



## UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN

## UNMIS

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(By Public Information Office)

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### UN/ Agencies

**Sudan Vision publishes Washington Post's article and a statement from the Office of UNMIS Spokesperson (Sudan Vision), AlSudani, AlKhartoum publish statement by UNMIS Spokesperson Office on Washington Post article (AlSudani, AlKhartoum)**

In Khartoum, a spokesperson for UNMIS described Washington Post information as not new as it derives from a UN report compiled in 2006. He added that corrective and disciplinary measures were taken against those involved in the case but did not elaborate. The spokesperson stopped short of pinpointing the persons involved in the case and the measures taken against them.

### **UN to assess Darfur attack aftermath (ST)**

February 11, 2008 (EL-GENEINA) — A U.N. assessment team left on Monday to areas in West Darfur reportedly attacked by the Sudanese army and allied militia in a major offensive which residents said killed at least 47 people in one town alone.

Khartoum said its forces had attacked the Darfur rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) who claimed control of the area. But residents said no rebels were in the towns and tribal leaders and that civil servants were killed by the militia.

The towns of Abu Surouj, Sirba and Suleia are located in a remote area north of el-Geneina, capital of West Darfur state, close to the Chad border.

"The assessment mission left to go to Sirba. It's a multilateral humanitarian mission accompanied by UNAMID (United Nations African Mission in Darfur)," said Orla Clinton, spokeswoman for the U.N. humanitarian office (OCHA).

On Monday leaders from the Erenga tribe, which lives in the area, told Reuters that they had recorded the names of 47 people killed in Sirba and 17 in Suleia.

Suleiman Jamous, the Darfur rebel Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) humanitarian coordinator, said about 38 had been killed in Abu Surouj but added that the numbers were difficult to verify.

A senior Sudanese army source involved in the operation told Reuters they had gathered hundreds of AK-47s and other heavy weapons in the three towns. He said that while some civilians may have been killed in the crossfire, they had fought troops from JEM many of whom were wearing civilian clothing.

"We lost soldiers and had injured — so we were definitely met with some resistance," he said, adding that two Sudanese army soldiers were killed and 12 injured in the operation.

He said JEM, which attacked and drove police out of the area last year, had cut off the towns from the outside world and the army operation was to regain control and open the roads.

The world's largest aid operation in Darfur has not been able to travel to the area in recent months because of the fighting.

## MILITIAS

The governor of West Darfur, Abu el-Gasim, said he did not hold the Sudanese army responsible for the deaths and burning of homes, saying it was militias who had looted and killed.

Khartoum mobilised mostly Arab militia to quell the Darfur revolt which began in early 2003 as many non-Arab rebels took up arms accusing the central government of neglect.

Abu el-Gasim said the attack underlined the importance of the implementation of the security protocols of a May 2006 Darfur peace agreement, which only a few of the fractious insurgent groups signed.

"We have to have disarmament in Darfur to be able to resolve this issue," he told Reuters.

Rights group Amnesty International condemned Khartoum over the attack but said JEM should stay away from civilian areas.

The U.N. refugee agency has said they have found around 12,000 Darfuri refugees who fled the attacks which began on Friday in eastern Chad. Rebels say the entire population of 200,000 have fled. But Sudan's army said many had come home in the town of Sirba.

The International Criminal Court (ICC) has issued arrest warrants for a junior cabinet minister and an allied militia leader accused of orchestrating war crimes in Darfur. Khartoum refuses to hand them over.

(Reuters)

**[UN says probe uncovered failures in Sudan \(ST\)](#)**

February 11, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — The United Nations disciplined staff and blacklisted at least one contractor after a 2006 audit uncovered a string of failures in its "contractual and administrative" systems in Sudan, a spokesman said on Monday.

The comments followed a report in the U.S. Washington Post newspaper at the weekend that said an internal audit found staff of the U.N. Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) had squandered tens of millions of dollars in funds through waste and mismanagement.

The paper, citing audits seen by its reporters, said waste came from "renting warehouses that were never used, booking blocks of hotel rooms that were never filled, and losing thousands of food rations to theft and spoilage".

The story was widely used by media outlets controlled by Sudan's government, which has often had a stormy relationship with the U.N. over its stance on Darfur and other issues.

The UNMIS spokesman declined to comment on specific accusations of mismanagement.

But he said the U.N. had compiled a report in 2006 based on an enquiry and the inconsistencies cited in the article had been fully addressed and disciplinary measures had been taken.

One contractor had also been struck from a list of approved U.N. vendors as a result of the probe, he said.

The U.N. expanded its operations in Sudan and changed its structure in 2005 to take on a new job of monitoring the Comprehensive Peace Agreement — the deal that ended a two-decade long civil war between Sudan's north and the south.

Sources in the U.N. said the failures identified in the internal investigation had taken place during the initial start-up phase. One staff member, who asked not to be named, said staff had been under pressure to set up a huge amount of infrastructure from scratch.

The staff member added said the items of expenditure criticised in the audit were dwarfed by UNMIS's total budget for the fiscal year 2005/6 of just over \$800 million.

(Reuters)

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

### **Sudan senior presidential assistant condemns army attacks in Darfur (ST)**

February 11, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — Sudan's senior presidential assistant today issued a strong condemnation of last week's attack carried out by the army in Darfur and said that those

responsible must be brought to justice.

“This is a terrible massacre” Minni Arcua Minnawi told reporters at a press conference in Khartoum as quoted by the daily Al-Hayat newspaper.

In a clear departure from the official Sudanese position Minnawi called for an international inquiry into the attack that claimed a large number of civilian lives.

The Sudanese government, in its largest offensive in months, on Friday attacked Abu Surouj, Sirba and Suleia towns, forcing an estimated 200,000 from their homes — 12,000 of whom have fled into neighboring eastern Chad.

The U.N. refugee agency (UNHCR) said about 12,000 Darfuri refugees had crossed into eastern Chad after Friday’s air and ground attacks.

A refugee from Sileah told UNHCR that ground attacks by the Janjaweed militia, allegedly supported by Sudanese Antonov aircraft, nearly destroyed Abu Surouj and reportedly caused heavy damage to four camps for internally displaced people.

The attacks have been condemned by U.N. officials, which Khartoum called "double standards" in a statement by its foreign ministry.

The former rebel leader and the head of a faction of Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) dismissed the government’s claim that there was rebel presence in the three towns and said that these were “safe areas”.

“I call on the international community to launch an investigation through the UN and African Union (AU) in cooperation with the Darfur transitional authority to find out the truth and hold those responsible accountable” he added.

Minnawi said he spoke to the governor of West Darfur Abu Al-Gasim Imam and told him that the “events were grave and must be examined on the field”.

In May 2006, the SLM signed the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) with the Sudanese government and its head Minni Arcua Minnawi was appointed as the senior assistant of the Sudanese president in August.

However Minnawi’s faction has grown increasingly frustrated with Khartoum’s negligence of the DPA.

The senior presidential assistant has distanced himself from the government’s position on issues like the handing over of war crime suspects to the International Criminal Court (ICC). Sudan has so far refused to extradite any of its citizens to the ICC.

(ST)

### **SPLA gives Miseriya 24 hours to leave Abyei (AlRai AlAam)**

The SPLA has given the Miseriya in Abyei 24 hours to leave the town. The Head of the traditional conflict resolution mechanism, Bashtana Mohamed Salim said during a public

demonstration yesterday the Dinka called on the Miseriya to leave Abyei in 24 hours.

### **Arab Miseriya attack Abyei (Khartoum Monitor)**

The situation in Abyei town is being reported to be very tense as Baggara are assaulting citizens from Abyei and Gogrial Counties as they return home from IDP camps in northern Sudan. The Baggara Miseriya are just 45 km away from Abyei. There are serious reports of looting of money, bicycles, clothes and sorts of valuable things by the armed Miseriya tribesmen.

The current situation started last week when Col. Gal, Biemnhom County Commissioner's cars were attacked in Bolom junction. "It was an assassination attempt but they couldn't succeed," confirmed Hassan Deng, one of the first rescue team members to reach the scene of the accident. Biemnhom Commissioner was returning from the funeral of SPLM's late Commissioner late James Ajing Path. Those who attended the funeral reported that The Commissioner delivered a strong speech which was not accepted by enemies of the CPA.

The attempt on the Commissioner's life resulted into five deaths which included some of the attackers, believed to be from nearby garrison belonging to SAF and Miseriya militias.

"Yesterday afternoon at Bolom junction, a woman was shot in the leg while the driver of the bus she was traveling in dodged bullets", said a concerned citizen from Abitok, Abyei.

The Miseriya are blocking IDPs from returning to south Sudan by laying ambushes along the only road that links southern Sudan and the north.

### **SPLM, NCP differ over elections law (The Citizen)**

The SPLM and the NCP have differed over the electoral law, an MP said. Justice Peter Samuel Mogga, an SPLM member of the National Constitutional Review Commission (NCRC) said the disagreement came when NCP insisted that the electoral law should be based on geographical representation. The SPLM said the law should be based on proportional representation.

## **GoSS**

### **Sudan's Jonglei Speaker call youth to work for unity (ST)**

Philip Thon Aleu, February 11, 2008 (BOR, Jonglei) – In an area full of misunderstanding and instability, in Jonglei state, among individuals, ages and communities, the speaker of legislative Assembly called youth to work together for better future.

Addressing a youth rally on Friday 9, 2008 at Bor town Freedom square, Judy Boyris, the speaker of the state assembly wondered who benefits from insecurity, unstable minds and disunity!

"Without unity, there is no development," said Boyris, stressing that cattle keepers should be left alone or else they are misleading Jonglei, the state he described as "leading Southern Sudan."

He also acknowledged Bor town as the state headquarters. "Bor has a vast land and everyone can be settled here." He praised the governor for bring a little peace and should work hard, hand-in-hand, with the state authorities to make Jonglei a better state.

The themes of the rally were: Peace building, Unity, Reconciliation, Gender development and HIV/Aids awareness.

The rally, conducted by youth, is the first since peace returned to Sudan three years ago and thus, attracted the governor and all high ranking officials of the state. Jonglei Youth Association (JoYA) was launched on 15 December 2007 by former governor, Philip Thon Leek and funded by State Ministry of Social Development.

The governor argued youth to bring other members on boat for complete JoYA. "There are many youth outside there but do not what to do and when?" Kuol encouraged youth adapts other ways of getting funds than begging the government. "When you come to my office, asking for money, where I do get it? All state budget is made according to the ministries," he lamented.

"JoYA has its office built and a lot of computers," Solomon Pur, the chairman of the association disclosed in what he said is a faster movement of the body he chairs. Many associations are not 'practical' but 'theoretical' in Jonglei and Southern Sudan at large, a section of youth believe so.

"Today they call you for a meeting to decide on how to be united and tomorrow you hear of new clashes between clans, led by youth," said chol Abraham a member of Bor Youth and students Association (BOYSA) when contacted by Sudan Tribune.

However, JoYA is exceptional, because it brings Jonglei under one board and funded by state government.

(ST)

#### **Four South Sudan private agencies win one mln USD award (ST)**

February 11, 2008 (JUBA) — The southern Sudan Government Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Supply and the Bank of Southern Sudan on February 8, 2008 announced an award funding worth 1 million dollars to four microfinance agencies.

The Microfinance Project, which is being supported by the Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) administered by the World Bank, is enshrined in the Interim Constitution of Southern Sudan which states that "all levels of government in Southern Sudan shall facilitate the development of the private sector, particularly indigenous entrepreneurs to establish and develop a viable private sector capable of participating effectively in reconstruction and development of Southern Sudan."

Speaking at the ceremony held at the World Bank Meeting Hall in Juba, the Minister of Commerce Trade and Supply, Anthony Lino Makana, emphasized the important role of entrepreneurs in fostering economic growth. He warned that any agency that

will default will not only forfeit the award but will also be asked to repay any misused amount.

The four winning agencies selected on a competitive basis include the Sudan Microfinance Initiative (SUMI), the Bangladesh Rural Cooperative (BRAC), Finance Sudan and the Savannah Farmers' Cooperative.

The agencies are expected to cover seven of the ten States of Southern Sudan in the next three years but a senior official of the Bank of Southern Sudan Mr Albino Dak Othow said the Bank would boost microfinance services in all the ten States. He said in the next competition in May this year the Bank will contribute at least another 1 million dollars.

The World Bank Country Director for Sudan and Ethiopia, Kenichi Ohashi, told the gathering that while the government institutions are still in the making a private sector driven microfinance service is a commendable intervention. "It is the best thing to do to get people on their feet in Southern Sudan," he remarked.

The Deputy Governor of Bank of Southern Sudan, Kornelio Koryom Mayik, said microfinance service is a vehicle of realizing the SPLM vision of taking services to rural areas. "It is going to make life in rural areas attractive," he emphasized.

The World Bank Private Sector Development Task Team Leader, Magdi Amin, concurred with the Mayik saying the Microfinance activity will provide employment. He pointed out that when people have decent employment to earn their living, they have self-esteem and live in peace.

The Chairman of the Southern Sudan Chamber of Commerce, Ngor Ayuel Kacgor, said the success of big businesses will depend on the success of small scale businesses that will be supported by the microfinance providers.

The Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Supply also used the occasion to launch the Business Plan Competition Facility that is designed to support start up and expansion of microfinance providers and services by targeting those who already have the potential to expand.

Entrepreneurs wanting to take part in the competition have been advised to take the competition documents from the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Supply in the Government of Southern Sudan.

Magdi of the World Bank explained that in this competition winners will be awarded funds to operate their businesses while losers will be coached how to plan their businesses.

(ST)

**Separatist party (United Democratic Front) claims 10 million members (The Citizen)**



A separatist political party yesterday claimed having more than ten million members for South Sudan Presidency. United Democratic Front whose main political objective is to form a separate nation, from northern Sudan, said they expect to oust SPLM in the 2009 general elections.

## **Darfur**

### **SLM leader appeals Chad's president to not expel Darfur refugees (ST)**

February 11, 2008 (PARIS) — Darfur rebel Sudan Liberation Movement, Abdel-Wahid Al-Nur has appealed the Chadian President Idriss Deby to not expel Sudanese refugees recently arrived following Sudan's army attack on rebel position in West Darfur.

Chad's Prime Minister Delwa Kassire Coumakoye said Monday that the arrival of 12,000 more refugees from Sudan's Darfur region was "harmful... for our people". Further he urged the international community to take them home.

"I appeal on the President Idriss Deby to not send these innocent people who have succeeded to escape to the ethnic cleansing practiced by the Khartoum regime." Abdel-Wahid said. He added that Chad is the unique country which opens its doors to receive these refugees who are victims of "Khartoum terror".

Al-Nur further said "By virtue of neighbourhood and kinship, the President Deby must not expel these people." He added "if they are forced to return home at this juncture that means their lives will be at risk."

He said the Sudanese army and its militias killed around 300 civilians among them there were 60 Childs

Following the last week attack in the towns of Abu Surouj, Sirba and Suleia, located in a remote area north of el-Geneina close to the Chad border, different estimations circulated but no exact figure has been sorted out. A UN team arrived in the areas today to assess the number of victims.

The U.N. refugee agency has said they have found around 12,000 Darfuri refugees who fled the attacks which began on Friday in eastern Chad. Rebels say the entire population of 200,000 have fled. But Sudan's army said many had come home in the town of Sirba.

(ST)

### **DEVELOPING STORY: Chad threatens to expel Darfur refugees by force (ST)**

February 07, 2008 (N'DJAMENA) — The international community needs to remove Sudanese refugees who have fled to Chad to avoid fighting in the Darfur region or Chadian authorities will do it themselves, Chad's Prime Minister Nouradin Koumakoye said Monday.

"We demand that the international community transfer the population (of Sudanese refugees) from Chad to Sudan to free us," Koumakoye told reporters in N'Djamena. "We want the international community to look for another country so that the Sudanese can leave. If they cannot do it, we are going to do it," he added.

"We can't allow more refugees to come and create problems for us," Prime Minister Nouradine Delwa Kassire Koumakoye said.

"Let the international community, which is so soft on (Sudanese President) Omar Hassan al-Bashir, seek another country to shelter them," he added

The Sudanese army, in its largest offensive in months, on Friday attacked Abu Surouj, Sirba and Suleia towns, forcing an estimated 200,000 from their homes — 12,000 of whom have fled into neighboring eastern Chad.

The U.N. refugee agency (UNHCR) said about 12,000 Darfuri refugees had crossed into eastern Chad after Friday's air and ground attacks.

"It's mainly men so far but they told us that more refugees are on their way, mostly women and children," UNHCR spokeswoman Helene Caux said. She said they planned to move them to refugee camps further inside Chad already housing some 240,000 Darfuris.

A refugee from Sileah told UNHCR that ground attacks by the Janjaweed militia, allegedly supported by Sudanese Antonov aircraft, nearly destroyed Abu Surouj and reportedly caused heavy damage to four camps for internally displaced people.

(ST)

*(Information for this report provided by AP and Reuters)*

## **FEATURE: Promoting the Rule of Law in Darfur (ST)**

By James Pearce

February 11, 2008 (EL-GENEINA) — West Darfur is a long way from my home in North Carolina in the southern part of United States of America. But my path to El Geneina makes sense in light of my work in the region.

Prior to serving as a UN Volunteer Rule of Law Officer with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), I got to know the warmth of the Sudanese people when I worked as a teacher in a refugee school for children in Istanbul, Turkey. A number of my former students came from various parts of Sudan. More recently, I was a legal advisor at Africa and Middle East Refugee Assistance (AMERA) in Cairo, Egypt, where I worked closely with a number of Darfurians who had come to Cairo seeking asylum. In Egypt – where I earned a Masters Degree in International Human Rights Law at the American University in Cairo and carried out research on Darfur for my thesis – my concern with the growing displacement in the western part of Sudan led me to apply to work as a UN Volunteer in Darfur.

My volunteer work as a Rule of Law Officer consists of both travel within West Darfur and interaction with a range of Sudanese and international partners. This morning I traveled to one of the eight internally displaced persons (IDP) camps around El Geneina to meet with a group of paralegals, a mix of local villagers and IDPs who have received training in human rights and Sudanese law facilitated by UNDP and our partner, the African Centre for Human Rights. Paralegals patrol the camp, mediate disputes and refer cases on to our office if remedy through the formal judicial system is appropriate.

In the afternoon, I sat with a colleague and a group of Darfurian lawyers to discuss how we can collaborate to provide more effective legal aid to vulnerable and marginalized groups in El Geneina. The two meetings – conducted in Arabic – are representative of UNDP’s enlisting of local actors in an effort to uphold human rights principles and enhance access to justice in the midst of the ongoing conflict in Darfur. More personally, these meetings – and by extension, my work as a Rule of Law Officer – reflect my own commitment to the principles of volunteerism embodied in being a UN Volunteer.

In addition to the provision of legal aid and support to paralegals, a third important component of the Rule of Law program consists of a series of trainings, workshops and seminars that UNDP holds in conjunction with the El Geneina branch of the University of Zalingei. These events allow individuals from all facets of society to come together to discuss issues including the relationship between Shar’ia Islamic Law and human rights principles, strategies for mitigating violent conflict and sustaining livelihoods and the role of armed movements in the reconciliation and reconstruction process in Darfur. Working with a multicultural group of individuals on a such a range of issues – all of them aimed at restoring justice and confidence for the people of Darfur – is one of the most exciting aspects of being a UN Volunteer.

UNDP’s Rule of Law project in West Darfur does not only cover El Geneina. Approximately once a month, one of us from the El Geneina office travels to Zalingei, a town in the eastern part of West Darfur. The flight from El Geneina to Zalingei takes about forty minutes. The helicopter lifts up from El Geneina’s dusty airstrip, hovers momentarily over the Durti and Ardamata IDP camps, before heading east over dry wadi beds and roaming herds of camels to drop down over the mountain ridges onto the no longer arable land that has become Zalingei’s landing pad.

Missions to Zalingei are often hectic, as one only has three or four days to oversee all of UNDP’s Rule of Law activities. Moreover, tensions in Zalingei often run high. UNDP, along with its partner in Zalingei the International Rescue Committee (IRC), is committed to strengthening the rule of law despite an environment of ongoing violence.

Recently, my missions to Zalingei have given rise to ideas for various exciting projects. With the support of IRC and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UNDP has begun to address the issue of labor exploitation, which puts IDP children and women at risk. Cases of children put to work making bricks or carting heavy goods around Zalingei in wheelbarrows and reportedly underpaid (if paid at all) for their labor have been reported.

Another initiative aims to engage directly with governmental authorities in Zalingei to explain the mandates and programmatic activities of four UN agencies working in the area: UNDP, UNHCR, the United Nations African Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) Human Rights Team and UNAMID Police.

Finally, in a meeting I recently had with members of the Center for Peace and Development Studies at the University of Zalingei, we agreed on going forward with an idea for a two day workshop to discuss the role of the Native Administration in upholding the rule of law in Darfur. The Native Administration, a group of community leaders and local customary authorities tasked with resolving disputes and maintaining a community's equilibrium, has seen its influence wane amidst the turmoil of fighting in recent years. The workshop will seek to understand how the conflict has changed the functioning of the Native Administration as well as to think creatively about the prospective role of the Native Administration in the peace process in Darfur.

It is always with a mix of excitement and anxiety that I travel to Zalingei. UNDP's Rule of Law work throughout Darfur deals with sensitive issues centering on the protection of human rights and the provision of legal representation to marginalized groups. The heightened tension in a place like Zalingei makes this type of work more stressful, but the opportunity to engage in it as a UNV makes it ultimately more rewarding as well.

(ST)

## **Miscellaneous**

### **Rebels withdraw quietly to southeastern Chad (ST)**

February 11, 2008 (NDJAMENA) — Chadian rebels who tried last week to overthrow president Idriss Deby withdrew quietly to the southeastern border of the country, French general said today.

"They left Mongo (in central Chad) after several days' occupation and two or three hundred pick-up trucks are headed in single file over several kilometres towards the three-way frontier," Colonel Paul Perie said. "It's very orderly."

The rebels could head back into Sudan's strife-wracked Darfur region or back via the CAR, unless they chose to remain in the sparsely populated border area.

But a rebel spokesperson Abderaman Koulamallah said that they want to stretch the government troops out as far as possible from their bases.

"The triple frontier zone wouldn't be bad for them, because it's discreet and they could get new supplies from Sudan," Perie told journalists.

The Chadian army, equipped with the pick-up trucks best suited to the rugged semi-desert territory, was on the move about 100 kilometres (60 miles) behind the rebels

but failed to hit them. The tripartite rebel alliance reached on Sunday the lawless Am Timam, in the southeast.

Also the Chadian army helicopters Mi-24 and Mi-27 fired on the rebel column but didn't reach them.

Following the defection of the two colon troops to the rebels since the battle of Massaguet about 50 kilometres (30 miles) northeast of the capital on the First of February, the number of Zaghawas among the rebels is more important than within the loyal troops.

According to the different reports the rebels remain a source of worry for the Chadian president because contrary to 2006 attack their forces are intact while troops loyal to president Deby are obviously affected by the attack.

Chad accuses the Sudanese government of backing the rebels, who managed to form an alliance of three groups before the first such offensive on N'djamena since April 2006. But Khartoum denies that and accuses N'djamena of supporting Darfur rebels.

(ST)