

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS**Media Monitoring Report, 14 June 2007

(By Public Information Office)

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Highlights

UN/ Agencies/ Partners

Coverage on the UNMIS regular briefing to the press

Probably eclipsed by reports of Sudan's acceptance to the United Nations, African Union proposal for a hybrid operation in Darfur, local news coverage on the UNMIS regular press conference has been rather scanty with most of the major papers such as AlAyaam, AlSahafa and AlRai AlAam making no mention of the issue – on their first pages at least. Even AlIntibaha that closely follows United Nations activities in Sudan has made no mention of the press conference. AlHayat daily does have a top first-page close-up photograph of Spokesperson Radhia Achouri with the caption, "United Nations Mission in Sudan Spokesperson Radhia Achouri" but does not produce a report on the briefing.

Akhbar Alyaum daily does however produce the full Arabic text of the Opening Remarks of the briefing.

The full transcript of the press conference can be accessed through the United Nations Mission in Sudan website: <http://www.unmis.org>.

Large tracts of Darfur inaccessible - Oxfam

(IRIN via SudanTribune.com) Increasing violence in the western Sudanese region of Darfur has cut aid workers' access to affected civilians to its lowest level since the early days of conflict, the British charity Oxfam said.

As a result, large parts of rural Darfur were now completely inaccessible for aid agencies. Humanitarian workers and operations, it added, were increasingly being targeted.

"Vehicles are being hijacked and robbed, staff assaulted and intimidated while carrying out their work, and offices broken into and looted," Oxfam noted in a statement on 8 June. "As the armed movements split into ever smaller factions, Darfur has become more lawless and volatile than ever."

The worsening insecurity had forced many humanitarian agencies to use helicopters. However, these tended to be limited to the larger towns and camps. "In villages and rural areas we are often simply unable to get there," Oxfam said.

Even inside the camps, it was becoming more insecure. "Armed men have entered the camps to harass civilians and aid workers, steal vehicles and loot equipment - all in broad daylight and without fear of getting caught," the charity noted.

According to the statement, attacks on civilians had forced more than 80,000 out of their homes in the first two months of 2007. "Many of these people have had to flee for the second, third or even fourth time as they desperately seek refuge and protection," it said. "Many of the vast camps are already operating at capacity - some are the size of cities and shelter around 100,000 people."

The charity noted that the massive humanitarian response in Darfur had largely stabilised living conditions in the camps, but warned of a danger that this situation could be reversed if humanitarian access rapidly decreased.

According to Oxfam, more than two million people - nearly one in three in Darfur - have had to flee their homes and are sheltering in camps, while another 230,000 refugees are in neighbouring Chad.

Armed men loot French NGO vehicle in Southern Darfur State

(AlSahafa via BBC Monitoring, 13 June '07) Some anonymous armed men have managed to loot a vehicle belonging to the French organization called Action against Hunger on Tuesday night [12 June 07] in [Southern Darfur State] Nyala.

The organization director in southern Darfur, Eirik Djond Fil [phonetic], told Al-Sahafah that nine armed persons had sneaked into one of the organization's garages and managed to steal the vehicle and drove away with to an unknown direction.

In the same development, a police source, who requested anonymity, said that the initial investigations brought to light that the perpetrators drove the vehicle to Malut market in the city centre before they disappeared.

The same source further held the organization responsible for the occurrence of the incident because they had set up their garages on the outskirts of the city.

AMIS says SLM representative at the CFC brandished a pistol before AMIS officers

(AlSahafa) The AMIS has accused an SLM-Minnawi representative at the Ceasefire Monitoring Commission of drawing a gun to threaten military officers and civilian staff at the commission headquarters in el-Fasher.

The SLA officer demanded that he be paid allowances he did not deserve, the AMIS says.

In a statement yesterday, the AMIS described this as a dangerous and unacceptable behaviour and strongly condemned such an irresponsible act and called on the SLA to take the necessary measures towards the SLA officer and to stop them from carrying out such acts that may lead to dangerous results.

Other Stories:

- [On Nile patrol with the UN in South Sudan](#)
- UNFPA team of experts travels to Juba within framework of combating fistula (*Radio Miraya FM, 8:00a.m. news bulletin*)

The UN Support Package to the AMIS

Security Council hails Sudan's nod for Darfur force

(*AFP via SudanTribune.com*) The Security Council on Wednesday welcomed Sudan's nod for a joint African Union-UN force to end bloodshed in Darfur and urged "timely and full implementation" of the deal, after getting assurances that Khartoum means business.

Belgian Ambassador Johan Verbeke, the council chair this month, said the 15 members welcomed the Sudanese move after UN Undersecretary General for peacekeeping operations Jean-Marie Guehenno gave assurances that "we can move forward."

He told reporters that council members "call for the timely and full implementation of the agreement" reached by the AU, the UN and Sudan in Addis Ababa Tuesday.

UN chief Ban Ki-moon hailed the accord as "a milestone development" that he as working to implement "as soon as possible."

"We are moving in the right direction," he told reporters.

Ban, whose plea for patience in persuading Khartoum over the past five months appears to have been vindicated, expressed surprise at the skepticism expressed by some quarters about Sudan's turnaround, particularly in the United States.

Guehenno described Tuesday's accord as "a step forward," noting that "the government of Sudan is now on board with the AU-UN agreement on the basis of the clarifications we provided."

"We need to build on that ... This is not the end of the road," he added.

Verbeke said the council also expressed support for UN efforts to bolster and broaden last year's peace agreement between Khartoum and Darfur rebels and called on all the parties to cooperate.

Council members demanded the "immediate and unconditional respect of a ceasefire" in Darfur and the ambassadors now looked forward to their scheduled meeting in Khartoum Sunday with Sudanese President Omar al-Beshir, he said.

Around 7,000 AU peacekeepers in Darfur have been unable to halt the clashes in a region the size of France because of a severe shortage of funding and equipment.

Dimitri Titov, an aide of Guehenno, said Tuesday in Addis Ababa that the so-called "hybrid" AU-UN force would comprise between 17,500 and 19,600 troops in addition to more than 6,000 police.

Khartoum had previously rejected attempts to send large numbers of UN peacekeepers to Darfur, where at least 200,000 people have died in a four-year conflict and more than two million forced from their homes, according to the UN.

But Sudan finally relented in the face of intense world pressure and threats of tougher UN sanctions amid concern about the worsening plight of Darfur civilians.

South African ambassador Dumisani Kumalo and his Chinese counterpart Wang Guangya said tougher UN sanctions against Khartoum, which the United States and Britain had threatened, were no longer justified.

"We believe we have the fundamentals of an operation that will allow the UN and the AU to give joint strategic direction on the ground," Guehenno said.

One tricky issue is who will have effective control of the joint force.

It was agreed that the UN would be in charge of command and control in line with all its peacekeeping procedures but that an African general would have operational control on the ground.

Guehenno said this was explained to the Sudanese in Addis Ababa and they did not challenge it.

As to Sudan's insistence that the joint force for Darfur be mainly composed of African troops, Guehenno said this had been the plan all along.

"We are going to make every efforts to preserve the African character of the mission," he said. "We think we are going to be able to do that because we have offers from African countries."

But Guehenno said Khartoum accepted the fact that if specialized capacities could not be found in Africa, the UN would have to look elsewhere.

As to the timetable for the deployment, Guehenno said a 3,000-strong contingent that is to provide logistical support to struggling AU troops in Darfur should begin heading there in the coming months.

He said that contingent is to be the backbone of the larger hybrid force, expected to begin deploying early next year.

China, France welcome agreement for "hybrid AU-UN force" in Darfur

(Xinhua via BBC Monitoring, 13 June '07) China on Wednesday welcomed a joint statement issued by the African Union, the United Nations and Sudan which said Sudan had agreed on the deployment of a hybrid AU-UN force in Darfur.

"China welcomes the joint statement. The facts have shown that dialogue and equal negotiation is an effective approach to political solution of the Darfur issue, and the consultation between AU, UN and Sudan is an effective mechanism," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang.

Qin said the international community should strive to maintain the current good momentum in resolving the Darfur issue, promote comprehensive implementation of the Annan plan and political process of Darfur in a balanced way, help Sudan improve the humanitarian and security situation in Darfur and promote proper settlement of the Darfur issue as soon as possible.

Qin added that China is ready to continue to play an active and constructive role in the settlement of the Darfur issue, and will work together with the international community to promote the early realization of peace, stability and development in Darfur.

The *AFP* also reports that France has welcomed the fact that Khartoum has agreed to a "hybrid" African Union (AU)-United Nations force in the western province of Darfur while calling on the parties concerned to speed up the stages preceding the deployment of such a force.

"France welcomes the permission given by Sudan... [agency ellipsis] This hybrid AU-UN operation constitutes an important stage in international efforts to improve security and the humanitarian situation in Darfur," Foreign and European Affairs Ministry spokesman Jean-Baptiste Mattei said.

Nevertheless, the spokesman added immediately, "tangible progress on the ground cannot be achieved without a commitment of the parties to implement a strengthened cease-fire and to get involved in peace negotiations under the auspices of joint AU and UN mediation".

League of Arab States welcomes Sudan acceptance to hybrid operations (*Rai AlShaab*)

Reactions to the consent on a hybrid operation for Darfur

Most of the local press report that the head of the Government of Sudan delegation to the recent talks in Addis says he does not think that Sudan's consent to the United Nations-African Union proposals for the deployment of a hybrid operation in Darfur would cause the US to "make a dramatic change in relations with Sudan".

Speaking at a press conference following his return from Addis, Dr. Muttrif Sidiq who is also the Undersecretary for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that the talks were between the government and the United Nations and African Union as institutions and that Sudan did not give its consent under pressure.

On mandate, Dr. Sidiq said that the forces in the hybrid operation will enjoy the same mandate as the African Union Mission in Sudan forces in Darfur that include peacekeeping, the right to self-

defense and the protection of civilians, humanitarian agencies and property. He said however that no date was mentioned for the launch of the hybrid operations but pointed out that this awaits endorsement of the agreement by the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union. He said however that it is their hope that the hybrid operation will take root as soon as the agreement is endorsed by the legislative bodies of the two institutions.

Dr. Sidiq denied that government had earlier rejected the deployment of a hybrid operation. He pointed out that government had indeed given its consent earlier but was reserved over some details of the plan.

On challenges, the head of the Sudan delegation to the Addis talks said that many challenges await implementation of the hybrid operation basically because it is the first of its kind and due to the fact that the agreement did not go into the finer details of the deployment plan.

On the other hand, *Rai AlShaab* daily reports that government consent to the deployment of a hybrid operation in Darfur has raised parliamentary eyebrows. The head of the northern political parties' caucus in parliament wondered what legal basis did the Executive come up with in order to consent to the deployment of a hybrid operation while parliament had unanimously passed a resolution rejecting the deployment.

The head of the NCP parliamentary bloc, Ghazi Salahuldeen, defended the government decision to consent to a hybrid operation and pointed out that the parliament had in fact rejected United Nations Security Council Resolution 1706 that called for monitoring the activities of the Sudan judiciary and police. He defended the government decision in favor of a hybrid operation and pointed out that the forces to be deployed in Darfur would be under African command. He conceded however by saying that it may be that parliament would wish an explanation from the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

An MP on the NDA ticket pointed out that what is important is to follow this step with a political process while a representative on the SPLM ticket expressed his movement's support for the move.

CPA

GoSS VP says SPLM opposed to an National Congress Party proposal over an interim administration in Abyei

(*AIRai AlAam*) The SPLM has rejected National Congress Party proposals for the formation of an interim authority in Abyei with a six-month term during which the Abyei issue will finally be put to rest.

GoSS Vice-President Riek Machar pointed out that the SPLM sees this proposal as a way to prolong the stalemate on Abyei. He said that the SPLM had instead given two proposals [*he declined to elaborate*] that are currently being studied.

NCP consultative council meeting focuses on Abyei and relations between the parties

(*AlSahafa*) Discussions of the National Congress Party Consultative Council yesterday focused mainly on Abyei and relations between the parties to the CPA.

The rapportoire for the meetings pointed out that the issue of the oil companies operating in southern Sudan has been fully resolved.

GoNU

MP intends to move motion to summon interior minister over nationality cards issued to large numbers of West Africans in Darfur

(*AlAyaam*) MPs reveal they intend to push a motion requesting parliament to summon the interior minister over the incidents in Oum Jireiwa village in White Nile State where a number of citizens were tortured and over reports that a team from passports control issued the Sudanese nationality card to a number of West Africans.

Professor Abu-el-Gassim Seif-el-deen, (SPLM) representative for West Darfur State pointed out that the nationality cards issued by the police to large numbers of West Africans in areas emptied by villagers fleeing the fighting in Darfur would change the demographic map of the region and would make the IDPs lose their lands.

Another MP on the Communist Party ticket says he intends to get endorsements from colleagues to move a motion to request the Minister of Finance and Economic Planning on the privatisation of Sudan Airways, the national carrier.

Sudan says warrant issued by Interpol for arrest of minister illegal

(*Akhbar Alyaum via BBC Monitoring, 13 June*) The minister of justice, Muhammad Ali al-Mardi, has said that what the International Police (Interpol) has been doing by taking measures to arrest the state minister of political affairs, Ahmad Harun and Kushayb [who are both accused by the ICC of committing war crimes in Darfur] is illegal and that the Interpol does not have the right to carry out any measures that have no conformity with the norms of the international law.

He further told Akhbar al-Yawm that the measures were wrong and that what had been based on the wrong would be wrong as well. He added that the government would not contact the Interpol or any other body because it has already made its opinion clear which was that the ICC does not have the right to try any Sudanese nationals especially when the Sudanese judiciary is credible, just and capable of trying anybody who committed a crime in addition to the fact that the state itself wants to try the criminals.

He pointed out that Sudan was not under the jurisdictions of the ICC because it did not sign the Rome Convention which had been rejected by many countries, including the United States, Russia and Sudan.

He stressed that the ICC is not the International Court of Justice which is one of the UN agencies, but is a court that has been ratified by some states and rejected by others.

Other Stories:

- [US moving ahead with sanctions on Sudan](#)
- [Kuwait's Aref Investment buys 49% stake in Sudan Airways](#)

Southern Sudan

New report warns southern Sudan exposed to Lord's Resistance Army rampages

(*World Vision*) Funding for protection forces and an early warning system for the state of Western Equatoria are desperately needed to help prevent widespread looting, murder and rape in case of another Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) 'rampage' in the area, according to a new report.

The report, *Reluctant Hosts*, is being launched today by World Vision, an international relief and development agency. World Vision staff in Sudan have described the people of Western Equatoria as still living in an "atmosphere of fear" despite current peace negotiations between the LRA and the Ugandan government. The report warns that the international community and national and local governments must take the potential for further LRA violence more seriously, and look to do all it can to protect the innocent citizens of the state.

"In February 2007, the LRA left its hideout in the Democratic Republic of Congo and traveled north into Southern Sudan after peace talks between the government of Uganda and the LRA collapsed," said Seth Le Leu, program director for World Vision in Southern Sudan. "Its soldiers entered communities in the populations of Eastern and Western Equatoria, repeatedly attacking communities, abducting, looting, allegedly raping and killing its citizens."

"The peace negotiations have thankfully now resumed," Le Leu said, "however, this has not put an end to the fear felt by people in Western Equatoria." Under the terms of these renewed talks the LRA must assemble in one single place. This assembly point is within Western Equatoria and so these communities have once again been forced to become the reluctant hosts of this movement. "Men, women and children are living in constant fear of any further attacks to the communities in Western Equatoria," Le Leu said.

World Vision's report not only highlights the havoc caused by the LRA to Western Equatorian citizens in times past, but stresses the need to include those communities' grievances in the current peace negotiations. It also calls on the government of Southern Sudan and the international community to protect the citizens by properly training protection forces and by equipping them to do their job properly when violence flares.

The report also recommends some actions in making the people of Western Equatoria safer. These include funding an effective system of communication that would allow communities to be warned of any impending attacks and give people time to flee; clearing bushes and underground bordering roads along main roads; and erecting radio masts and starting local radio stations.

For more information or a PDF copy of the report *Reluctant Hosts - The Impact of the Lord's Resistance Army on Communities in Western Equatoria State* contact Rachel Wolff at 253.394.2214 or rwolff@worldvision.org.

High Court adjourns petition against Eastern Equatoria State governor

(Juba Post) The Supreme Court of Southern Sudan and a panel from the Ministry of Legal Affairs and Constitutional Development have postponed a petition filed against Governor Alioson Emor Ojetuk of Eastern Equatoria State for allegedly unlawful sacking of the State Speaker and his deputy.

Counsel-General Isaac Isako Bandu of the Ministry of Legal Affairs and Constitutional Development conferred that the postponement request made to the court was conceded and adjourned the session to 21 June 2007.

Legal counsellors speed up procession of cases of suspects detained without trial in Juba prison

(Sudan Tribune.) The Governor of Central Equatoria State has called on the legal counsellors dispatched by the Central Equatoria State Ministry of Legal Affairs and Constitutional Development to speed up investigation of suspects detained for a long time in Juba Central Prison.

The governor pointed out that such detention for a long time without trial raises the concern of human rights organisations.

Darfur

Darfur Fund supervisory committee formed

(Sudan Tribune) A supervisory committee of the Darfur Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Fund was formed yesterday and will be headed by the Minister of Finance and National Economy.

The committee shall consist of representatives of the three states of Darfur, the three federal government representatives, the head of the Darfur Fund, the Chairman of the Darfur Rehabilitation Commission and a representative for donor entities.

SLM Abdelshafi says holding consultation to restructure the group

(SudanTribune.com) The rebel Sudan Liberation Movement- led by Ahmed Abdelshafie has announced that consultations are underway with all the factions of the movement to adopt a new structure for the group.

Below the text of the press release:

During his visit to the liberated areas (SLM/A-held territories) in Darfur, Mr. Ahmed Abdelshafie (Toba), the Chairman of the SLM/A, has established a task force (commission) consisting of five members to hold wide consultations with the field commanders to find remedies to the Movement's ailing structure.

We are pleased to announce that, the recommendations of that task force are now before the Chairman of the SLM/A. [*Follow the link to the full text of the recommendations [SLM Abdelshafi says holding consultation to restructure the group](#)*].

Chadian leader calls on Interpol to guarantee the safety of Sudanese refugees to Chad

(*<http://Miraya> website*) Chadian President Idriss Deby said he had called for the deployment of International Police forces to provide security to Sudanese refugees in Chad.

Deby said in a meeting with ambassadors from the Arab League that as a poor country Chad can not endure the pressure of what he called the great powers and the United Nations on the deployment of International forces along borders with Sudan. Idriss Deby added that Chad cannot resist the demands for opening a humanitarian corridor through his country into Darfur.

Other Developments

4 killed, 8 injured by security forces in Kajbar; protests in Khartoum over the Kajbar dam

(*Khartoum Monitor; AlAyaam*) Police killed four and injured seven reportedly in serious condition, in clashes with local in Kajbar.

Eyewitnesses report that witnesses of those killed refused to reclaim the bodies from the police unless in the presence of a government official. The local government authorities have promised an investigation into the incident.

AlAyaam reports in a related development that police used force to stop a peaceful demonstration staged in Khartoum in solidarity with the victims of the Kajbar dam site.