

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS**Media Monitoring Report 13.3.2008

(By Public Information Office)

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# Highlights

## UN/ Agencies

### [UNMIS urges parties to Abyei conflict not to use violence](#)

(Khartoum Monitor) The United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) Regional coordinator for Southern Sudan, David Gressly, urged Wednesday 5 March in Juba town all parties to the recent conflicts in Abyei area to use non-violent means to speed up their goals.

In a press conference, he said, “UN stands against all forms of violence and deplors the killings that have occurred in Abyei area in recent days”.

### [Ban Ki-moon attends ‘mini-summit’ on Sudanese-Chadian relations](#)

12 March 2008 – Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon arrived today in Dakar, Senegal, where this evening he is scheduled to participate as an observer in a mini-summit that brings together the Presidents of Sudan and Chad, whose common border has become a source of tension.

Also this afternoon, he is expected to meet with Lebanese Prime Minister Fouad Siniora, one of the leaders who have come to Dakar for the summit of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

Mr. Ban has already met today with OIC Secretary-General Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu to discuss terrorism, Islamophobia, freedom of expression, Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory and Kosovo, according to a UN spokesperson.

The mini-summit, hosted by Senegalese President Abdoulaye Wade, is expected to include King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia, President Omar Bongo of Gabon, President Jakaya Kikwete of Tanzania – Chair of the AU – and Alpha Oumar Konaré, Chair of the AU Commission, as well as Presidents Idriss Deby of Chad and Omar al-Bashir of Sudan.

Refugees and armed groups have been regularly crossing the border between the strife-torn Darfur region of Sudan and Chad, including, it is alleged, many of the rebels that attacked the latter’s capital N’Djamena in early February.

## GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

### [President Bashir will discuss UNAMID with UN chief today](#)

(Al-Rai Al-Aam) The President of the Republic, Omer Bashir, will hold an important meeting today with the UN Secretary General, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, in the Senegalese Capital of Dakar.

Their discussion will focus on deployment of UNAMID and the latest development of situations in Darfur.

In press statement, Sudanese Presidential Advisor, Dr. Mustafa Osman Ismail, said Sudan greeted Senegal's initiative for meeting between Presidents Bashir and Deby with open mind and hoped that the meeting, which will be attended by UN chief Ki-Moon, would end hostility and tension between the two countries.

[US Charge d'Affaires calls on Khartoum to focus on its internal problems rather than blaming others](#)

(Al-Sahafa) The American Charge d'Affaires in Khartoum, Mr. Alberto Fernandez, has called upon the Sudanese Government to shoulder its responsibilities towards internal problems and to put its house in order rather than blaming others. He urged Sudan Government to speed up resolution Darfur problem.

He also called upon the Government to hold free and fair elections.

Sudanese State Minister for Information, Kamal Obeid, reacted strongly to the US charge d'Affaires saying, "Neither America nor any other quarter can dictate on us course of action".

He accused America of "plotting conspiracy to influence forthcoming elections in the country to overthrow the government" He called upon Washington to desist from dealing with other countries as though they are American States.

The US Charge d'Affaires made the statements in his response to a paper entitled "US impact on Sudanese-European relations" presented yesterday by Dr. Ahmed Al Bashir Al Amin, at the Sudanese-European Forum.

[Sudan president skips on a meeting with Chadian counterpart because of headache](#)

(ST) March 12, 2008 (DAKAR) — Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir failed to attend a meeting on Wednesday where he was due to sign a non-aggression pact with Chad's President Idriss Deby because he reported having a headache, officials said.

Bashir had arrived in Senegal earlier for an Islamic summit but did not appear at the presidential palace, where Senegalese President Abdoulaye Wade, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and African, U.S. and European diplomats had waited for hours.

"He rang me up. He said he'd been traveling, that he'd been in Dubai the day before and that he had a headache," Wade said on the steps of his palace, with fellow mediator and African elder statesman President Omar Bongo of Gabon by his side.

"He asked me to postpone it until tomorrow morning," said Wade, adding the meeting was now planned to take place after the opening ceremony of the summit of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) on Thursday.

When cameramen were allowed in for a photo opportunity, the chair meant for Bashir was empty and the assembled heads of state and diplomats who had waited for almost three hours looked visibly annoyed.

Some said there were doubts about whether the pact would be signed at all.

Wade, who has sought a mediation role in several African conflicts, has drafted a peace accord to be signed by Deby and Bashir in the hope it can help end years of conflict on both sides of their common border, which includes the Darfur region.

Chad and Sudan have long traded accusations of supporting rebels hostile to each other. A series of previous peace pacts signed by Deby and Bashir in the past two years have collapsed amid renewed fighting in both countries.

Bashir, who accuses Deby of failing to respect previous deals to stop supporting insurgents, has questioned the usefulness of yet another accord on paper.

#### REBEL STANCE

Rebels from both Chad and the Darfur region, seen by many as fighting a proxy war for the feuding presidents, have dismissed the planned pact, criticizing it for failing to include them and saying it would not bring lasting peace.

"It's going nowhere. It's just a protocol, a ceremony," said Ali Ordjo Hemchi, a representative of the Chadian rebel National Alliance, whose forces raided the capital N'Djamena last month.

"They can sign, but it's not going to produce anything," said Hemchi, adding that at least five previous accords, brokered mostly by Libya but also by Saudi Arabia, had collapsed. "It's a non-event."

Sudan's rebels were equally pessimistic.

"The Khartoum government has signed agreements with Chad ... agreements with the United Nations. And still our people are getting killed," Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) chairman Abdel Wahed Mohamed Ahmed al-Nur said.

About 200,000 people have been killed since 2003 in Darfur's conflict, which pits Sudanese government forces and allied militia against local rebels who say the western region has been neglected and marginalized by the Khartoum government.

Alex de Waal, an analyst and writer who specializes in Sudan and Chad, said he did not believe either Deby or Bashir were interested in non-military options.

"If they do sign, it'll be purely for tactical reasons to gain credit with the international community," he said.

#### [Sudanese officials to be charged with war crimes in 2008: ICC prosecutor \(ST\)](#)

March 12, 2008 (GENEVA) — The prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) disclosed today that he is finalizing two investigations into the Darfur war crimes by the end of 2008.

Luis Moreno-Ocampo told Swiss Info news portal that one of the investigations relates to involvement of Sudanese officials in attacks against civilians while the other looks at rebel attacks against peacekeepers and aid workers.

“We are looking at who is behind all this. I know that Ahmad Haroun is now the minister for humanitarian affairs and is involved, but he is not alone” Ocampo said on the sidelines of 6th International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights, in Geneva, Switzerland.

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 Mohamed Ali Abdel-Rahman, also known as Ali Kushayb. Sudan has so far rejected handing over the two suspects.

The International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) circulated a notice for the arrest of both suspects in mid-2007.

The UN Security Council (UNSC) which asked the ICC to investigate Darfur crimes under a Chapter VII mandate in resolution 1593 three years ago, appears reluctant to force Sudan’s compliance.

Last December China, Russia and Qatar blocked a presidential statement supporting the arrest of Darfur war crime suspect and their extradition to the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Ocampo said that the international community has “different views and no common position” about extraditing Haroun and Kushayb.

“At my last Security Council briefing many states requested Haroun’s arrest, but the international community’s lack of consensus and collective action is part of the problem,” he added.

The Argentinean born prosecutor has been pressing countries publicly and behind the scenes to press Sudan on the issue of handing over the suspects but with little success.

He made a rare criticism of the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon last October 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 prong approach with a humanitarian, political and security components only” Ocampo said in prepared remarks to the 11th diplomatic briefing at the ICC headquarters in the Hague.

Ocampo also revealed in the briefing that he has been approached by a number of countries suggesting that he should try and indict “lower level perpetrators, easier to arrest than Ministers or powerful militia leaders”.

Despite all that the ICC prosecutor said he was confident that both suspects will be prosecuted.

“I am Argentinean; I saw Jorge Rafael Videla [head of the junta] take power in Argentina and nine years later he was prosecuted; the same with Pinochet, Taylor and Milosevic. The era of impunity is over” Ocampo said.

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

International experts estimate 200,000 people have died in the conflict. The Sudanese government says 9,000 people have been killed.

#### [British Prime minister threatens military sanctions against Sudan \(ST\)](#)

March 12, 2008 (LONDON) — Prime Minister Gordon Brown called on Wednesday for tougher measures against Sudan, including military sanctions, to halt the bloodshed in Darfur.

"This is a humanitarian tragedy of colossal proportions where the world must act," Brown told parliament.

"I believe we must strengthen our sanctions against the Sudanese government. We should have military sanctions for the whole of Sudan," he said.

Brown gave no details and did not specify whether he was talking about United Nations Security Council sanctions.

A government source said Britain would consider measures aimed at stemming the flow of weapons to both government and rebels in Sudan's western province of Darfur.

A 2005 U.N. arms embargo bans government transfers of weapons to Darfur. U.S. President George W. Bush said last May Washington would seek support for an expanded, international arms embargo on Sudan.

The U.N. has also imposed a travel ban and a freeze on overseas assets of four people.

Brown said he would like to move ahead with a no-fly zone for Darfur "if it were at all possible", and had discussed the idea with French President Nicolas Sarkozy, but stressed the difficulties of going ahead.

"We've got to accept that the area it would have to police is the geographical size of France. It would need large numbers of aeroplanes to be able to do so," he said.

"The more important thing at the moment is to get a ceasefire, to stop the aerial bombing of civilians," he said.

"I believe most of all that we must get people to the peace table," Brown said, adding that it was important the government as well as rebel groups join negotiations.

Of the five key Darfur rebel groups, only two have agreed to join talks, stalled since a failed summit in Libya in October.

Brown said Britain had asked China, an ally of the Sudanese government, to intervene over Darfur and said he would like U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon to visit the region very soon.

The United Nations and African Union aim to have some 26,000 peacekeepers in Darfur, but only 9,000 are on the ground.

Western governments have accused Sudan's President Omar Hassan al-Bashir of delaying deployment by putting restrictions on the troops.

Brown said he had talked to Sarkozy about what they could do to provide helicopters that are urgently needed by the force, but announced no new steps.

#### [Sudan slams US human rights report](#)

(ST) March 12, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — The Sudanese government responded angrily to the annual report on human rights which called the record of the east African nation "horrific".

Sudan's foreign ministry spokesman Ali Al-Sadig told reporters that the US State Department's list of top human rights violators is a "political classification which does not reflect the facts on the ground".

"Sudan's human rights record remained horrific, with continued reports of extrajudicial killings, torture, beatings, and rape by government security forces and their proxy militia in Darfur," the report said.

Sudan was added by the US State Department to its list of world's top 10 offenders of human rights.

The State Department said in the report that "countries in which power was concentrated in the hands of unaccountable rulers remained the world's most systematic human rights violators."

Al-Sadig accused the US of being "the biggest violator of human rights in the world".

The Sudanese official said that "Guantanamo Bay detention camp and secret prisons around the world" are examples of US abuse of human rights.

He also said that Sudan is committed to human rights which are part of national legislation based on Islamic Shari'a law.

Washington has been the world most outspoken critic on the Darfur crisis and called it genocide, a term European governments are reluctant to use.

International experts estimate 200,000 people have died in the conflict. The Sudanese government says 9,000 people have been killed.

## **GoSS**

### [Sudan President reneged on promise to construct roads in South: GoSS Official \(ST\)](#)

March 12, 2008 (JUBA) — The Sudanese President Omar Hassan Al-Bashir has backtracked on his pledges he made during his recent presidential visit to southern Sudan, to construct new roads in the South.

“When we followed up on the promises made by the Al-Bashir we were told to construct the roads using our own money,” the minister of Transport in the government of Southern Sudan (Goss) David Deng said.

The GoSS official noted that Al-Bashir vowed to build twenty kilometers each from Juba ring road, Rumbek-Yirol-Shambe, Juba-Mundri, Ayot-Waat-Akobo.

“This is a clear indication that president was only making mere flattering political statements for luring and deceiving southern Sudanese people. What a shame for the Sudanese head of state who does not honor his own words” Deng said in an angry tone.

South Sudan is still slowly recovering from two decades of civil war with the North that killed 2 million people and drove another 4 million from their homes.

Sudan’s First Vice President and president of South Sudan Salva Kiir told the Egyptian daily Al-Ahram last month that the regional government has little money from development.

“The South is dependent on the oil revenues with no other resources. Most of the money is spent on basic services and government civil servants. The leftovers are very small and we can’t use it for development” he stressed.

The SPLM signed a peace deal in with the government of the National Congress Party in January 2005 ending two decades of civil war in Southern Sudan. The peace deal made the SPLM, the ruling party in the south and the NCP the ruling party in the north.

In 2011, southerners will be asked to vote in a referendum on whether they want to be independent or remain part of Sudan.

### [SPLA demobilized 39 children \(Al-Sahafa\)](#)

(Al-Sahafa) The West Bahr el Ghazal town of Mabil witnessed yesterday the demobilization of 39 children associated with SPLA.

Speaking at a ceremony held for the purpose, SPLA Director of Administration of the 3rd Brigade Brig. Ajak said 130 other children have been identified and would be demobilized.

Deputy Coordinator of DDRC in the State said the Commission located families of 19 of the demobilized children pointing out that the children were worried that they might lose the salary they used to get to support their poor families.

#### [Officer: SAF soldiers shot in revenge attack](#)

(Sudan Tribune) Five SAF soldiers have been shot dead in a revenge attack by a group of town people in Kapoeta in Eastern Equatoria State.

The soldiers belonged to one of the new JIUs. The killings were in retaliation for the stabbing of a man in the small town of Kapoeta in Eastern Equatoria State bordering Kenya, said Sudan People's Liberation Army Major Gen. James Hoth.

The incident underlined the deep tension remaining between the former foes that still also maintain their own armies – the SPLA in the South and SAF in the North.

### **Darfur**

#### [US lifts ban on its companies to operate in Darfur](#)

(Al-Sahafa) In continuation to its previous decisions exempting Southern Sudan, Nuba Mountains and Blue Nile State from economic sanctions, the US Administration decided to lift ban on American companies desirous of operation in Darfur.

Informed sources told the newspaper that US Administration permitted American companies to invest in Darfur in the areas of infrastructure, drinking water, schools and health centres.

#### [Informed political source: Israel is training SLM cadres](#)

(Al-Rai Al-Aam) An informed political sources confirmed full coordination between Israel and Abdul Wahid-led SLM in Darfur.

The sources revealed to the newspaper that Israelis were training large number of Abdul Wahid's cadres in the desert and arms are supplied to rebels in Darfur via neighbouring African country.

The source revealed the existence of a training camp in the north of Senna in Israel where SLM elements are being trained in preparation for subversive operations in Darfur.

#### [Morni camp IDPs call on UNAMID to provide protection \(Al-Ayyam\)](#)

IDPs in Morni Camp (20 km southeast of the town of Guneina have called upon UNAMID to provide them protection.

IDPs spokesperson, Mr. M. Arbab, said, "UNAMID should provide protection to helpless IDPS" as militia banditry was continuing.

#### [Darfur rebel group claim new attack on Sudan army](#)

(ST) March 12, 2008 (LONDON) — The Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) Darfur rebel group said today that it clashed with Sudanese army near the capital city of El-Geneina.

“JEM engaged and destroyed a GoS [Government of Sudan] force, today [at] 4pm local time [in] Rahad Al-Sinait, 100 kilometers north-east of El-Geneina city, between Suleia and Kulbus” a statement received by Sudan Tribune said.

There was no independent confirmation of the news and the Sudanese army did not comment on the statement.

JEM said 22 government soldiers were killed while 12 were captured.

West Darfur has been the scene of heavy fighting between JEM and the Sudanese army trying to flush out the rebel presence in Silea, Sirba, Abu- Sorouj.

The UN refugee agency says 13,000 refugees fled into Chad from Darfur since the Sudanese army and its Janjaweed militia allies began heavy bombardments of rebel strongholds around the Jebel Moon area on February 8.

The recent offensive has drawn criticism by the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon who urged a ceasefire in Darfur saying deteriorating security is undermining efforts to help thousands of civilians caught in an upsurge in fighting

### **Miscellaneous**

[Sudan warns west of 'Iraq-style disaster' in Darfur \(Sudanese online\)](#)

UN peacekeeping troops are heading for "another Iraq or Afghanistan disaster" in Darfur as long as talks between the government and rebel groups remain stalled and the US maintains its hostile stance, Sudanese officials and regional experts warned today.

Speaking in Khartoum, the former foreign minister Hussein Suliman Abu Salih said Sudan suspected the deployment of up to 26,000 soldiers in a joint UN-African Union force was part of US plans to subjugate the country and overthrow its Islamic government.

"The US says it is not against Islam but they lie. If their policies do not change, they will destroy Sudan politically, diplomatically and economically and maybe through military intervention."

Hasbo Mohammad Rahman, the commissioner for humanitarian affairs in Darfur, accused the European Union of acting as a Bush administration stooge. "The EU is rewarding the rebels for rejecting the [2006 Darfur] peace agreement by providing aircraft, money and arms," he stated without further explanation.

Rahman also attacked western aid agencies' humanitarian efforts in the region, saying they lacked expertise and were a waste of money. "The NGOs are bringing Europe's

unemployed here to work. We don't need midwives costing \$40,000. We can employ 40 midwives for the same amount."

David Hoile, the director of the officially approved Europe-Sudan Political Action Committee, suggested that in the absence of a peace deal, the UN troops were walking into trouble.

"If the intervention takes place without a peace to keep, any military 'peacekeeping' action will inevitably be drawn into conflict, a conflict that will not be limited to Darfur or even Sudan," Hoile said.

"To think otherwise is to repeat the American delusion that their invasion forces in Iraq would be welcomed by cheering crowds ... The EU must resist calls from the US to escalate the Darfur conflict. Unless it says no to the interventionist imperative, it could produce another Iraq or Afghanistan disaster in Sudan."

Hoile said western actions were increasing the prospect of al-Qaida involvement in Darfur and the Sahel region, following Osama bin Laden's call last autumn for a jihad against all foreign forces there.

Noting that Chadian rebels had declared war on the EU in December, he also pointed to possible spreading violence there against the 3,700-strong French-led EU force now deploying along the Sudan-Chad border.

A French soldier was killed, and another wounded, last week when their patrol strayed into Sudanese territory and was fired on by Sudanese troops.

Growing Sudanese anger over the UN-AU operation coincides with renewed efforts at the UN security council to expedite the deployment, which the Bush administration says Sudan's government is hindering.

Those moves in turn follow an upsurge in violence in west Darfur, where an additional 20,000 people were displaced last month following a new government and Janajweed militia air and ground offensive against Justice and Equality Movement rebels - the first of its type for more than 18 months.

Meeting on Tuesday night, the council expressed "profound concern" about the renewed instability and the worsening humanitarian situation in Darfur.

Edmond Mulet, the assistant secretary-general for peacekeeping, said in a report that violence was increasing, only slow progress was being made in deploying the UN force, and renewed peace talks remained elusive.

Russia proposed new sanctions against the rebels, but the US ambassador, Zalmay Khalilzad, accused Khartoum of primary responsibility. "It is the government that's bombing ... that is working with Janjaweed militias ... [and] is causing in western Darfur thousands to leave their homes," he said.

The British ambassador, John Sawers, said the council should study "why the parties have reverted to out-and-out conflict as a way of settling their disputes rather than trying to do so around the negotiations.

"If there is going to be a further round of sanctions, it would have to be a balanced package," he said.

Since it erupted in 2003, the Darfur conflict is estimated to have claimed over 200,000 lives and displaced 2.3 million people, nearly 300,000 of whom are now in Chad.

Sudanese officials dispute the figures and claim that far fewer people have died in what they describe as a complicated inter-tribal war involving 12 or more factions.

Sudan is also highly critical of US proposals, backed by Gordon Brown, for a no-fly zone over Darfur, which they say are impractical and represent another attempt by the Bush administration to control the country.

The US state department's 2007 report, published this week, described the human rights situation in Darfur as "horrific