



## UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN

### UNMIS

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(By Public Information Office)

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## Highlights

### UN/ Agencies/ Partners

#### **G8 are poised to examine Darfur humanitarian corridor**

(AFP via SudanTribune.com) The Group of Eight most industrialized nations are prepared to consider a French proposal to create "humanitarian corridors" in Darfur, Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner said on Wednesday.

"It's a risky attempt. Our friends here have accepted this risk and we will try to do likewise," Kouchner told journalists after a meeting with his G8 counterparts in Potsdam near Berlin.

He added that the G8 was also prepared to consider the idea of a "contact group" for Darfur.

Italian Foreign Minister Massimo D'Alema, who also attended the Potsdam meeting, said the G8 ministers were "largely in favour" of the French proposal.

Wednesday's meeting was aimed at preparing a summit of G8 leaders taking place in Heiligendamm in northern Germany on June 6-8.

The leaders of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia and the United States will attend. [Follow the link to the full text [G8 are poised to examine Darfur humanitarian corridor](#)].

#### **Member of the SLM Minnawi faction killed by AMIS fire**

(AlRai AlAam) SLM-Minnawi has expressed great anxiety over the death in Oum Zaiefa, 35 kilometers east of Nyala, of one of their soldiers from an AMIS bullet.

An official spokesperson of the movement said that a vehicle carrying SLA-Minnawi woldiers travelling from Nyala to Muhajiriya came across 3 AMIS Anti-Personnel Carriers and that one of the APCs just opened fire on the vehicle. The vehicle that was carrying 13 SLA soldiers was completely destroyed and its driver killed as a result of the gunfire. The other injured SLA soldiers were taken to the MSF hospital in Muhajiriya.

The spokesperson went on to say that key SLA figures rushed to Labado, held the APC and its driver hostage and contacted AMIS offices in Nyala "but the AMIS officials took their time to arrive in Labado."

The spokesperson went on to say that the military zone commander in Labado has informed them of an AMIS troop build-up near where the APC and its driver are held.

Contacts are underway between the two sides to defuse the situation.

### **Armed group hijack vehicles of 3 humanitarian agencies in North Darfur**

*(AlSudani)* A group of masked armed men hijacked 3 vehicles of humanitarian agencies operating in Darfur and harrassed 20 humanitarian workers who were meeting IDPs at Dobo locality in el-Fasher, informed sources report.

The vehicles were of the WFP, the UNMIS and the IOM.

### **Coverage on International Day of UN Peacekeepers**

*AlAyaam daily issues a half-page article in its Page 8 outlining the event. It also puts up two photographs taken during the event; one of the military parade and the other of the UN flag hoisted before the headquarters building.*

### **The UN support package to the AMIS**

#### **Khartoum makes “minor observations on hybrid deployment plan**

*(AlSahafa)* Informed sources report that the Sudan government may accept the UN plan to deploy a hybrid force to Darfur with some amendments which may be discussed between the three sides as they meet in Addis Ababa in the first week of next month.

The sources explain that the committee tasked with studying the plan have come up with “positive results” following their study of the Security Council plan for a hybrid force for Darfur. The committee is expected to wind up preparation of its final report later today and table the same before the competent authorities at the beginning of next week.

### **CPA**

#### **Parties to the CPA reach “near-complete” agreement on oil and Abyei**

*(The local press)* The parties to the CPA have managed to iron out the differences over most of the outstanding issues between them that have put on hold the second meeting of their leadership offices.

At a press conference held jointly yesterday by National Congress Party’s Nafei Ali Nafei and the SPLM’s Pagan Amoum, the parties declared agreement has been reached on the issue of oil and that the agreement has had the nod of the oil commission.

Agreement was also reached that the two sides send a joint field delegation to Abyei to survey the border and establish an administration.

By this latest agreement, the two sides have declared 95% of the outstanding issues resolved.

### **SSDF hands over 140 pieces of weapons**

*(Khartoum Monitor)* A Spokesperson for the SSDF in Upper Nile demobilised.

SSDF Spokesperson Mohamed Chol al-Ahamer who officiated over a ceremony yesterday in Renk, Upper Nile, assured the people that the demobilised combatants are prepared to contribute to the reconstruction process will not go back to arms and warned anyone that anyone of them still in possession of firearms will have to bear the individual responsibility.

The ceremony saw the handing over of 140 pieces of weapon.

The commissioner welcomed the demobilised officers and the head of the DDR committee in the area pointed out that the disarmament in Renk marked the final phase of demobilisation of armed groups in southern Sudan.

### **South Kordofan faces paralysis; armed elements block road between Kadugli and Dilenj**

*(Alintibaha)* Tension is on the high in South Kordofan following tribal clashes between the Nuba and the Hawazma.

Nuba tribesmen, with the backing of some SPLA elements, completely blocked the Kadugli-Dilenj road after the elapse of an ultimatum they had issued to the state government requesting the complete expulsion of the Hawazma Arabs from the region following clashes last month that left some dead and injured from both sides.

Despite visits to the region by National Congress Party and SPLM figures, the state government has failed to defuse the tension.

## **GoNU**

### **US sanctions on Sudan have no effect without UN action**

*(AFP via SudanTribune.com)* New US sanctions on Sudan are "too little, too late," according to activists and experts who argue that the victims of the Darfur bloodshed are being sacrificed on the altar of global diplomacy.

For sanctions to be truly hard-hitting the UN Security Council will have to act in concert against Sudan, commentators said. But China, Sudan's leading oil customer and a top arms supplier, has routinely stymied that route.

"These US sanctions on their own are insufficient to establish the necessary costs needed to hold the government of Sudan and the other actors accountable," said David Mozersky, Horn of Africa director at the International Crisis Group.

According to Mozersky, the Sudanese regime has capitalized on global disquiet over US policy in Iraq and the Middle East to deflect criticism over what Washington calls the Darfur "genocide."

UN chief Ban Ki-moon pleaded for more time to secure the deployment of a robust peacekeeping force in Darfur in conjunction with the African Union (AU).

But President George W. Bush signaled his patience with Sudan was wearing thin as he unveiled the tougher sanctions Tuesday, ramping up pressure on a country that remains on the US list of state sponsors of terrorism.

### **China opposes "politicizing" oil cooperation with Sudan**

(*Xinhua via SudanTribune.com*) Liu Guijin, the Chinese Government's special representative on Darfur, said in Beijing on the 29th: Oil drilling in a country is a normal business activity. China opposes "politicizing" and playing up normal cooperation in the energy field.

In connection with outside criticism and questioning of oil cooperation between China and Sudan, Liu Guijin said at a briefing for Chinese and foreign media on the same day that oil cooperation between China and Sudan started in 1996 and over the last 10 years and more, the two sides have carried out transparent, mutually beneficial, and nonexclusive cooperation.

"China's oil cooperation helps Sudan develop its economy and fundamentally address the country's chaos caused by war and its unrest," said Liu Guijin. He said poverty and lack of development are the root cause of the Darfur issue. Addressing the issue of development will help resolve the Darfur issue once and for all.

According to Liu Guijin, China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) owns a certain percentage of stake in the Greater Nile Petroleum Operating Company (GNPOC), but corporations of other countries own even more of the company's stocks. He said it was strange that some media singled out the Chinese company for questioning, adding that "China's normal oil cooperation with Sudan has been politicized."

### **Sudan envoy warns US sanctions would create instability**

(*AP via SudanTribune.com*) Sudan's ambassador to Washington said Wednesday that sanctions ordered by U.S. President George W. Bush threaten to unravel peace agreements and break his country apart.

Ambassador John Ukec Lueth Ukec said the sanctions would end up hurting ordinary people rather than government officials.

Bush ordered the sanctions Tuesday to pressure President Omar al-Bashir's government to stop aggravating the violence in Sudan's vast Darfur region on the Chad border. The sanctions target government-run companies involved in Sudan's oil industry, and three individuals, including a rebel leader suspected of being involved in the Darfur bloodshed.

Ukec said in a news conference that the sanctions would affect the supply and distribution of basic necessities and lead to more suffering.

"I don't think that the government officials - hundreds of them - will stop getting tea and sugar," he said. "It is just a death sentence to a large number of people."

He said that sanctions will hamper negotiations under way for peace in Darfur and other conflict regions in Sudan and could harm the stability of the country.

"Although the policy of the United States is to keep Sudan as one country, what it is doing is disintegrating Sudan," Ukec said.

### **Sudanese president says US sanctions aimed at weakening economy**

*(Sudan Television via BBC Monitoring, 30 May)* The president of the republic has welcomed all attempts to cooperate with the USA to realizing their mutual interests. At the same time, presidential adviser and the chairman of the southern section of the [ruling] National Congress Party [NCP] [Riyek Kok] has condemned US policy which is isolating Sudan from the world. This came about in a meeting with a visiting US [investor's] delegation.

President of the republic and the chairman of NCP said the pressure exerted on Sudan by the USA and the imposing of tighter sanctions on Sudan was an attempt to cover up the war crimes committed by the USA in Iraq, Afghanistan and Palestine, reports *STV*.

In his meeting with a delegation of visiting American businessmen at his office at the NCP HQ, he said the sanctions were aimed at weakening the Sudanese economy and were not related to issues of human right and violations in Darfur, adding that the sanctions will have a negative impact on the Sudanese people. He said thousands of families depend on the companies that have been targeted.

He said the threatened companies were agricultural and sugar factories and had no link with Darfur or armed movements operating there.

Al-Bashir further said such sanction by the USA to be imposed on Sudan will worsen the security and humanitarian situation.

### **Parliament demands foreign ministry to issue statement on US sanctions**

*(Sudan Vision; Khartoum Monitor et al)* The Speaker of the National Assembly has called on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to issue a statement on the recent unilateral sanctions imposed by the US on Sudan.

The Speaker pointed out that the sanctions come at an inopportune moment when the Sudan is in cooperation with the African Union and the UN on Darfur. he described the sanctions as a Zionist agenda.

## **Sudan's UN representative says US sanctions is a wrong step at a wrong timing**

(*AlKhabar*) Sudan's Permanent Representative to the UN says there is widespread displeasure within the UN over the US sanctions on Sudan with many seeing it as a threat to the efforts for peace in Sudan.

The country's top diplomat to the international body described the US sanctions as a "wrong step at a wrong timing" and called on the Security Council to continue in its efforts for a peaceful settlement to the Darfur crisis.

## **Bank of Sudan studying options for change in transaction from the dollar**

(*AlAyaam*) The deputy head of the central bank in Sudan says US unilateral sanctions are not new to Sudan and have only been resurrected as a way of adding psychological pressure on the Sudan government and cut down on the flow of foreign investment in Sudan.

He pointed out that all Sudanese companies have no financial or commercial transactions with the US. He said however that the strength of the economic momentum in the country will be able to absorb the impacts of these sanctions. He also pointed out that many Sudanese companies have turned east and the Sudan government is contemplating turning away from the dollar in favour of other currencies. "Fortunately, the rate of the dollar is on a steady decrease," he said.

## **SAF denies having bombarded the areas east of Jebel Marra**

(*AlAyaam*) The Office of the Spokesperson for the SAF has rebuffed recent opposition SLM allegations that the army has bombarded Amaray, east of the Jebel Marra.

The Office of the Spokesperson pointed out that what is occurring is that there are skirmishes among the tribes in the area on the one hand and between the tribes and the rebel factions on the other.

## **El-Fula Revolutionary Front claims responsibility on the hijacking of the Bank el-Nilein vehicle**

(*Alwan*) A group that goes by the name, "El-Ful Revolutionary Front" has claimed responsibility for the recent hijacking of a truck of the Babanousa Branch of Bank el-Nielein.

The vehicle was transferring money to the tune of about 2 billion Sudanese dinars when it was hijacked.

A statement issued by a youth committee of el-Fula blamed the central and regional governments for the incidence. The statement pointed out that the leader of the carjackers, a certain Saleh Ahmed Suleiman, had earlier split from the JEM to join the National Congress Party but was then ignored. The statement says this may have been the direct cause for that action.

## **Southern Sudan**

## **BoSS says the GoSS has not decreed expulsion of Islamic banks out of southern Sudan**

(*The Citizen*) The President of the Bank of Southern Sudan says Islamic banks still operate in southern Sudan because the GoSS' Council of Ministers has failed to decree their closure.

“The managements of the Islamic banks operating here informed the Central Bank of Sudan that their banks in southern Sudan will not switch to the conventional windows and are ready to leave the south but have not been asked to do so by the GoSS' Council of Ministers,” Elijah Malok who is also Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Sudan told *The Citizen* in Juba yesterday.

## **Egyptian Alexandria University to open branch in S. Sudan's Juba**

(*SudanTribune.com*) The Egyptian University of Alexandria will open in the capital of southern Sudan starting from the next academic year, a lawmaker said here today.

The Chairman of Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly standing specialized committee of Education, Research, Science and Technology, Nartisio Lokuke, said Wednesday, in a press briefing in his office that, a branch of Egyptian Alexandria University would be launched while 300 southern Sudanese students would be admitted in Egyptian Universities during the coming academic year.

Loluke said Egyptian Alexandria University administration has accepted to establish in the coming academic year its branch in Juba.

He further said the admission is in line with national policy and identify capacity gaps in medicine, engineering, and technical education among others. [*Follow the link to the full text [Egyptian Alexandria University to open branch in S. Sudan's Juba](#)*].

## **Darfur**

### **Head of the Freewill faction threatens to withdraw from the Darfur Peace Agreement**

(*Alwan*) The head of the SLM-Freewill faction threatens that his faction would withdraw from the Darfur Peace Agreement should the National Congress Party continue what he described as its “wrong way of implementing the agreement”.

At a press conference yesterday, AbdelRahman Musa who is also a state minister at the GoNU complains that the Minnawi faction dominates most of the institutions brought into being by the Darfur Peace Agreement. He pointed out that the TDRA in its current form will not be effective especially since it does not involve all the Darfur Peace Agreement signatory factions.

### **Sudanese government officials, rebels hold talks in western Darfur**

(*AlKhartoum via BBC Monitoring, 30 May*) An informed source has disclosed to Khartoum that there was meeting between the government and security officials in western Darfur on one side and Darfur armed movements on the other in Mistry and Bayda localities.

The source said that there were hopes the talks between the government and movements will lead to the acceptance of armed movements to participate in the expected peace talks. The source added that there was insecurity in the area where some of the armed groups closed the roads.

Meanwhile, Deputy Western Darfur state Governor Abdallah Khatir said there were about 5,000 to 6,000 Chadian refugees in a camp in Shalayiya area and they were in a bad humanitarian conditions.

He, however, refuted that they control the area, but said they engage in violence a times to satisfy their need for food and medicine.

After returning from a tour of the state localities, Khatir said the security situation in most of the localities was improving apart from the eastern side of the state especially in Kalbs and Sirba localities which were not reached due to insecurity there.

He also said IDPs were voluntarily returning to Qolo in Jabal Mara area, adding that they were in need of services.