

UNMIS NEWS BULLETIN*

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Ban Ki-moon urges GoS and rebels to act on Darfur

Speaking at a press briefing on 29 May, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urged the Government of Sudan (GoS) and Darfur rebel movements to take concrete action to adhere to a complete ceasefire, allow humanitarian assistance in the region and take part in the political process. He said he was in close touch with key international players in the region to bring about a comprehensive resolution to the political process, peacekeeping operations and humanitarian matters.

On sanctions against Sudan over Darfur, the Secretary-General said they had been proposed by the United States and that the UN Security Council would decide whether to support them. He himself had just begun consultations with the Sudanese government in close coordination with the AU and would wait for the results of a meeting in Addis Ababa, which would hopefully take place on 5 and 6 June.

Secretary-General condemns killing of peacekeeper

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon strongly condemned the killing on 25 May of Lt. Col. Ehab Ahmed Nazih, a UN officer from Egypt, who was deployed in El Fasher to support the AU Mission in Sudan (AMIS). The Secretary-General vowed to do everything possible to safeguard UN personnel in the field, advocating robust mandates and ensuring they had the necessary equipment to carry them out.

The Secretary-General also deplored the armed hijacking of a UN convoy in El Fasher on 28 May, in which three vehicles were stolen and the passengers robbed. He said it was unacceptable that those working to bring stability and life-saving humanitarian assistance to Darfur were continually targeted. He urged all parties to adhere to the ceasefire and support the activities of the United Nations and African Union.

UNMIS to hold HIV/AIDS peer educators workshop

UNMIS' HIV/AIDS unit will be organizing the second Training of Peer Educators (TOPE) workshop in Wau from 4 to 14 June. The workshop, on HIV/AIDS peer leadership, will mainly target military personnel deployed in Wau, focusing primarily on treatment and care of people living with the disease. The course will have 38 participants from various troop contributing countries, civilians from Wau, Joint Integrated Units and people living with HIV/AIDS. People selected will be those with a desire to promote positive behaviour change and safe sex.

Humanitarian and Security Situation in Darfur

South Darfur

Three armed men entered an INGO clinic in Kalma IDP camp (15 kilometres east of Nyala) on 28 May and burnt down six offices. Most properties in them were saved before the offices were burnt. The motive behind the arson is unclear.

Two Abbala tribesmen were killed 15 kilometres south of Kass by unknown armed men, causing tribal tensions to once again resurface in the area. The Kass-Bulbul area has been severely affected by tribal warfare between the Rezeigat Maharia Aballa and the Targem tribes, which claimed over 300 lives in the first quarter of 2007.

Humanitarian and Security Situation in Southern Sudan and Transitional Areas

Some 74 weapons were collected from civilian homes in Bor by a combined team of about 100 individuals from the Southern Sudan Police Service, Prison Police, and Wild Life and Military on 28 May. The exercise was part of a disarmament process initiated by Jonglei state government.

The Kadugli-Dilling road was blocked by authorities for 10-12 hours into the early morning of 29 May due to escalating tension between Kurgol and Dabri villages. Two large groups of armed Sudan People's Liberation Army soldiers and GoS police were in the area attempting to keep the peace between the two villages. The situation calmed down but tensions re-escalated during the morning of 30 May and the Kadugli-Dilling road at Kurgol village was again blocked.

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