



UNMIS

Office of the Spokesperson

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The UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy Jan Eliasson for the Darfur crisis begins tomorrow his first official visit to Sudan

The Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Darfur crisis, Jan Eliasson, will be conducting a three-day visit to Sudan during which he will hold meetings with senior members of the Government of National Unity and all other relevant parties, to discuss steps required to arrive at a durable solution to the situation in Darfur on the basis of the Darfur Peace Agreement.

Mr. Eliasson is expected to arrive to Khartoum on Tuesday 9 January from Addis Ababa where he headed on Friday 5 January for two days of meetings with the Chairperson of the African Union, other senior African Union officials and senior members of the Ethiopian Government.

Prior to his departure to Addis Ababa, Mr. Eliasson, joined Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in a meeting held on Friday 5 January with Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim, AU Special Envoy for Darfur, during which they had in-depth discussions about Darfur. Furthermore, Mr. Eliasson carried out separate consultations with the permanent members of the Security Council, representatives of other Member States, including the Sudan, and a group of non-governmental organizations who are carrying out humanitarian work in Darfur.

Speaking to reporters before his departure to Addis Ababa, Mr. Eliasson said the purpose of his trip was to maintain the international political momentum so that the parties to the conflict realize that “*now is the time to go to the political road*” and not pursue a military solution.

Mr. Eliasson said: “*We should try to now instil a sense of importance of reducing the level of violence so that by that we can create conditions for a political process which is so necessary. This conflict has gone on far too long; the Sudanese people have suffered very, very much.*”

Mr. Eliasson will hold a press conference on Thursday 11 January at 6 PM at UNMIS Headquarter in Khartoum.

More than 2.3 million people are at risk from cross-border activities and movements of refugees, says the UN secretary-General's report on Chad and the Central African Republic

The Secretary-General's report on the recent UN multidisciplinary technical assessment mission to Chad and the Central African Republic to study the potential threat to regional peace and security posed by the Darfur crisis was released on Thursday 4 January 2007. Among the mission's preliminary findings, the Secretary-General notes, is the confirmation of a clear threat to regional peace and security due to cross-border activities by rebel groups and a persisting humanitarian crisis affecting more than 2.3 million people.

The Security Council has scheduled consultations next Wednesday to consider the report's recommendations.

UNMIS reiterates to the Government of Sudan the UN Zero Tolerance Policy towards sexual exploitation and abuse

UNMIS replied yesterday to the request of the Government of National Unity of Sudan to provide information on reports on allegations of sexual abuse and exploitation by UN personnel in Juba.

In a meeting held yesterday with Foreign Affairs high officials, UNMIS reiterated that the UN takes these allegations very seriously. As for investigation procedures, the Mission explained that in accordance with the UN General Assembly resolution 59/287 of 21 April 2005, the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) -the UN internal oversight body entrusted with investigations- is currently investigating allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse in Sudan. UNMIS informed the Foreign Affairs Ministry that due to the status of OIOS as an independent investigative body, the Mission was not in a position to provide details or information about investigations conducted by OIOS. Furthermore, UNMIS requested that Sudanese authorities make available any evidence they have, as alleged by the British Daily Telegraph in its article dated 2 January 2006, to the Office of Internal Oversight Services.

The UN firm policy regarding sexual exploitation and abuse was reaffirmed by the UN Secretary-General. In statement attributed to his spokesperson issued on 3 January, the UN Secretary-General expressed deep concern by press reports of allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations personnel in Juba. *"The UN standard on this issue is clear -- zero tolerance, meaning zero complacency and zero impunity"* the Secretary-General said, adding *"the UN is working closely with local authorities and all operational partners, including our troop-contributing countries, to ensure that UN personnel adhere to the highest standards of accountability. When necessary, strong disciplinary action will be taken"*. The full text of the Statement is attached as a separate document.

In a press conference held on 5 January at UN Headquarters in New York, the Assistant Secretary-General for Mission Support in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Ms. Jane Holl Lute stated that the reputation of United Nations peacekeeping was one of its most powerful assets, which was why the Organization had responded so strongly to the issue of sexual exploitation and abuse by its peacekeepers, and addressed it structurally and systemically. She said that, between January 2004 and the end of November 2006, investigations had been completed against 319 peacekeeping personnel **in all missions**, resulting in summary dismissals of 18 civilians and the repatriation of 17 police and 144 military personnel. The behaviour of a few in peacekeeping had tarnished the entire reputation of peacekeeping, she said, adding *"we will not allow that to continue to occur"*. The summary of ASG Jane Lute press conference is attached as a separate document.

Darfur: violence continues

Though the security situation in Darfur seems to be less tense since the beginning of the year 2007, several reports on security incidents have been reported. These incidents include mainly carjacking and tribal fighting.

In **North Darfur**, on 4 January, a Government police vehicle mounted with a machine gun was carjacked by unknown gunmen in El Fasher. .

In **South Darfur**, on 3 January, a passenger bus was attacked by bandits while traveling on the main road between Nyala and El Fasher (30 km North of Nyala). Four people, including the driver were wounded by gunshots. The local police intervened and wounded one bandit. One Government police officer was also wounded in exchange of fire.

In **West Darfur**, on 3 January, a UN Agency vehicle was car-jacked in El Geneina town by four armed men in camouflage uniform, strongly believed to be Janjaweed.

The security situation in South Darfur has been marked by tribal fighting.

On 4, 5 and 7 January, tribal clashes were reported between the Habaniya and Falata tribes as a result of the abduction of two Habaniya tribesmen by unknown persons in Buram locality. Several tribesmen people from both sides were reportedly killed .

On 2 January, fighting was reported between the Jamala (sub tribe of Rezigat) and Terjam tribe in Bulbul Abu Zauz (40km Northwest of Nyala on the Kass road). National Security confirmed that six were killed from the Jamala tribe and one was killed from Terjam tribe.

Southern Sudan: civilians attacked on Magwi-Nimule Road

On 2 January, a truck carrying 40-50 passengers was ambushed by a large group of gunmen on Magwi - Nimule Road at Opari Junction (125 km South of Juba). Four people were killed and six others were injured.

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*** For a printable version of "UNMIS in Pictures" please contact Mr. Tim McKulka
UNMIS Photographer at mckulka@un.org**



 **UNMIS** in pictures **Ambororo IDP Movement**



The Ambororo is a nomadic tribe originating in West Africa that is believed to have been in Sudan for more than 400 years. Having traveled south to escape the war in Blue Nile state and again in South Darfur, its people are currently awaiting resettlement and transport. At the request of the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS), UNMIS is coordinating their return from Equatoria to Blue Nile state. There are currently 212 Ambororo at a UNHCR constructed waystation in Juba. The IOM is arranging transport to Blue Nile state for the vulnerable members of the group and providing medicines and distribution of WFP-supplied food. The remainder of the group will travel by foot (expected to take 6 months to a year) with their cattle and the FAO will provide veterinary support. Movement of the groups of IDPs currently in Juba is expected to take place in the next couple of weeks.

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