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**UNMIS NEWS BULLETIN\*****27 March 2007*****Special Envoys for Darfur Jan Eliasson and Salim Ahmed Salim meet with representatives of Arab tribes and civil society leaders***

UNSG Special Envoys Jan Eliasson and AU Special Envoy Salim Ahmed Salim held today in Khartoum separate meetings with representatives of Darfurian Arab tribes and leaders of civil society groups. Discussions during the two meetings focused on the joint efforts of the two Envoys to re-energize the Darfur peace process. The two Envoys heard from their interlocutors their views on how to move forward with the political process and reach a sustainable settlement of the Darfur problem.

The two Envoys will be holding a joint press conference today at AMIS Headquarters at 6 PM.

***IDPs return to Southern Sudan and the Transitional Areas continues***

The implementation of the GNU/GoSS/UN Joint Plan for Returns continues. To date, a total of **8,944** IDPs returned to various locations in Southern Sudan and the transitional areas since January 2007, in the framework of the assisted return operations.

The departure center in Jebel Aulia opened on 22 March when the first 2 convoys of organized return from Khartoum departed to Northern Bahr el Ghazal. To date a total of 353 IDPs (104 households) were transported in 3 convoys to Madhol and Wunlang, Aweil East, and Gomjuer, Aweil West in Northern Bahr el Ghazal State. This brings the total of IDPs returnees from Khartoum to Southern Sudan and Southern Kordofan to **3, 411** individuals.

On 22 and 23 March, the first two IOM convoys departed with 157 individuals from Baryal IDP camp, Western Bahr el Ghazal, to Kuajoc and Yieth Liet, Warrab, bringing the total of IDP returnees from Western Bahr el Ghazal State to Warrab State to **205** individuals.

Within Blue Nile State, from 18 to 22 March, a total of 818 individuals (224 households) were moved within Bau locality and from Ed Damazin to Kurmuk locality. This latest return movement brings the total number of IDP returnees within Blue Nile State to **2,521** individuals (665 households).

During this week, 1366 returnees (313 households) have arrived from South Darfur to Aweil, Northern Bahr el Ghazal. This brought the total of returnees under the South Darfur operation to **2, 223** individuals.

Since January 2007, a total of **584** IDPs have returned to Jonglei State from Eastern and Western Equatoria States

Spontaneous return continues as well. About 900 returnees from Tonga and Jezeera arrived in Phom El Zeraf since the withdrawal of SAF and Gabriel Tang forces on 21 February. The returnees have been allocated land for resettlement by the local authorities, who indicated that they anticipate the return of the remaining 11,000 IDPs from Phom El Zeraf currently residing in Kaldak, Korfulus and Malakal.

In Juba, UNMIS coordinated the Return and Reintegration Working Group, with the participation of 16 different organizations. The meeting discussed findings of the assessment mission to the Lobonok community (60km South of Juba) where 5,524 IDPs have spontaneously returned from Kajo Keji County.

### ***Security and Humanitarian Developments in Darfur***

#### **South Darfur**

Reports indicate that on 25 March, 4 SLA/Peace Wing members were abducted by unknown armed men between Ishma and Um Zeifa (37 km East of Nyala), the location where the Head of SLA/MM Security Committee in Nyala was killed on 24 March.

#### **West Darfur**

Reports indicate that on 25 March, a man was shot near his house in El Geneina town and died in the hospital. In the aftermath crowd gathered to demonstrate against the incident. Reportedly, GoS security intervened and fired shots to disperse the crowd, which resulted in the death of three demonstrators and serious injury of 4 others.

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