over Sudan affairs and its hope that Sudan will remain strong and united.

In a press statement at Government Guest House after he visited Juba and held talks with First Vice President [Salva Kiir Mayardit], he said that he was now encouraged for realizing that the two parties, Sudan People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] and

[ruling] National Congress Party, were seeking to build bridges and fully implement the Comprehensive Peace Agreement [CPA].

He pointed out that they held talks with Darfur armed movements in Juba, saying that it was important for these movements to unite negotiating positions before beginning of Sirte talks, Libya, on 27 October. [Passage omitted: on talks between Abu al-Ghayt, Rice]

*Source: Suna news agency website, Khartoum, in Arabic 17 Oct 07*

BBC Mon Alert ME1 MEEau 171007/aa

## **GoSS**

### **Minister of Justice says GoSS spends an estimated US\$ 3 billion of oil revenues**

(*Alwan*), Minister of Justice Mohamed Ali al-Mardhi said South Sudan has received so far about US\$ 3 billion from the oil revenues. He said the GoSS should be held responsible on how it has spent this huge amount of money.

### **Southern parties accuse SPLM and NCP of power monopoly**

(*Khartoum Monitor*), Southern political parties in GoNU said the NCP and the SPLM are dominating political decision-making in the government and are sidelining other political parties in the government.

They added that they are worried over the current state of political affairs and the deteriorating relations between the NCP and SPLM.

This came in a press release yesterday issued by the Union of the Sudanese African Parties (USAP), the United Democratic Front and the South Sudan Democratic Forum.

## **Darfur**

### **Khalil Ibrahim, SLM Khamis Abaker join Juba Forum on Darfur**

(*AlSahafa*), Representative of the Darfur rebel groups decided to delay the concluding session of their meeting in Juba as they are expecting the arrival of the JEM delegation headed by Khalil Ibrahim and SLM team headed by Khamis Abaker. SLM Minawi has also sent a delegation headed by its Deputy President Dr. al Rayah Mahmoud Juma.

The head of the Darfur field commanders delegation in North Darfur Dr. Salih Adam Ishaq told AlSahafa that commander Ahmed Abdelshafie, commander Abdallah Yahia and commander Ahmed Ibrahim decided to disregard their official titles and status in a bid to help unifying the rebel movements.

### **AU rules out involvement of military helicopters in recent attacks in Darfur**

(*Alwan*), The AU team responsible for monitoring the ceasefire in Darfur said it has found no evidence of the use of military helicopters in the recent acts of violence in Darfur especially in Muhajria.

### **SLM Minawi military command calls for suspending SLM activities in Government**

(*AlIntibaha*), The SLM Minawi second field commander Bakheet Karim denied truth of reports on a split within SLM over suspending the DPA. He said the field commanders have requested the SLM political leadership to freeze the agreement.

### **US says concerned over fresh Darfur violence**

(*ST*), October 17, 2007 (WASHINGTON) — The United States said Wednesday it was concerned over a spate of bloody violence in Sudan's Darfur region in recent weeks, including the latest killing of three UN truck drivers.

"It is certainly troubling to us to see these kinds of incidents and we have seen an increased level of violence in Darfur in the last few weeks," said Tom Casey, a State Department spokesman.

(AFP