



UNMIS

Office of the Spokesperson**UNMIS NEWS BULLETIN****28 February 2007****Acting SRSG Tayé-Brook Zerihoun holds a joint press conference with UNMIS Force Commander***

Acting SRSG and UNMIS Head of Mission Tayé-Brook Zerihoun, together with UNMIS Force Commander Lt. General Jasbir Lidder, held a press conference today.

ASRSG Zerihoun introductory remarks focused on the implementation status of on implementation of the CPA, UNMIS activities in implementation of its mandate stipulated in Resolution 1590 (2005) of the UN Security Council, UN activities in support of AMIS, and the joint UN-AU efforts to re-energize the Darfur political process.

The ASRSG highlighted recent progress achieved in implementation of the CPA, including the launch of the new currency on 9 January, approval of the National Civil Service Act and the Civil Service Commission Act, and the approval of 2007 budgets at the National and Southern Sudan levels, reflecting some progress towards the fiscal decentralization called for in the CPA. He indicated that there are pressing pieces of legislative work that are yet to be achieved, which include: a New National Security Act; Police Act; legislation for a Human Rights Commission and for a Land Commission, as well as the Electoral Commission and Electoral Law. Many CPA Commissions are also yet to be established at the Southern Sudan level. “The timetable for the organization of elections is well behind schedule” and “the Parties must make progress on preparations for the census, including by releasing those funds they have committed for this purpose”, ARSG Zerihoun said. He added that the international community has an important role to play in supporting the preparations for elections and that UNMIS intends to play a central role in donor co-ordination as preparations get underway.

The ASRSG and the Force Commander both stressed that there are difficult issues that must be tackled to keep implementation of the CPA’s Security Arrangements on track, including integration of Other Armed Groups, formation of Joint Integrated Units, progress in DDR, and redeployment of the SAF out of Southern Sudan. They pointed out that UNMIS continues to be actively engaged, including through its membership in the CPC and its chairmanship of the CJMC, which meets every two weeks and has proved an efficient forum.

On UNMIS activities, ASRSG Zerihoun UNMIS highlighted a number of activities undertaken by UNMIS , including the development of new mechanisms to co-ordinate monitoring and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse with the competent authorities in Sudan at National and Southern Sudan level, dissemination of information, through UNMIS Radio and public information campaigns, on a range of issues of interest to the Sudanese communities, including

the CPA, public health issues and mine awareness campaigns, training and capacity-building in areas such as policing, gender and the rule of law.

On Darfur, the ASRSG indicated that besides its mandated tasks in accordance with resolution 1590 (2005), UNMIS is implementing UN support to AMIS, in addition to supporting the Preparatory Committee of the Darfur-Darfur Dialogue and Consultation (DDDC). He also informed the press on the joint steps being undertaken by UNMIS and AMIS in support of the joint mediation of the UN and the AU Special Envoys for Darfur, Jan Eliasson and Salim Ahmed Salim, including the establishment of a Joint Mediation Support Team, which is currently preparing for meetings, inside and outside Sudan, of the two Special Envoys with the political leadership of the DPA non-signatories.

The full transcript of the press conference will be available shortly at the following link: www.unmis.org)

Security and Humanitarian Developments in Darfur

North Darfur

According to the local police of Misteriya, four women were abducted in Misteriya village 180km West of El Fasher) on 27 February by Arab nomads while they were collecting firewood.

On 27 February, a high level delegation comprising a UN Agency, a foreign governmental organization and an INGO were refused entry into Kutum township and the Kassab IDP camp by the Kutum military authorities, despite the fact that the delegation had HAC clearance. The military authorities argued that they were not notified on the visit and insisted on refusing access to the delegation even after HAC in Al Fasher confirmed to them by phone that the delegation had travel clearance. The delegation had to return to Al Fasher without conducting its mission.

A week-long agriculture seeds and tools needs assessment by an INGO was completed in the Um Keddada locality. Distribution of seeds and tools is expected to take place in mid-March.

South Darfur

Reports indicate that fighting between Targem and Rezegat Maharia tribes is still ongoing in the Kass area.

In Mossai IDP camp, 660 students were denied the right to sit for the end of year exams unless fees were paid. OCHA and an NGO are following up on the issue with HAC and the Ministry of Education.

West Darfur

On the 27 February, armed militia hijacked a vehicle belonging to the Government Water and Sanitation and Environment (WES) in Adamatta camp (El Geneina). National Security pursued the hijackers who later abandoned the vehicle.

On 27 February, three armed men attempted to hijack two vehicles of a UN agency in Dorti IDP camp (El Geneina).

Due to insecurity, 50 new IDP families have arrived from Saraf Omra (North Darfur) in Hamadiya camp (Zalingei).

*** All UNMIS News Bulletins are available at www.unmis.org**