



**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN
UNMIS**

Media Monitoring Report, 20 February 2007
(By Public Information Office)

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IN THE NEWS TODAY:

- **UN/ Agencies**
 - In the wake of the Salim, Eliasson joint mission
 - UNMIS partakes in FGM eradication international day
 - Free Forum of the Misseriya holds talks with UNMIS in Abyei
 - Workshop on SEA to be held in Juba
 - WHO warns of possible re-emergence of polio

- **CPA**
 - Presidency to discuss Abyei next Tuesday
 - South Kordofan government dissolved
 - JDC Endorses Military doctrine for the JIUs
 - State minister says petroleum protection police not a violation of the CPA
 - National Congress Party welcomes southern president come 2008 elections
 - African religious leaders urge World to honor Sudan's pledges
 - INTERVIEW: Salva Kiir requested World Bank rules for South Sudan
 - Half a Million IDP's Registered in Khartoum
 - Lakes State Passes \$40 Million US Budget for 2007

- **GoNU**
 - GONU Official Says Government is Party to Darfur Humanitarian Crisis

- **Southern Sudan/ GoSS/ SPLM**
 - Egypt to establish TV and radio station in southern Sudan
 - UK White Nile forced to disclose oil rights documents in Sudan

- **Darfur/ Darfur Peace Agreement** (*please see also "Radio Nyala News Monitoring" report attached separately*)
 - Sudanese president to hold Libya talks with Darfur rebels; Nafei tipped for Darfur dossier
 - 37 killed in renewed clashes between the Rizeigat and Turjum
 - US Cd'A requests for trial of elements of the police force in Nyala
 - Chad rebels attack Deby's hometown
 - Arab League bemoans members' unpaid Darfur pledges

HIGHLIGHTS :

UN/ Agencies

In the wake of the Salim, Eliasson joint mission

(*AlAyaam*) Envoys Salim Ahmed Salim and Jan Eliasson have concluded a round of talks with the government and the armed movements of Darfur in a bid to bring the two sides to re-start talks.

African Union Spokesperson Nouredin Mezni said that the two envoys will return to Sudan mid next month despite the difficulties they faced.

Commander Jar-el-Nebi of a faction of the SLA said that talks will start as soon as agreement is reached between the movements. He however rejected the idea of such talks taking place only under African Union sponsorship.

In a separate story, opposition SLM leader AbdelWahid Mohamed Nour said that he told African and European leaders participating at the Cannes summit meeting in France that it is yet premature to talk on the issue of negotiations between the government and the armed factions in Darfur.

He said that priority has to be given to “bringing an end to the violence and the genocide in Darfur, opening safe corridors for the flow of humanitarian assistance to the IDPs, compensations, repatriation of the IDPs to their villages and protection, under an international umbrella, of the civilian populations from attacks by the Janjaweed.”

AbdulWahid was also very critical of African Union envoy Salim Ahmed Salim whom he accused for contributing to the loss of the case for Darfur and to the fragmentation of the Darfur armed factions.

UNMIS partakes in FGM eradication international day

(*Khartoum Monitor*) UNMIS Gender Unit participated in the observance of the International Day for the Eradication of Female Genital Mutilation during which cooperation with the Sudanese Women’s General Union was discussed.

An UNMIS source revealed that on 15th February UNMIS participated in the final day of the event that was organised by the National Council for Child Welfare, the Ministry of Social Welfare and in collaboration with the UNICEF.

The same source noted that on 14th February the Gender Unit met with the President of the Sudanese Women’s General Union to discuss how the two sides can collaborate in the implementation of the Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. The two sides agreed during the meeting to organise a workshop in March 2007 on capacity building for the union.

Free Forum of the Misseriya holds talks with UNMIS in Abyei

(Rai AlShaab) The executive office of the Free Forum of the Misseriya is touring the Kordofan region giving lectures and organising symposiums and meetings covering a number of pressing issues and means to realise sustainable development and provide services to the people.

Leaders of the Free Forum also met recently with the local administration in Abyei town and with UNMIS representatives and discussed peaceful co-existence between the Misseriya and the Dinka.

The forum however reiterated rejection to the Panel of Experts report on the Abyei boundaries.

Workshop on SEA to be held in Juba

(AlAyaam) UNMIS is organising today a one-day workshop in Juba on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.

The workshop is being organised in cooperation with the GoSS, UN agencies and local and international NGOs.

Among the objectives of the workshop are sharing of information on UN's zero-tolerance and its Code of Conduct on the issue. Participants will also discuss loopholes and the challenges to preventing such crimes especially with regards children in southern Sudan. They will also discuss the formation of joint monitoring mechanisms of the UN, the GoSS and civil society.

WHO warns of possible re-emergence of polio

(AlAyaam) The WHO has expressed fears of the re-emergence of polio in Sudan following new cases reported in Chad.

The organisations have called for a truce between the warring parties in order to enable vaccination teams to gain access to all children in the conflict zones.

CPA

Presidency to discuss Abyei next Tuesday

(AlRai AlAam) The Presidency tables for discussion next Tuesday a number of outstanding issues between the CPA partners.

A source within the Presidency says that this forthcoming meeting will be a keynote meeting and during which the president and his deputies will discuss the issue of Abyei in light of the four proposals presented by the parties to the CPA, progress in the

implementation of the Protocol on Security Arrangements, the army redeployment schedule and progress in the circulation of the currency.

South Kordofan government dissolved

(*AlSudani et al*) The Parties to the CPA have issued a joint statement declaring the caretaker government of South Kordofan State dissolved and have formed a joint committee to lay plans to appoint a new government to be unveiled this Thursday.

But *AlAdhwaa* daily reports that regional ministers on the National Congress Party ticket have criticised the government on the decision to dissolve and pointed out that the decision was at an inappropriate time given the situation in the state.

Governor Ismail Jallab says this is by virtue of the fact that the state constitution has been endorsed.

On the security situation, Governor Jallab said the situation is under control and that the police has launched investigations into the outbreak of violence.

The parliamentary group on security at the National Assembly had met earlier calling on the Ministry of Interior to intervene for an end to the violence in the area.

JDC Endorses Military doctrine for the JIUs

(*SMC*) The Joint Defence Council (JDC) during its 8th round meeting today endorsed the principle of a joint "military doctrine for the JIUs.

JDC spokesman Gen Majzoub Rahama says that the importance of the joint military action endorsed today is that it represents a basis of conception and ideas that could guide the experiment for future unification to execute military operations.

State minister says petroleum protection police not a violation of the CPA

(*Khartoum Monitor*) A state minister at the Ministry of Interior told the *Khartoum Monitor* from Yei that the ministry has plans to train police officers from the GoSS police at the police academy in Khartoum.

State minister Aliu Ayang said training of the police force in Juba, Warrap and Bahr-el-Ghazal is going on as planned and denied reports that Ugandan police is supervising training of the southern Sudan police.

He also said that an agreement has been reached between the Federal Ministry of Interior and the Southern Sudan Police to train three police battalions in Khartoum to assist with the resolution of tribal conflict. These battalions, he adds, will deploy to Equatoria, Bahr-el-Ghazal, Upper Nile and areas plagued with tribal conflict.

On allegations by some SPLM members that the Petroleum Protection Police deployed at various oil installations is a violation of the CPA, the state minister said such a force is not a violation of the agreement and is in fact required for the protection of these installations which are not only confined to southern Sudan.

National Congress Party welcomes southern president come 2008 elections

(Khartoum Monitor) The spokesperson of the NCP's southern sector says that they welcome Dr. Turabi's calls for a southern Sudanese president for the Sudan be he Muslim or Christian as long as that is the will of the people.

Khamis Hagggar said however that he would very much like to see the president hailing from the Darfur region but pointed out that the National Congress Party will respect the will of the people come the elections.

African religious leaders urge World to honor Sudan's pledges

(Xinhua/ST) In a joint statement issued in Nairobi, Kenya, following discussions with political and religious leaders in Khartoum and Juba, an African interfaith delegation said peace in Sudan would stabilize the region as a whole.

"Peace in Sudan will be the base for stability and peace for the whole region and Africa," the delegation of religious leaders representing the Inter-Faith Action for Peace in Africa (IFAPA) said in a statement.

The delegation, led by Rev. Ishmael Noko, General Secretary of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and convener of IFAPA, said the people they met including community-based women and youth groups, had emphasized that the conflict in the Sudan "was clearly not a religious one but rather political."

During the visit, the religious leaders said various religious communities, political parties and civil society groups expressed their appreciation for the agreements, but also cited difficulties with the accords, especially the bilateral approach, which excluded other parties.

INTERVIEW: Salva Kiir requested World Bank rules for South Sudan

(ST) GoSS President Salva Kiir requested World Bank to apply its procedures of procurement and financial management rules in southern Sudan to prevent corruption and build institution for good governance.

In an interview to Sudan Tribune with Ishac Diwan, The World Bank Country Director for Ethiopia and Sudan and The EU Special Representative for Sudan, Pekka Haavisto, the two officials attributed the slow implementation of development projects financed by the Multi-Donor Trust Funds (MDTF) in southern Sudan to the slowness of peace implementation and the absence of a well established administration.

The WB representative further said that the president of southern Sudan government demanded, in spite of all the frustrations related to the learning a new management system, that GoSS should use WB rules in order to uphold its good governance goals.

Asked about the role of the WB in the delay of development projects, Diwan said that besides the institutional cause there was a financial one. He indicated that financial contribution of GoSS during 2006 was less than expected.

He confirmed that they disagree with South Sudan government on the appreciation of some projects such as the Juba Hospital project. In addition, he considered that there is a disproportionate attention to Juba. He urged GoSS to develop a workable payroll for the civil service. The WB showed concern about the public borrowing decisions.

The EU envoy to Sudan repeatedly pointed out the EU close follow up of MDTF's performance. He stated that the WB has increased its efforts.

Full text of the interview attached separately

Half a Million IDP's Registered in Khartoum

(SRS) The International Organization for Migration, IOM, says it has registered 500,000 IDP's in Khartoum who wish to return to southern Sudan.

An official from IOM, Mr. Mario Tavalaj, said the IOM will not provide shelter to returnees upon arrival at their destinations, but that there are other NGO's on the ground that will provide shelter. However, Mr. Tavalaj said the IOM will monitor the repatriation of IDP's and will provide some necessities on arrival.

He also said 38,000 IDP's have been registered in southern Darfur to return to southern Sudan.

The IOM will work in conjunction with an NGO called Fellowship for African Relief to carry out the repatriation exercises.

Lakes State Passes \$40 Million US Budget for 2007

(SRS) The Lakes State legislative assembly has passed this year's budget of \$40 million U.S.

The state Minister of Finance, Trade and Industry, Philip Marol Mading told Sudan Radio Service on Friday that although the state assembly has passed such a large budget, \$40 million U.S. is not enough to finance all the projects in the state.

Mr. Marol said local revenues will consist mostly of taxes and fees.

He said that the Finance Ministry will work with Nile Commercial Bank to speed up the transfer of state government salaries so that state employees can receive their salaries on time

Commentaries:

What is happening in South Kordofan? This *AlAyaam* editorial article warns of worse days to come should the parties to the CPA continue trading accusations while doing nothing for the people on the ground.

The paper draws attention to the events in Kadugli and points out that the danger signs came early but the parties to the agreement kept on trading accusations until the area exploded. It warns of a bigger “explosion” if such a trend is left to continue.

GoNU

GONU Official Says Government is Party to Darfur Humanitarian Crisis

(SRS) The Minister of Humanitarian Affairs in the Government of National Unity says the government is party to the humanitarian crisis in Darfur.

In an interview with Sudan Radio Service in Juba last week, Mr. Kosti Manibe said the Darfur Peace Agreement has not stopped violence in the region because the government contributes to the violence.

Mr. Manibe suggested that the best solution to end the humanitarian crisis in Darfur is to resolve political differences among all the parties.

Mr. Manibe also said that preparations are being made to help southern Sudanese internally displaced persons and refugees return to their homes in the south. He said his ministry is planning to resettle about half a million southern Sudanese to their original homes by the end of this year

Southern Sudan/ GoSS/ SPLM

Egypt to establish TV and radio station in southern Sudan

(*The Citizen*) The Deputy Chairman of the Radio and TV Broadcasting Unions in Egypt said that his recent short technical visit to Juba was in return to the visit paid him by the GoSS information minister and was intended to observe the situation in southern Sudan.

Eng. Hamdi Munir said that the Egyptian delegation would establish a radio and television broadcasting station in Juba.

The Egyptian Consul in Juba also concurred and added that the Egyptian government, through the consulate, was ready to provide southern Sudan television and radio with all

facilities they need to reinforce the bilateral relationship between southern Sudan and Egypt.

UK White Nile forced to disclose oil rights documents in Sudan

(The Independent) White Nile, the AIM-listed oil explorer chaired by the former England cricketer Phil Edmonds, has suffered a court setback in its battle with the French giant Total over a key oil concession in Sudan.

Although White Nile is yet to tell the City about the setback, Small Talk has learnt that on 31 January the group was ordered by the Court of Appeal to disclose documents which confirm its rights over Block Ba in the south of the African country.

The AIM company has long resisted such a move, but following the judgment it has no choice other than to release the documents as the court has refused it permission for any further appeals. Small Talk has also learnt that White Nile has been ordered to contribute to Total's legal costs.

The dispute centres on White Nile's rights over 60 per cent of Block Ba, a 67,000-square-kilometre site in southern Sudan that is the company's key asset. In February 2005, it secured the concession from the government of southern Sudan. However, Total has claimed all along that this infringes on exploration rights it won from the country's central government in Khartoum in 1980. The two companies have been locked in a court battle for more than a year,.

But, it is hard to understand why White Nile has been so determined not to hand over the documents. After all, it is these very documents that prove its rights to Block Ba. By disclosing them, it could have saved itself a lot of time, effort and legal cost.

Darfur/ Darfur Peace Agreement

Sudanese president to hold Libya talks with Darfur rebels; Nafei tipped for Darfur dossier

(AFP/ST; AlSudani et al) Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir is to travel to the Libyan capital for talks with Darfur rebel factions that refused to join a 2006 peace deal for the restive western region, official media announced.

A source at the President's Office said that this is in response to an invitation by Libya's Colonel Moamer Kadhafi for negotiations with the armed movements of Darfur which have declined to signed the Abuja peace agreement.

The official SUNA news agency said that the Sudan envoys of the African Union and the United Nations — Salim Ahmed Salim and Jan Eliasson — would also join the talks, along with Eritrean President Issaias Afeworki, who in the past stood accused by Khartoum of supporting the rebels.

The Egyptian and Chadian leaders were also supposed to participate but are yet to confirm their participation. *AlSahafa* adds that the JEM and the NRF have each received invitations from the Eritrean mediators to attend the talks but have turned down the invite. The JEM argues that it had not been informed before hand.

AlSudani, quoting Presidential Advisor Abdallah Ali Massar, said that this marks the threshold of a new era of dialogue to be held in Asmara between government and the armed groups.

Meanwhile, Mini Minnawi is expected to hold talks in N. Darfur today with a number of field commanders of non-signatory factions of the SLA including commander Siddig Burra of Bir Meiza, reports *AlRai AlAam* daily.

In a separate story, *AlSudani* quotes “informed western sources” as saying that ***Presidential Advisor Nafei Ali Nafei is strongly tipped*** to take over from Majzoub el-Khalifa the Darfur dossier on talks with the non-signatories.

Some non-signatory factions are said to have welcomed this idea on the grounds that he is more suitable for the job but say he has to “get rid of his intelligence mentality”.

On the other hand, a spokesperson for the NRF has expressed concern over what it sees as contradictory statements by the government over talks with the non-signatories.

The spokesperson points out that the government says at one point that it is ready for talks without pre-conditions and at another point says it will only talk on the basis of the DPA.

37 killed in renewed clashes between the Rizeigat and Turjum

(*AlRai AlAam*) The commissioner for Kass, South Darfur, reports that a clash yesterday between Rizeigat and Turjum tribesmen at Niga, 40 kilometers south of Kass locality, left 37 people dead from the two sides.

The clashes were sparked by allegations by the Turjum that the Rizeigat had stolen their livestock. Rizeigat tribesmen deny the charges and preliminary investigations by the local authorities could not determine the perpetrator.

An ongoing reconciliation conference for the two tribes has not been affected by this new outbreak of conflict.

The reconciliation conflict follows earlier clashes that left over 80 people dead.

US Cd'A requests for trial of elements of the police force in Nyala

(*AlSudani*) The Charge d’Affaires at the US Embassy in Khartoum demanded that police officers involved in the harassment of UN staff in Nyala be brought to trial.

In talks in Nyala yesterday with the acting governor of S. Darfur, Hume accused the state of South Darfur of arming 1000 men in the region of Al-Diain, worsening the security situation in the region. He asked about the identity of those men.

Hume stressed that if the security situation continues to deteriorate and harassments continue of agency workers,

Acting governor Faraj Mustafa assured the Cd'A that the security and humanitarian situation in his state is stable and assured him of his government's cooperation with the humanitarian agencies. He said that tribal clashes are the major causes of insecurity in the area.

Chad rebels attack Deby's hometown

(AFP/ST) Rebels of the Union of Forces for Democracy and Development (UFDD) in Chad attacked the northern town of Fada, birthplace of the president Idriss Deby Itno, they and military sources said.

A military source confirmed to AFP the attack by rebels on Fada, a town more than 900 kilometres (560 miles) north-east of the capital, N'Djamena, but did not give any other details and said that the town is under government control.

Fada is based in the Borkou-Ennedi-Tibesti region, to the north of the area of eastern Chad that has until now been the base of most of the rebels hostile to President Deby.

Arab League bemoans members' unpaid Darfur pledges

(AFP/ST) Arab League countries have failed to fulfil promises to help their most needy members despite pledges made nearly a year ago, officials acknowledged ahead of a Monday meeting in the Sudanese capital.

League secretary general Amr Mussa conceded on Sunday that commitments — notably to assist the Palestinians, Somalis and people of Sudan's Darfur region — had not been met.

"We did what we could in the present circumstances," the secretary general told reporters upon arrival in the Sudanese capital for a follow-up committee meeting over last March's summit.

So far, only 10 percent of the 150 million dollars pledged in Khartoum last year for the African peacekeeping force in Darfur has been paid up although Mussa remained confident that more funding was in the pipeline.