



## UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN

## UNMIS

Media Monitoring Report, 3 September 2007

(By Public Information Office)

*NOTE: Reproduction here does not mean that the UNMIS PIO can vouch for the accuracy or veracity of the contents, nor does this report reflect the views of the United Nations Mission in Sudan. Furthermore, international copyright exists on some materials and this summary should not be disseminated beyond the intended list of recipients.*

**IN THE NEWS TODAY:**➤ **UN/ Agencies**

- Ban-Ki Moon meets Al Bashir today in Khartoum, Kiir in Juba, Minawi in El Fasher, possibly discloses time and venue of talks between government and DPA non-signatories

➤ **GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)**

- SPLM accuses NCP of destabilizing South Kordofan
- Committee from CPA partners visits Abyei to hear from communities
- Criminal intelligence arrests PCP secretary for Justice
- SAF to gradually withdraw from oil fields
- Donors meeting for Eastern Sudan in Kuwait
- Sudan delays census until February 2008
- Sudan arrests Bija leader for opposition to Eritrean "interferences" – rebels
- Sudan, CARE discuss on return of expelled envoy

➤ **GoSS**

- Indian peacekeepers reap harvest of goodwill in South Sudan

➤ **Darfur**

- China urges dialogue with Khartoum not sanctions on Darfur
- SLM leader denies contacts with Turabi on Darfur
- Darfur rebel figure against attack on Kordofan

# Highlights

## UN/Agencies

**Ban-Ki Moon meets Al Bashir today in Khartoum, Kiir in Juba, Minawi in El Fasher, possibly discloses time and venue of talks between government and DPA non-signatories**

(*All local press*) UN Secretary- General Ban Ki Moon is due in Khartoum today in the first leg of a week- long tour which will take him also to the neighboring countries of Chad and Libya.

While here in a three-day visit, Ki Moon, who is leading a 23-senior advisors and 44 journalists representing international press and news agencies delegation, is scheduled to meet with President Omer Albashir, First Vice-President Silva Kiir and Chairman of Darfur Transitional Authority (DTA) Mini Minawi.

However, the Sudanese Foreign Ministry witnessed Sunday shuttle diplomatic activities between the Sudanese side and UNMIS officials during which they have mapped out the visit's program.

Director of Peace Department at the Foreign Ministry Ambassador Surajeldeen Hameed told *Akhbar Alyaum daily* that Ki Moon will arrive at Khartoum Airport today at 4:30 pm whereas he will kick off his meeting with President Albashir in a dinner-banquet.

Hamid noted that Ki Moon will proceed to Juba on Tuesday to confer with GOSS President Silva Kiir and stay the night there. He will fly Wednesday morning to El Fashir to meet with DTA Chairperson Minawi, representatives of IDP's and UNMIS staff.

He disclosed that the final communiqué of the visit will bear a clear signal to the resumption of the negotiations between the government and the peace non-signatory armed factions as well as identifying the venue and time of the talks.

Hamid described the visit as "historical" saying that it comes in response to an invitation extended by President Albashir to the UN Chief when they met recently at the sidelines of UN General Assembly sessions.

He pointed out that the special welcome accorded to Ki Moon's visit was due to the flourishing relations between the UN and the government following his assuming to the post and his unswerving adoption of dialogue methodology for consultations going on in Addis Ababa.

Hamid was optimistic that the visit would represent a launching for new relations between Sudan and the UN stressing Sudan's aspiration for a new relations and specially Sudan is currently hosting the most two biggest peace keeping operations in the world at the same time.

Sudan Ambassador to UN Abdulmahmoud Abdulhalim said that implementation of the SC Resolution No 1769, rehabilitation of the South Sudan and Darfur crisis , progress of work of UN Agencies working in Sudan issues will figure prominently during Ki Moon's talks with the Sudanese senior officials.

In the meantime, *Al Rai AlAam daily* reported that Ki Moon would deliver a lecture Monday evening at the Friendship Hall under the title "UN IN CHANGING WORLD" and then he meets Sudanese Communist Party's (CP) leadership.

CP leading figure Suleiman Hamid told the paper that the opposition would discuss with Moon Abyei and Darfur issues as well as the democratic transformation describing the meeting with Moon in Khartoum as the last resort for resolving the political crisis in the country and warning the government of missing this opportunity. The official spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Ali al-Sadig, explained that the visit comes for the purpose of prompting the Government of National Unity to go ahead with implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, reflecting UN and international concern with the course of events in Sudan and underlining the importance of a political solution for Darfur problem.

Al-Sadig indicated that Ki-moon's visit will signal a clear-cut message to those who impede the political process to either join it or be left behind; pointing out that the major obstacle that faces political resolution is the multiplicity of the factions and their disunity, particularly Abdul Wahid's faction. He further called on the international community to pressure Abdul Wahid into modifying his hard-line stances and gearing them to the changing stages of the political process. Ki-moon stressed that any faction that violates an agreement that has been reached will be punished.

Meanwhile, renowned Sudanese Journalist Mahjoub Mohamed Salih wrote in famous column "Voices and Echoes " in *Alayam daily*:- Khartoum welcomes UN Chief in a first visit to Africa since he has assumed his office and confirms he pays priority to Darfur issue, because, he says it is classified in the UN documents as " a threat to the international security". He adds this prompts the UN to deal with the issue in accordance with Chapter (7) of the UN Charter.

Salih goes on to say that the issue has now been internationalized since it is tabled before the Security Council which issued many resolutions culminated by Resolution 1769.

He says that despite all this regional and international concern shrouded the issue and the visit of Ki Moon to this effect, he is not optimistic about the success of the visit in putting an end the conflict in Darfur.

He point outs that neither the international community nor the AU can resolve Darfur crisis maintaining that the solution is the responsibility the Sudanese people in general and the Darfuris in particular.

Salih warns of neglecting the weight of Arab tribes from participating in the Darfuris dialogue. Advocates of Darfuris-Darfuris Dialogue, he adds, have drawn the attention

to this fact. He says excluding Arab tribes will stir these tribes, a matter, he stresses will to lead turmoil in the region.

In an other development, (*Al-Khartoum daily*) says various political parties 'leaderships agree that the visit talks should basically focus on paving the way for the deployment of the hybrid forces in a bid to activate the process of peace negotiation on Darfur.

Ba'ath Party member Kamal Bolad points out that the visit comes in the context of legalizing the deployment of what, he termed, the international troops saying that the visit is a deduction from the political solution. (Thus, we do not see in the visit more cards for political solution, but more of cards for the military presence in Darfur), he stresses.

A leading figure at the Popular Congress Party (PCP) Mohamed Alamin Khalifa says the deployment of the hybrid forces will acquire the "lion share" of the talks adding that the visit of the UN Chief will no doubt push forward the issue of Darfur. "Because Ki Moon will speed up the implementation of SC Resolution No 1769 and its effect will lead to practical security stability", he elaborates.

Khalifa maintains that the deployment of the forces will not be finalized unless the government agrees, and if it agrees this will lead to a political solution.

Member of the Communist Party Gallal Ahsyed notes that Ki Moon demands the government to implement the resolution 1769 and discusses issues of the diplomats expulsion. He says that the opposition, during its meeting with Moon will review its vision as regards on freedom-restricted laws and obstacles impeding the implementation of agreements.

SLM Spokesperson Altayeb Khamis downplays the importance of the visit saying that the sequences of UN officials have produced nothing hoping that the visit will positively materializes.

After Sudan, Ban is to head to Chad next Friday and to Libya the following day.

In N'djamena, the Chadian capital, the secretary general is to confer with President Idriss Deby Itno, whose country has been reeling from a spillover of the fighting in neighboring Darfur.

At Ban's initiative, a UN police force backed by European Union troops is soon to be approved to protect camps of refugees and displaced people in eastern Chad and northern Central African Republic.

In Tripoli, Ban is to meet with Libyan leader Moamer Kaddafi, whom he described as one of the key regional players in Darfur diplomacy.

A Western diplomat speaking on condition of anonymity said that Tripoli has been playing a crucial role in the delivery of humanitarian aid and the peace process in Darfur.

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

**SPLM accuses NCP of destabilizing South Kordofan**

(*Khartoum Monitor*) Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) secretary in South Sudan State, Simon Kalo, fears disability in southern Kordofan in the coming period due to the exchange of posts between the National Congress Party (NCP) and SPLM.

He said in a statement to Khartoum Monitor that the challenges they face are represented by security violation, infringements and lack of cooperation on the part of the National Congress Party. Among the issues raised were the failure of the return of the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) to the 1956 borders besides the non-amalgamation of the police forces and non- implementation of the security arrangements and re-amalgamation of the army.

He accused anonymous parties of carrying out security violations in the state. He added that the Sudan People's Liberation Movement in South Kordofan State completed its political formation in the state, however heavy rainfall prevented completion of the process in the villages.

He said that non-implementation of the security arrangement prevented the donors from implementing reconstruction programme and spearheading development in the state.

### **Committee from CPA partners visits Abyei to hear from communities**

(*AlSahafa*) The NCP and SPLM have agreed to set up a 14- member committee, to be divided 7 member for each party, to probe view points of the population in Abyei regarding the future of the area.

A leading SPLM figure and Cabinet Affairs Minister Deng Alor told (*AlSahafa* daily) that the formation of the committee would prompt its departure to the area indicating that the composition of the committee from the area citizens was due their knowledge of the nature of the area. But, he reserved that the committee's report was mandatory.

Reliable sources informed the paper that the committee would submit its report to the Executive Committee co- chaired by Vice- President Ali Osman and GOSS Vice-President.

### **Criminal intelligence arrests PCP secretary for Justice**

(*Rai AlShaab*) The Criminal Investigation Police arrested Sunday Popular Congress Party (PCP)'s Secretary of Justice Kamal Omer Abdul Salam from his home.

His Omer told (*Rai AlShab*) that a group of four persons attended to the house and arrested him without mentioning any reason.

Abdul Salam is the Chief of the defense Board on the court trying defendants accused of beheading Editor of *AlWifaq* daily

### **SAF to gradually withdraw from oil fields**

(*AlSudani*) Minister of Energy and Mining Dr. Awad Ahmed Aljaz has announced that SAF will be gradually withdrawn from the oil fields in South Sudan and deployed in the North, without fixing specific date.

He said that the CPA was transparent towards abandoning military presence around the oil fields stressing that it was the ultimate goal of withdrawal.

But, the SPLM considers delay of withdrawing SAF forces from the oil fields as a violation to the CPA.

### **Donors meeting for Eastern Sudan in Kuwait**

(*AlAyam*) President Omer Albashir has highly commended a proposal posed by a Kuwaiti delegation for convening a conference to donor states to contribute in developing Eastern Sudan.

Head of the delegation, who is the Secretary – General of the International Rashiada Tribes Eng. Mubarak Ali Fahad declared the President's commend following his meeting with the newly- appointed officials of the Eastern Front, in the presence of Presidential Advisor Dr, Mustafa Osman. The Rashaida tribe is the faction of the East Front (Free Lions).

### **Sudan delays census until February 2008**

(*SudanTribune.com* – 2 Sept. KHARTOUM) Sudan has delayed until February a national census seen as crucial to the success of democratic elections and a vote on secession for the oil-rich south, the United Nations said on Sunday.

The census was postponed because of delays in funding, but the coalition Government of National Unity (GONU) had now pledged to put up the money, said the U.N. Population Fund (UNFPA), which is helping to organize the two-week census.

The census will be the first since a January 2005 peace deal between the north's dominant National Congress Party (NCP) and the former southern rebel group, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), that ended decades of north-south conflict and established the unity government.

Census officials in the south had accused the central government in Khartoum of stalling payment of its share of the costs for the census.

In spite of strong opposition from the SPLM, the census questionnaire omits ethnicity and religion.

The UNFPA said preparations for the actual census were underway, but that challenges remained, particularly for reaching people in remote areas.

It said field mapping had been completed in the north except for the three states of Darfur. In the south, officials expect field mapping to be completed in October.

## **Sudan arrests Bija leader for opposition to Eritrean "interferences" – rebels**

(*SudanTribune.com* – 2 Sept. KHARTOUM) Sudanese authorities have arrested the leader of Beja Congress inside Sudan, Dirar Ahmed Dirar, for his opposition to the growing Eritrean role in the implementation of a peace deal signed in October last year with Khartoum.

He has been detained just one day before the arrival of the Eastern Front leadership from Asmara on August 26. The Sudanese authorities feared that he might orchestrate a protest at the airport denouncing the agreement, the Eastern Front and “the Eritrean interference in our internal affairs”. A rebel source told Sudan Tribune.

Dirar held several meetings in several towns in eastern Sudan, speaking about the agreement, the Eritrean interference and calling to boycott the meager posts left to the Beja in power sharing. He announced the withdrawal of the Bija Congress from the Eastern front.

## **Sudan, CARE discuss on return of expelled envoy**

(*SudanTribune.com* – 1 Sept. KHARTOUM) Sudan is in talks with U.S.-based aid agency CARE on the possible return of its country director, who was expelled on Aug. 27, a Sudanese official said on Sunday.

Khartoum’s decision to expel Paul Barker prompted criticism from the United Nations, which said it undermined an agreement on facilitating humanitarian activities in Darfur.

Barker was given 72 hours to leave the country after Sudanese officials said he had exceeded his humanitarian mandate and meddled in Sudan’s internal security. Barker, a U.S. citizen, has denied carrying out any inappropriate work.

Humanitarian Affairs Minister Kosti Manyibe said the ministry was in talks with CARE about Barker’s possible return, but said the issue would be discussed in more detail when the regional director of CARE visits Sudan in the near future.

Barker said the talks were likely to be delayed because of U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon’s visit to Sudan, which begins on Monday.

"I’m encouraged that the government of Sudan is willing to consider my return," Barker told Reuters from Nairobi.

He said that government authorities had been dealing with CARE in a more positive light since his expulsion, showing more willingness to cooperate on work permits, an issue many aid agencies often have difficulty with in Sudan.

Barker said the reasons given by Khartoum for his expulsion were "based on misperceptions and misinformation".

He has said CARE had spent at least \$184 million on aid projects in Sudan since it arrived in the country in 1979 and more than \$60 million in the last three years, mostly in the war-torn Darfur region.

## GoSS

### **Indian peacekeepers reap harvest of goodwill in South Sudan**

(*SudanTribune.com* – 2 Sept. KHARTOUM) In the southern town of Malakal, dormant animosity between north and south Sudan can erupt into bloody violence any time. And when it does, it's the Indian peacekeeping troops that douse the fire and ensure that the oil-rich region does not plunge into chaos.

Lt. General Jasper Singh Lidder, force commander of the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) and a tall, handsome Indian Sikh officer at that, does not like to give a nationalistic flavor to the multinational peacekeeping mission he is heading in a country that has been embroiled in a civil war between the Arab-dominated north and black-dominated south over the last four decades.

In fact, Lidder makes it a point to emphasize that he is force commander of the entire UNMIS, which has over 10,000 troops in Africa's largest country, and not just of India.

But the 58-year-old Lidder, who earlier served as additional director-general, military operations, at the Army Headquarters in New Delhi, can't help showering praise on the good work Indian troops have been doing in a critical and rugged sector in Sudan.

'In November 2006, full-fledged conflict broke out in Malakal town, with artillery, tanks and heavy weapons being used. In this flare-up, Indian commanders and troops played a proactive role in defusing the crisis, which was commended by the UN and the international community,' Lidder told a visiting IANS correspondent at the UNMIS headquarters here.

'Located in Upper Nile, this is the region which borders Line 1/1/56 in the north and has maximum oilfields and other armed groups. We have been experiencing maximum violence and clashes in this sector,' he explained.

'Besides the Upper Nile Sector, the IAF Helicopter Contingent, the Force Reserve Battalion, the Transport Company and the Force Signal Company have been performing admirably,' he added.

India, with its 2,597 troops, is the largest contributing nation to the peacekeeping mission that has been operating for the last two years to maintain the fragile peace that came about after the Sudanese government signed an agreement with the Sudan Liberation People's Army (SPLA), former rebels who have been pressing for an independent state, in January 2005.

Being the force commander, Lidder has an insight into what makes Indian troops effective in conflict situations, especially in Africa.

'The bulk of our troops hail from a similar rural culture and, therefore, can sustain the rigours of peace keeping, with pride and smile,' Lidder said.



'Besides, traditionally, India has a history of close ties with Africa. Indian troops are well experienced in low intensity conflict and are appreciated for their sheer professionalism, humane and down-to-earth approach.'

Indian troops have also carved a special place for themselves in the minds and hearts of Africans for their enthusiastic involvement in community-related projects.

'The Indian peacekeepers have been especially active in providing medical and veterinary support, besides engaging in other community development schemes,' Lidder said.

'When the violent clashes took place in Malakal in November 2006, Indian troops came out in a big way to assist in humanitarian related activities, especially treating the wounded,' he added.

Besides, Indian troops, like the other contingents, are engaged in Civil-Military Coordination (CIMIC) programmes and the implementation of Quick Impact Projects (QUIPS), to support the local population, Lidder said.

Is he optimistic about peace and stability returning to Sudan after decades of north-south civil war?

'The DDR process, that is demobilization, disarmament and reintegration, is well behind schedule,' admitted Lidder, a winner of many gallantry awards.

But Lidder is not new to peacekeeping - he served as chief of staff of the UN mission in Mozambique over a decade ago - and prefers to be an eternal optimist.

He is hopeful that the hybrid UN-AU force of nearly 26,000 troops, set to be deployed in Darfur in Sudan's western province that is entangled in violent tribal conflicts, will be able to make a difference and bring about the much-needed stability to Sudan.

## **Darfur**

### **China urges dialogue with Khartoum not sanctions on Darfur**

(*SudanTribune.com* - 2 Sept. KHARTOUM) China's ambassador to Sudan on Sunday said dialogue, not threats of sanctions, will help create peace and stability in Darfur.

British Prime Minister Gordon Brown and French President Nicolas Sarkozy on Friday revived the threat of sanctions on Khartoum if the crisis in Darfur is not resolved.

"Sanctions cannot help to solve the problem," Li Chengwen said in a rare interview, noting U.S. sanctions imposed since 1997 had prevented railways from upgrading old trains.

"The sanctions made big problems for the railway fields (because) many goods are waiting to transport to Darfur."

A state-owned Chinese company has signed a \$1.15 billion contract with Sudan to build a railway from Port Sudan to Khartoum to replace a slow, tattered link.

Li told Reuters: "Dialogue is better than pressure because with sanctions, who will suffer in the end — the people."

Most of Sudan's goods and those sustaining the world's largest humanitarian operation in Darfur arrive at Port Sudan but transport costs are sky high and roads plagued by bandits.

Experts estimate 200,000 people have been killed and 2.5 million driven from their homes during 4-1/2 years of conflict in Sudan's remote west.

Washington calls the Darfur rape, looting and killing genocide, a term Khartoum rejects and European nations are reluctant to use.

### **SLM leader denies contacts with Turabi on Darfur**

(*SudanTribune.com* – 2 Sept. KHARTOUM) The Chairman of Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM), Abdel Wahid al-Nur denied contacts with the Secretary General of the Islamist opposition Popular Congress Party (PCP), Hassan al-Turabi.

During a visit to Shandi, in the Nile State last week, Al-Turabi said that he had made contacts with Abdel Wahid al-Nur. He said that their discussion addressed the SLM's demands and its views to resolve Darfur crisis.

However, al-Nur dismissed these statements. He told Sudan Tribune that he never has any contact directly or indirectly with the leader of PCP. He further added that he has no common ground with this Islamist leader to hold such discussions.

"I'm struggling for a vision totally different with the political program of Dr al-Turabi. We want a liberal, democratic and unified state in the Sudan, the separation between the religion and the state is crucial for us." He said. Adding "So, we do not think there is something to tackle with him."

Al-Nur added that besides this ideological aspect, the generational difference makes it difficult to agree with Dr Turabi over a lot of subjects.

In his statements, Turabi reaffirmed assurance of the possibility of resolving Darfur problem immediately by listening to the demands being made by the people from the region, pointing out that Darfur was subjected to oppression and must be compensated.

### **Darfur rebel figure against attack on Kordofan**

(*SudanTribune.com* – 2 Sept. KHARTOUM) A senior Darfur rebel figure on Sunday condemned an attack last week by rebel forces in the neighboring Kordofan region which led to dozens of deaths among Sudanese security forces.

Suleiman Jamous, the rebel group's humanitarian coordinator, said the insecurity and suffering of Darfur should not be visited on other regions in Sudan.

International experts estimate some 200,000 have died and 2.5 million have been driven from their homes during 4-1/2 years of fighting in Sudan's Darfur region.

"We are fighting to defend our people in Darfur," Jamous said. "So if we left that area and we spread the insecurity to somewhere else it is not advisable," he said.

He was against "taking the problems of Darfur to other areas", and added that he had called rebel field commanders and advised them to return to Darfur.

Sudan puts the death toll from the conflict in Darfur, which flared when rebel groups took up arms against the government charging it with neglect, at 9,000.

U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon flies to Sudan on Monday to push for talks between the government and rebels to end the crisis and clear the way for a big peacekeeping force.

Sudan's interior ministry said the attack by the rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) Unity faction on Wad Banda killed 41 policemen.

The rebels said they only attacked a government base in Wad Banda, which they said was being used as the logistics centre for ongoing fighting and government bombing in South Darfur state, some 200 km (120 miles) west of the town.