

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN  
UNMIS**

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(By Public Information Office)

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## **HIGHLIGHTS :**

### **UN/ Agencies**

A press conference was held yesterday jointly by Special Envoys Jan Eliasson and Dr. Salim Salim at the AMIS headquarters. The envoys highlighted the outcome of the latest developments in their mission for peace in Darfur and answered questions and answers from the press.

Most major local dailies covered the briefing excerpts of which are to be found in the Special Media Monitoring Report attached separately. The full text of a near verbatim transcript will follow as soon as ready.

Below are some of the headlines run by the press:

Envoys call for end to tribal fighting and the humanitarian crisis in Darfur (*AlAyaam*); UN, African Union envoys seek broader consultations on Darfur (*The Citizen*); UN, African Union call for investigations into Omdurman clashes between police and SLM-MM elements (*Alwan*); Rebels have to adopt common position before peace talks-mediator (*SudanTribune.com*); UN, AU envoys meet Darfur Arab tribal leaders Arab tribal leaders call on envoys to allow them participate in talks (*SudanTribune.com, AlIntibaha*); Eliasson flies to N'Djamena today for meeting with Darfur Peace Agreement non-signatories (*AlSahafa*); Salva Kiir praises African Union-UN efforts for peace in Darfur (*Sudan Vision*)

### **UNMIS' Bahr-el-Ghazal Head of Office remarks on the CPA implementation**

(*AlSudani et al*) UNMIS Head of Office for Bahr-el-Ghazal told the *Sudan News Agency [SUNA]* that UNMIS has assisted in transportation for the redeployment of 85% of the SPLA to the agreed upon borders and has destroyed about 35 tonnes of ammunition from the SAF and the SPLA.

Fred Babi says the mission is also contributing to returns in the region.

The head of UNMIS' de-mining program in the region, Robi Roberts, also pointed out that the UN has managed to de-mine a total of about 1 million square meters around Wau.

Of challenges currently faced, the UNMIS officials pointed out that work on the Wau-Tombura road has come to a halt as a result of Lord's Resistance Army activities.

The UNICEF director in the region also complained that there are about 3,000 children carrying guns in Bahr-el-Ghazal and Warrap States.

### **Government to sign with the UN a joint communiqué on humanitarian operations**

(*AlHayat*) State minister for foreign affairs, Ali Karti, signs with the UN later today a joint communiqué on facilitating the activities of the humanitarian relief organisations operating in Darfur.

### **Sudan refugees may become heavy burden for Chad - UN**

(*SudanTribune.com*) The growing number of refugees fleeing to Chad from the conflict-ridden Sudan could become an "intolerable burden" on the country, the U.N.'s humanitarian chief said.

John Holmes visited this eastern Chad town on the second leg of a 10-day trip to the region, one week after the new U.N. undersecretary general for humanitarian affairs visited Darfur and South Sudan - part of an effort to improve the bitter conditions under which aid workers have to operate.

"The camps could become an intolerable burden" on eastern Chad's scarce natural resources, Holmes said.

Violence has increasingly been spreading from Darfur into Chad. Nomads are raiding villages, there are intricate ethnic clashes and both the Chadian and the Sudanese governments have been trading accusations that they support each other's rebels groups.

"But one big difference between here and Sudan is that at least here authorities are very cooperative," with the international aid effort, Holmes said after meeting Touka Ramadan Kore, the governor of this eastern Chad region. "Their humanitarian needs are so big that they are happy to have us in the country." [*Click on the link for the full text of the above [Sudan refugees may become heavy burden for Chad - UN](#)*].

### **Children celebrate World Water Day in Kadugli**

(*Khartoum Monitor*) Children from nine basic schools in Kadugli, South Kordofan State, celebrated World Water Day last Thursday.

The ceremony was co-organised by UNICEF in collaboration with the National Water Corporation.

### **The Transition Debate**

## **US to send mercenaries as part of a UN Darfur force; French paratroopers raid village in Darfur**

(*Allintibaha*) This story makes the lead headlines in *Allintibaha* today. The paper says that the US, on orders from President Bush, is preparing to send mercenaries to Darfur as part of an envisaged UN force and quotes the source as a US private security firm. No further details are given.

Referring to a Muscat-based newspaper, *Allintibaha* reveals that French paratroopers raided recently a village in Darfur close to the Chadian border completely destroying the village of 13,000 and causing about 2,000 people to flee.

The source says the French were silent on the issue until UK's *The Independent* broke the news following a visit by a UN committee to the area.

## **Sudan willing to accept UN support**

(*SudanTribune.com*) Sudan's ambassador said Tuesday that only minor issues stand in the way of his government's willingness to allow the United Nations to provide significant support for efforts to end the violence in Darfur.

But, Ambassador John Lueth Ukee said, his government's support for the proposal does not apply to the U.N. plan for a major peacekeeping deployment to the troubled region. The U.N. support, he said, should be limited largely to logistics and communications for African Union peacekeepers already in Darfur.

Ukee said his government has not stood in the way of implementing these stages. But, he said, U.N. inefficiency has blocked forward movement. US and UN officials have said that a major problem for implementation of the U.N. plan, aside from resistance by the Khartoum government, has been a shortage of peacekeepers available for duty in Darfur [*click on the link below for the full text of the above* **CORRECTION: Sudan willing to accept UN support**].

## **Blair's no-fly zone plan likely to be grounded despite growing crisis**

(*SudanTribune.com*) The decision to put Britain's weight behind the highly controversial solution of a no-fly zone comes at a moment of crisis in the region. Last year's hard-won peace agreement between the Sudanese government and Darfur-based rebels unravelled this month when President Omar al-Bashir sent a letter to the UN secretary general, Ban Ki-moon, asking to renegotiate a deal struck only three months earlier allowing UN peacekeepers to bolster a small African Union force in the province. At the same time, the humanitarian effort along the Darfur-Chad border, the largest operation of its kind in the world, is hanging by a thread as the continuing instability and violence in the region threatens the aid effort. In the face of attacks on humanitarian workers and aid compounds, UN agencies and independent groups have warned they might have to withdraw completely.

John Holmes, the UN's new humanitarian chief, has been touring refugee camps in Darfur and Chad over the past few days, and described the aid effort as "fragile".

"If the situation deteriorates, it could collapse," Mr Holmes, a British diplomat, said. "The risk is high, it is not imminent but if things deteriorate people may not want to maintain their efforts, which could lead to a humanitarian collapse." [[Follow the link for the full text Blair's no-fly zone plan likely to be grounded despite growing crisis](#)]

## **CPA**

### **Demobilised SAF soldiers meted equal deal**

(*Khartoum Monitor*) Over 4,449 demobilised SAF soldiers have approached the GoSS with the request for assistance for sustenance until at least their dues and entitlements are provided for by the central government.

As a result, the Southern Sudan DDR Commission and partners have agreed to assist them and their families and provide them with three months rations. Arrangements of assembly points and a date (27 March) have been cited for collection of rations.

### **N. Bahr-el-Ghazal ups IDP returns**

(*The Citizen*) The government of N. Bahr-el-Ghazal State has so far helped repatriate over 1,000 IDPs mainly from the outskirts of Khartoum using a convoy of 47 vehicles – 31 passenger buses and 16 trucks.

A government official concerned with the repatriation exercise cited administrative problems such as low turn-out of IDPs during registration and the huge influx on the day of departure.

## **GoNU**

### **Council of Ministers tables a number of bills before parliament**

(*AlKhartoum*) The Council of Minister is expected to table a number of bills before parliament next week.

The bills to be tabled include the Accountability Procedures Bill, the Police Bill and the SAF Bill.

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Other Headlines:

- ❖ President Bashir says will not stand for forthcoming elections (*AlWifaq*)
- ❖ A group of citizens block security patrol in Abu-Hamad, northern Sudan (*AlAyaam*)

## **Southern Sudan/ GoSS/SPLM**

### **GoSS graft investigation committees summon ministers**

(*AlAyaam*) The Speaker of the GoSS Legislative Assembly says a committee charged with investigating GoSS contracts and another on GoSS procurements have started their investigations.

He said that the committees have summoned a number of ministers in this regard.

Of the forthcoming population census, Speaker James Wani Igga pointed out that the census may be delayed if the north-south boundaries are not defined.

### **CES sets up radio and television stations**

(*Sudan Tribune*) The Central Equatoria State Minister of Finance and Manpower and a delegation of the Workers' Trade Union Federation discussed last Tuesday the modalities of effecting a one-day salary cut from every government employee for the establishment of the state radio and television station.

### **Egypt to construct power stations in South Sudan**

(*SudanTribune.com*) An Egyptian delegation from the Ministry of Electricity left Cairo to South Sudan last week to undertake feasibility studies to implement power stations in the Wau.

Minister of Electricity Hassan Yunis said that the station will cost 37 million Egyptian pounds given as a part of a 154-million Egyptian pound grant from Egypt.

Egypt will construct two power stations in southern Sudan, in Juba and Wau, to boost development efforts in the region and is already engaged in the construction of a number of schools and hospitals in southern Sudan and also will open a Juba branch for Alexandria University.

### **South Sudan Malakal still facing insecurity threats**

(*SudanTribune.com*) The residents of Malakal, capital of Upper Nile are still experiencing insecurity due to regular conflict between SPLA and SAF soldiers and SAF-allied militias in the area.

A high-placed source in Malakal, who asked not to be named, told Sudan Radio Service that every evening there are gunshots coming from the area of the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) military headquarters.

The source also told Sudan Radio Service (SRS) that militia who are currently part of the SAF continue to harass civilian within the town.

The source further said a team of Joint Integrated Units from Juba was flown into Malakal last week and their presence has improved the situation.

### **Darfur/ Darfur Peace Agreement**

## **Taha, Minnawi and Salah Gosh hold talks on Omdurman clashes**

*(AlSahafa)* Political and security sources reveal that efforts yesterday to defuse the situation following recent clashes between the police and SLA-MM elements in Omdurman have culminated in agreement on the formation of an independent investigation committee.

Minnawi is also said to have agreed his movement will collect and bury their dead and collect their prisoners and injured and identify those missing but in the presence of government officials.

This follows a meeting yesterday between VP Taha, Mini Minnawi and security and intelligence chief, Salah Gosh.

## **Other Developments**

### **SRS journalist arrested ... whereabouts unknown**

*(Khartoum Monitor)* A *Sudan Radio Service* journalist was arrested on Saturday allegedly by security authorities while covering the clash between SLA-Minnawi and police elements in Omdurman.

According to a colleague, Nichola Mandil had gone with him to interview Minnawi at his residence to get his side of the story but then the colleague was chased back and Mandil detained when they neared the house.

His whereabouts were not known until yesterday and he could not be reached through his phone number.