



## UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN

## Office of the Spokesperson

## UNMIS NEWS BULLETIN\*

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***Special Envoy for Darfur Jan Eliasson Back in Khartoum for a Series of Meetings Ahead of Libya Negotiations***

The Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for Darfur, Mr. Jan Eliasson, is back in Khartoum from Addis where he co-chaired with AU Special Envoy Salim Ahmed Salem a two-day internal meeting with the Joint AU-UN Mediation Support Team to finalize preparations for the Darfur negotiations set to start in Sirte, Libya, on 27 October 2007.

In Khartoum where he arrived yesterday, Mr. Eliasson held a meeting with representatives of leaders of Darfur Arab tribes to brief them on the ongoing preparations for the negotiations.

Today, Mr. Eliasson met with Presidential Advisor and Darfur Chief Negotiator on Darfur Nafie Ali Nafie. He also chaired a high-level meeting with senior representatives of the regional partners, including Libyan Minister for African Affairs Ali Triki, to finalize preparations for the negotiations.

Mr. Eliasson will wrap up his visit to Khartoum tomorrow and his activities will include a joint press conference he will hold at noon together with Ambassador Sam Ibok, Senior Advisor to African Union Special Envoy Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim at UNMIS Headquarter.

***Security Developments******Darfur***

**In North Darfur**, fighting was reported in Tawila (approx. 60 km E of El Fasher, North Darfur) on 9 October. Initial reports indicate that exchange of fire took place between SLA/Minni Minawi elements and SAF soldiers. The circumstances of the incident remain unclear. UN staff that was working in Tawila was temporarily relocated to El Fasher.

On 9 October, shooting occurred in the Zam Zam IDP camp (approx. 13 km S of El Fasher). The incident is allegedly linked to SLA/MM pursuit of suspected carjackers. No injuries were reported.

**In South Darfur**, following the attack that took place on 8 October in and around Muhajariya (80 km East of Nyala), an estimated 6,000 villagers and IDPs residing at Muhajariya fled to the north of the town, seeking refuge around the AMIS group site. Other residents reportedly fled to neighboring villages and the surrounding areas, leaving the town, which had a population estimated at 20,000 inhabitants, completely deserted. A large number of houses in Muhajariya have been burnt to the ground, as well as several shops in the market. NGOs and AMIS have been providing medical care to several wounded civilians. AMIS has also provided water to the displaced population. Reports indicate that tens of civilians were killed and wounded, and tens are reported missing, including children. The UN relocated yesterday twenty nine (29) INGO staff from Muhajeriya to Nyala.

On 07 October, a GoS military convoy moving from Songo (about 160 km S of Nyala) towards Nyala was reportedly ambushed by unknown gunmen in the vicinity of Abu Jabra (70 km South of Nyala).

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