

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS****Media Monitoring Report, 08 January 08**

(By Public Information Office)

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# Highlights

## UN/ Agencies

### **UN chief urges quick deployment of Darfur troops**

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 7 Jan. UNITED NATIONS) The situation is deteriorating in the western Sudanese region of Darfur and an existing peacekeeping force is too small to deal with it, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said on Monday.

"I as the secretary-general and the United Nations as a whole ... must ensure the rapid deployment of hybrid operations as agreed to the level of 26,000 (peacekeepers) as soon as possible," Ban told reporters at his first news conference of 2008.

"We have now 9,000 re-hatted soldiers in Darfur. That's not sufficient. That is why we are very concerned about the ongoing deteriorating situation in Darfur."

Ban did not give details on the deterioration. However, a U.N. report seen by Reuters in Khartoum on Monday said Chadian planes have bombed Chadian rebel positions near Darfur's capital, the second such reported cross-border incursion.

*Read more* <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25489>

### **UN Assures its Readiness to Cooperate with Sudan in Implementing Peace Support programme**

(*SUNA* – 8 Jan. KHARTOUM) The Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Sudan Ashraf Qazi, said after his meeting Monday with the Minister at the Presidency of the Republic, Gen. Bakri Hassan Salih, that the United Nations is ready to cooperate with Sudan and the national unity government in implementing the re-integration and disarmament programmes that were approved by the National Council for Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration.

In a press statement after the meeting, the UN official said that they discussed the general situation on implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and the issue of demobilization and re-integration programmes, adding that he assured the UN readiness to cooperate with Sudan in these fields.

Qazi said that the donors' community has shown readiness to extend funding for implementation of these approved programmes in a manner that would be basis for cooperation between the UN and the national unity government.

He appreciated the return of the Ministers of Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) to work in the framework of the national unity government, indicating that the two partners have shown keenness and political will to surpass challenges.

He said that there are still pending challenges facing the two parties, but the prevalent political will among them would enable them to overcome these challenges.

Meanwhile, the Secretary General of the National Council for Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration, Brigadier Osman Nuri, said that has appreciated the meeting between the Minister at the Presidency of the Republic and the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Sudan, stating that the UN official was fully informed about the disarmament and reintegration programmes.

He said that the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General was given a copy of the national disarmament plan, which was prepared through cooperation between the representatives of the North and the South and the UN mission in Sudan.

Brigadier Nuri said that the Minister at the Presidency of the Republic affirmed at the meeting the full readiness of Sudan government to cooperate with the United Nations in implementation of the programme. He said that the meeting also tackled the progressing relations between Sudan and the United Nations. He stressed the necessity funding and support to guarantee the continuity of peace.

### **Cabinet minister, UN envoy discuss Sudan peace implementation**

*(Sudan Tribune.com – 7 Jan. KHARTOUM)* Sudanese cabinet affairs minister and the UN envoy for Sudan discussed progress in Sudan peace agreement and the redeployment of troops between the two peace partners.

Pagan Amum reviewed in his meeting with Ashraf Qazi, progress achieved in the implementation of the pended issues in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. Pagan briefed the UN envoy also about his trip to southern Kordofan where clashes between the SPLA and Misseiriya tribesmen occurred.

The two officials also tackled the population census, borders' demarcation and the role of UN in assisting the Government of National Unity in the CPA implementation and resolution of the conflict over Abyei area.

Amum pointed out that the meeting also discussed the arrangements for the coming elections, referring to the government endeavor to arrive at an accord with the political forces on the election act, affirming the two partners' commitment to hold the elections on the set date.

### **UN confirms Chad bombarded rebel positions in Sudan**

*(Sudan Tribune.com – 7 Jan. KHARTOUM)* Chadian planes have bombed Chadian rebel positions near the capital of Sudan's Western Darfur state, a U.N. report said of the second such reported cross-border incursion in two weeks.

Six Chadian "opposition members" were killed in the attacks on villages in Darfur early Sunday, said the report seen by Reuters on Monday.

The U.N. statement said on Jan. 6 at approximately 4:30 a.m. "Chadian air carried out air attack on the villages of Goker and Wadi Radi 35 km south of Geneina.

It said the injured were being treated in a civilian hospital in el Geneina, capital of Western Darfur state, 1,100 km (680 miles) west of Khartoum.

The air strikes are likely to enrage Sudan, which has repeatedly denied supporting Chadian rebels and warned Chad not to take military action.

### **Security Council alarmed by Sudan-Chad border tension**

(AFP — 7 Jan. UNITED NATIONS) The UN Security Council on Monday expressed serious concern about mounting tension along the Chad-Sudan border in the wake of stepped-up activities by rebel groups on both sides.

The 15 council members expressed "their serious concern at the recent upsurge of activities of the illegal armed groups in western Darfur and in eastern Chad, and at the resulting tension between the two neighbors," according to a statement.

They urged Khartoum and N'Djamena to "exercise restraint and pursue dialogue and cooperation" while respecting their commitments under various peace deals.

They welcomed the progress made in deploying the UN force known as MINURCAT and encouraged contributors to make available to both it and the European Union force (EUFOR) "the personnel and resources required for the implementation of their mandates."

### **GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)**

#### **North Sudan troops start withdrawal from oil areas**

(Sudan Tribune.com, AlAyam — KHARTOUM) Northern Sudan army has begun pulling out from the oil areas in southern Sudan after several delay triggering tension between the two peace partners, while Sudanese presidency directed to provide the necessary funds to implement joint units deployment.

"There is gradual movement. On the 9th there will be no SAF (Sudan Armed Forces) forces in Unity State, in the oilfields, or in Upper Nile State. They are now moving," said from Juba Major General Biar Ajang of the former rebel southern Sudan People's Liberation Army.

Southern army officials found barracks that had housed SAF troops in oil-rich northern Upper Nile State empty on Monday morning, a Joint Defence Board member said. *Read more* <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25485>

#### **Legal expert urges seeking a way for extraditing Haroun and Kosheib**

(AlIntibaha) The international law expert, Dr. Tahir Bojalal, urged the Sudanese legal experts to seek immediately a way for extraditing Minister of State Ahmed Haroun and Ali Kosheib who are wanted by the ICC. He said the GoS position on this issue is wrong. He warned of tough measures by the UN Security Council. Tahir said in a workshop organized by the Sudanese Red Crescent Society and the Islamic Forum on International Law that extraditing Haroun and Kosheib is a legitimate and legal step.

## **SPLA massing troops in Abyei, more clashes expected**

(*Rai AlShaab*) Reporting from Abyei, (Ray Alshaab daily) quoted what; it termed reliable sources disclosing that the SPLA has been reinforcing its military presence around Abyei area prior to launching a military attack on Abyei.

The sources confirmed that the SPLA mobilized its troops and encircled from four sides, saying that an estimated 20,000 SPLA's troops arrived from Juba, along with their heavy artillery.

Meanwhile, the National Security Organ in Muglad town summoned the Director of Education in Abyei area and questioned him on his initial approval to allow school students to take part in a planned demonstration denouncing attacks of SPLA on Miseria Arab tribesmen.

## **Presidency endorses redeployment of forces as scheduled**

(*Sudan Vision*) The Presidential meeting held yesterday in the Republican Palace instructed Governors of the Blue Nile and South Kordofan States to impose authority of the state in their regions and provide them with prerequisite services.

In press statements he made yesterday, Minister of State in the Presidency, Idrees Mohammed Abdulgadir, said the Presidential meeting had listened to two summaries: one submitted by the Joint Defence Council and another one by the Technical Committee for Demarcation of 1/1/1956 Border, revealing that the two summaries included the items finalized to date, a plan for reorganization of the joint unit and the Council's schemes for redeployment of SAF and SPLA forces in accordance with the provisions of the peace agreement. Idrees said the redeployment of troops will be completed on the 9th of the current month, which is the deadline set for that process.

Idrees told reporters that the Presidency had also heard the Joint Defence Council's plan for securing oil installations and regions by the joint and integrated units. He underscored the need for coordination among the Ministry of Energy and police and security forces in both the North and South for overseeing protection of oil regions.

The Chairman of the Border Demarcation Commission, Prof. Abdullah Al-Sadig, revealed that the Commission had finalized sorting out the documents it had received from Egypt, Britain and the National Archives, indicating that after finalizing the demarcation of the borderline on paper and procuring the Presidency's approval of its report, the Commission will embark on the demarcation process on the ground.

He further stressed the need for financial and security support, participation of security bodies and SAF, SPLA and police troops to protect demarcation teams in addition to administrative support and coordination as well as orienting citizens on the mission of the Committee.

On the other hand, official spokesman of the Joint Defence Council, Staff Maj. Gen. Abdulrahman Mohammed Zein, stated that SAF will tomorrow, Wednesday, handover oil regions to the joint command and complete its pull out to the north before the 9th of the current January.

## **Chad-Sudan tension can affect refugees, hinder troops deployment - envoy**

*(Sudan Tribune.com – 7 Jan. KHARTOUM)* AU-UN joint envoy for Darfur expressed concern over the growing tension between Sudan and Chad saying it could affect the displaced, refugees in the region and the deployment of the hybrid peacekeeping force.

In a statement issued on Monday the AU-UN joint Special Representative for Darfur (JSR) and UNAMID Head of Mission, Rodolphe Adada said "following with deep concern the escalating tension between the Sudan and Chad, a matter which could negatively affect a region that is already suffering from continued instability."

Adada said that IDPs and refugees would be the first victims of the ongoing tension between Sudan and the neighboring Chad; where there are around 230 000 Sudanese refugees settled in 12 camps along the 700 kilometer border with the Sudan.

Adada said alarmed that this escalation between Sudan and Chad could hinder the 26000 peacekeeping troops that being deployed in the region following the take over from the African troops at the end of last year.

The joint envoy for Darfur stressed that Darfurians are placing great hopes in this hybrid operation "to help restore stability and create a climate conducive to the success of the political process aimed at finding a lasting solution to the Darfur issue."

He reminded that Darfur peace process "needs the cooperation of all countries in the region."

## **Sudan paper suspended for "insulting" president**

*(Sudan Tribune.com – 7 Jan. JUBA)* A Sudanese newspaper has been ordered to shut down for two days after being accused of insulting President Omar Hassan al-Bashir, the paper's editor and owner said on Monday.

Nhial Bol said Sudan's National Press Council had suspended his English language daily The Citizen over an editorial it wrote about armed clashes on the country's north-south border. "The National Press Council ... (said) an article was insulting to President Bashir and so they suspended us for two days," said Bol, who estimates he will lose \$7,500 on advertising during the shutdown next Saturday and Sunday.

Newspapers have to register with the National Press Council, Sudan's official press regulator, and cannot publish if their membership is suspended.

Bol said that his paper, which has its newsroom in south Sudan's capital Juba, had been shut down nine times before by the press council. "Sometimes they allow you to print and then they come and take all the papers. Comparatively, this is a light punishment," he said.

No one was immediately available for comment from the National Press Council.

## **Chad bombs rebel positions near Sudan's Geneina**

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 7 Jan. NDJAMENA) Chadian air force planes on Sunday evening attacked a Chadian rebel base across the border in the Darfur region of Sudan, military and security sources said, while Khartoum accused Chad of bombing civilians.

The raid was carried out over West Darfur around 0400 local time by two helicopters, an Mi-17 and an Mi-24, with a Pilatus light aircraft, the military and security officials in Ndjamen said.

But a Chadian rebel spokesman contacted by AFP said the aircraft couldn't have hit rebels since "our troops are all in Chad."

The official sources confirmed a report from Khartoum that a similar attack was carried out Sunday in the same Darfur region against rebels opposed to Chad's President Idriss Deby Itno. Several rebel bases lie south of El-Geneina, the capital of West Darfur, about 200 kilometers across the desert from Abeche, the main town in eastern Chad, but it wasn't clear which had been targeted.

The attack followed a threat Saturday by Deby to pursue and strike Chadian rebels inside neighboring Sudan and repeated charges Khartoum was trying to destabilize his country. *Read more* <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25484>

## **Reply to Chadian Attack will be Similar Action: Armed Forces**

(*SMC* – 7 Jan.) Armed forces said Chadian led aggression against some Sudanese borders is backed by the west. It said the volume of attack exceeds Chadian capability. Army spokesman brigadier Osman Mohammed Al Aghbash has not ruled out that the aggression was directly supported.

However the spokesman said, "Reply to Chadian attack would take place similarly." He said armed force has capability to setback any Chadian aggression. Brigadier Al Aghbash said Chad knows quite well that Sudan is not harboring Chadian opposition elements.

## **New U.S. special envoy for Sudan takes office**

(*Xinhua* – 7 Jan. WASHINGTON) Richard Williamson, the new U.S. special envoy for Sudan, was sworn in by U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on Monday, U.S. media reported. Williamson, an Illinois Republican, has close ties to U.S. Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte as he served as Negroponte's No. 2 when Negroponte was U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations from 2001 to 2004, U.S. media report said. Williamson replaced Andrew Natsios who resigned on Dec. 21 last year.

## **GoSS**

### **Islamic banks to leave south 15 February says GoSS**

(*AlRai AlAam*) Deputy Governor of Sudan Central Bank and Governor of the South Bank Elga Molok has set 10th of next Feb. as for Islamic banks operating in the South to

halt transactions there. Molok told (*AlRai AlAam daily*) that all the branches of the banks Islamic banks should either to adopt conventional banking system or quit the South in accordance with CPA's Wealth-sharing Protocol.

### **South Sudan television to broadcast via Nilesat**

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 6 Jan. CAIRO) Juba Television will broadcast within two months through the Egyptian satellite (Nilesat) southern Sudan and Egyptian ministers of information agreed last week.

GoSS Minister of Information, Gabriel Changson, and his Egyptian counterpart, Anas El-Fiqi, agreed to air Juba Television via Nilsat within a month after the building of a station and empowering the coverage of the Egyptian satellite in South Sudan.

In a meeting with Changson, El-Fiqi also affirmed the readiness of Egyptian ministry of Information to train southern Sudanese cadres in the field of media.

### **SPLA can't abandon us to Miseriya, MPs tell Amum**

(*The Citizen*) Lawmakers have contested a declaration by defense minister and cabinet affairs minister that SPLA troops should go south of River Kiir, away from the scene of Miseria attacks.

The Bahr el Ghazal MPs met Cabinet Minister Pagan Amum to discuss the recent escalation of conflict with the Miseria tribesmen.

MP Garang Jiel told *The Citizen* via phone that they utterly reject the declaration of the Defence minister Abdul-Rahim Mohamed Husain and Sudan People's Liberation Movement's General secretary Pagan Amum on ordering SPLA troops to go south of Bahar El – Arab.

He said they are deeply affected by this resolution; the land is historically a Dinka territory. He further said the last attack was deep on the Dinka land, Waegut, Rawkiir and Mjok are the lands of Dinka. He said the citizens there were threatened and they have to get their land back and be protected.

## **Darfur**

### **Rebel JEM leader urges aid to Darfur refugees**

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 7 Jan. KHARTOUM) A rebel leader in Sudan's troubled western Darfur province Monday said refugees in the region were suffering serious food shortages and promised aid agencies safe passage if they intervened.

"The need for food has become urgent and there is a significant lack in that area," Khalil Ibrahim, leader of the rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), told AFP by telephone.

Ibrahim said displaced people in camps north of Geneina, western Darfur's main town, were suffering food shortages and he called on the UN World Food Programme

(WFP) and other aid agencies to intervene, saying his fighters were ready to offer them protection.

### **Training Camps to Open in Darfur for Integration Process/ Gen Al Dabi**

(*SMC* – 7 Jan.) Security Arrangements Commission for Darfur region has started preparations to open training camps to integrate Darfur movement elements in army and organized forces.

Commissioner of the security arrangements Gen Mohammed Ahmed Al Dabi said 80 officers and 40 police divided equally between the government and Darfur movements were deployed in Darfur for opening the camps. He said 4000 elements from the movements will be integrated after training and evaluation process at camps.

### **US prepares for new push in Sudan's Darfur**

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 7 Jan. WASHINGTON) The Bush administration is preparing a new push to end the conflict in Sudan's western Darfur region and keep a fragile north-south peace deal from unraveling in the vast African state.

With international attention increasingly focused on other world trouble spots, the US is boosting its profile on Sudan with the appointment of a new special envoy for the country, a former senior diplomat with links to President Bush, the GOP and a firm grasp of the UN system. *Read more* <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25488>

### **Groups will use Holocaust Day to highlight mass murder in Darfur**

(*Belfast Telegraph*) The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust will use its national day on 27 January to demand tougher action to stop atrocities in Sudan. The official charity was set up with the backing of the Government to learn the lessons of the Holocaust against six million Jews in the Second World War.

A survey conducted by YouGov for the charity showed that 53 per cent of British people are aware of the outrages being committed in Darfur but 83 per cent have done nothing about them. About 24 per cent said they had done nothing because they did not believe they could change anything, and 18 per cent said they did not know what to do.

The charity was hoping that by drawing attention to the killing in Darfur, it would persuade more people to lobby MPs and protest for tougher action against a regime presiding over the mass murder.

Among those who have fled to the UK is Khatir Mohammed, who said he feared being sent back to Darfur. He said: "I currently have asylum status but fear that I could be deported at any time as this would lead to certain death. I have no idea where my wife is. I also have three brothers and one sister in Darfur. If the British people want to help us I would encourage them to support the asylum seekers by raising money for them and raising awareness of the situation."