



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN

Office of the Spokesperson**UNMIS NEWS BULLETIN****2 October 2007****AU-UN Joint Special Representative Visits El Fasher***

In a press release issued on 1 October, AMIS announced that the Joint Special Representative for the UN-AU Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), Mr. Rodolphe Adada, visited yesterday AMIS Headquarters in El Fasher, North Darfur, to consult with AMIS leadership, including the Force Commander, General Martin Luther Agwai, on the situation in Haskanita, following the attack on AMIS team site on 29 September.

Mr Adada assured that both the United Nations and the African Union stand firm in their resolve to help bring peace to Darfur region and in carrying out their assignment as contained in resolution 1769, adding that both the UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-Moon and AU Commission Chairman, Oumar Konaré remain committed to supporting the people of Darfur achieve peace and security.

The Force Commander, General Martin Luther Agwai, who had visited the scene of attack yesterday, briefed Mr. Adada on his assessment of the situation.

UNHCR Faces Funding Crisis for South Sudan Operations

UNHCR announced today that it is facing a critical shortfall of \$11.1 million for its refugee return and reintegration operations budget in Southern Sudan for 2007. According to UNHCR, the funding situation is so dire that transportation of refugees back home from camps in neighboring countries to Sudan, due to pick up pace again soon after the rainy season ends, may not be able to go ahead, defeating the purpose of their work in South Sudan and neighboring Blue Nile State.

UNHCR's 2007 budget for the Southern Sudan operation is \$56.1 million but only \$45 million has been received. UNHCR says that its aim this year was to facilitate the return and reintegration of 102,000 Sudanese refugees and some 25,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), and warns that without further funds, the number will be certainly limited. So far this year, UNHCR has helped 42,000 refugees return, and along with other agencies assisted 12,000 IDPs to return home.

In September, lack of funds forced UNHCR to stop buying ahead basic assistance items which are usually distributed to returnees to help them settle back in their communities of origin.

With the end of the rainy season in the next few weeks, repatriation operations are set to increase pace with some 22,000 refugees expected to return to south-eastern Sudan between October and December 2007. The returnees are scheduled to return to Eastern Equatoria, Jonglei, Upper Nile and Blue Nile from Uganda, Kenya and Ethiopia. However, if funds are not received very soon, UNHCR will not be able to repatriate them nor provide them with minimum assistance upon return. UNHCR programmes to build and rehabilitate basic facilities, such as schools, health centres and boreholes, and demining activities in those return areas will also be seriously hampered.

So far, 68,000 refugees have returned home with UNHCR help since the launch of the voluntary repatriation operation in December 2005. They were repatriated from the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, and Egypt. Some 92,000 have returned by their own means since 2005. There are still 260,000 registered Sudanese refugees in exile with the majority (216,000) living in UNHCR camps in Kenya, Uganda, and Ethiopia.

UNHCR has eight offices in south Sudan located in Juba, Yei, Bor, Kapoeta, Kajo Keji, Nimule, and Rumbek. In Blue Nile and Upper Nile States, UNHCR has a presence in Damazin, Kurmuk and Malakal.

UNMIS Assists in Promoting Human Rights; Continues Capacity-Building Activities

UNMIS Human Rights Unit has recently published various human rights promotional materials in Arabic. These include simplified versions of seven major human rights treaties: International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights , International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, Convention on the Rights of the Child , Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

These materials were given to various Sudanese institutions, including the Advisory Council for Human Rights, the National Assembly and civil society organizations.

UNMIS Human Rights Unit continues to carry out capacity-building activities, including in Darfur. On 23 September, UNMIS facilitated, in collaboration the Kabkabiya-based Women Charitable NGO, the second of five human rights training sessions benefiting local women in Kabkabiya . The training sessions aim at increasing awareness on human rights and related legal issues.

On 23 and 24 September, UNMIS facilitated the organization and conduct in El Fasher of a "Training of Trainers" program on Human Rights for AMIS officers. The training program was attended by 35 AMIS officers and international and national staff associated with the AMIS capacity building project in the field of Human Rights.

UNMIS Indian Reserve Battalion Assists in Repairing Kadugli Veterinary Laboratory

The Indian Reserve Battalion assisted the local authorities in reactivating the Veterinary Research Laboratory in Kadugli, including by repairing damaged equipments and providing needed chemicals and reagents.

The Veterinary Research Laboratory was established under Nuba Agricultural Development Project for disease surveillance/ diagnostic procedures, but has not been functional for a long time due to lack of functional equipment and non availability of reagents/chemicals and crumbled infrastructure. The Laboratory is now fully functional.

UNMIS Civilian Police Continues Capacity-Building Activities in Support of Sudan Police

UNMIS Civilian Police continues to organize training workshops and programs on various policing activities in support of Sudanese police. These include a four-day on-the-job training from 21 to 25 September for 33 Southern Sudan police officers in Yei on report writing, a training program held

on 30 September in Bor on English language for Southern Sudan police officers, and a training program held in Yei on 29 September on weapons handling and safety techniques attended by 10 local police officers.

On 30 September 2007, UNMIS Civilian Police held the closing ceremony of the one month Integrated Airport Security Course at the Khartoum International Airport. UNMIS Police Commissioner Kai Vittrup, handed over graduation certificates to 30 participants. The ceremony was attended by the Director of Civil aviation, Director of Khartoum International Airport and Government Police Officers.

This week, UNMIS Civilian Police advisors, which are co-located with the local police at Malakia Police Station in Malakal, conducted a training session for the local police on several topics, including arrest and search of suspects, record keeping and conduct of foot patrol.

Security Developments

Darfur

In North Darfur, two armed men entered an INGO compound in El Fasher on 30 September and threatened to shoot the staff if they did not hand them the keys of one of the INGO vehicles. The attackers left with the vehicle. The staff was not harmed.

In South Darfur, three unknown armed men shot and killed an IDP in Hassa Hissa camp and fled the scene.

Two armed men approached a UN vehicle in Nyala on 1 October and drove away with it after they fired warning shots in the air, forced the driver out and beat him up. The local police arrested two suspects the same day and they are currently investigating the incident.

In West Darfur, three armed men attempted to hijack an INGO vehicle in El Geneina on 1 October. They shot at the vehicle and wounded the driver who is in critical condition and is being treated in El Geneina hospital. One of the people, who came to the rescue of the driver during the carjacking attempt, was shot and killed by the attackers. Local police arrested one of the attackers while the two others are still at large. The United Nations has reduced movement of its staff in and around El Geneina town.

On 30 September, two armed men attempted to enter forcibly in an INGO residence. They fled the scene upon arrival of local police who was alerted by the INGO security guard.

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