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UNMIS

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(By Public Information Office)

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[UNMIS Chief of Public Information Section visits Sudan Vision](#)

Sudan Vision Editor-in-Chief yesterday received UNMIS Public Relations and Information Director, Mr. Khaled Mansour. Mr. Khaled extended to the chief editor an invitation to attend the meeting between Sudanese Editor-in-chiefs with the Special Representative of the Secretary General, Mr. Ashraf Qazi, the Principal Deputy SRSG, Mr. Taye Zerihoun, Deputy Special Representative to the Secretary General, Ms Ameerah Haq and the Director of UNMIS Human Rights, Marc Vincent. The meeting will be held on Wednesday 27th February, 2008 at 17:00 PM at UNMIS Headquarters (Obeid Khatim Street)

[UNMIS and JUSU organized political workshop](#)

(The Citizen), Feb. 25. The information bureau of the United Nations Mission in Sudan, in collaboration with the Cultural Secretary of Juba University Students’ Union (JUSU) organized a political workshop at the University buildings in Al-Kadaru, Khartoum North.

The workshop, which continued for two days, Feb. 20 to 22, focused on the protocols of the CPA, and came in the framework of UNMIS informational campaign designed to win popular support for the CPA and promotion of national unity and reconciliation in preparation for the upcoming elections in Sudan.

More than seventy personnel, from the university and all over Sudan, participated in the workshop. They have been awarded training certificates accredited by UNMIS, by which they became qualified to promote the culture of peace in their local and academic societies, in coordination with the UNMIS Informational Bureau.

UNMIS chief of Informational Campaigns Unit, Mr. Jordan Dakamseh, briefed the audience about the six protocols of the CPA and ways of its implementation. He said that the role of UNMIS, according to the CPA, is to provide facilities to all parties of the CPA, GoNU and non-governmental organizations to spread the culture of peace.

Dakamseh answered the questions asked by the audience about the content of CPA, rights and freedoms, South self-determination, the national census, the honesty of the coming elections and the international monitoring. He spoke about the joint troops in the South and Abyei issue, saying that UNMIS does not interfere to help all parties to reach understanding and harmony. He also spoke about the position of the Public Defence Forces and other armed militias in the South, but preferred to answer such questions by saying: “Do not ask me about the implementation of the CPA, only ask about the text and protocols”.

The Cultural Secretary of JUSU, Micheal Christopher, thanked UNMIS and said that the students had got full understanding of the CPA protocols and greater readiness to spread the concept and culture of peace any time and anywhere in Sudan. He added that students are ready to cooperate with UNMIS in its campaigns.

[Displaced Darfurians moving to new camp, others flee to Chad, UN says](#)

26 February 2008 – As violence continues to rage in Sudan’s Darfur region, a group of 500 villagers who fled their homes two weeks ago will find refuge at a newly opened camp outside El Geneina, the capital of West Darfur state, the United Nations refugee agency announced today.

“The group, many of whom fled the village of Saraf Jedad to Armankul earlier this year, are part of a larger group of 222 families – some 1,000 people – who were displaced for a second time and are in need of emergency assistance,” William Spindler, spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), said at a press conference in Geneva.

Meanwhile, UNHCR is taking part in joint UN follow-up assessment missions to areas in which displaced populations are gradually returning, despite the destruction which followed attacks in the northern corridor, north of El Geneina, earlier this month.

As part of such assessments, the Special Representative for the joint UN-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), Rodolphe Adada, visited the town of Silea in West Darfur, to explore avenues of hastening delivery of assistance to the region.

“You have been caught in the middle of a war and it is our duty to take care of you,” Mr. Adada told some 200 residents of the town. “We hope to establish a safe place from where the humanitarian community can operate and provide the assistance needed,” he added.

At his Geneva press conference, Mr. Spindler explained that most of the civilians driven out by the recent air raids in the northern corridor are going to other villages or have been hiding in the Jebel Moun mountains, while others are attempting the dangerous journey into Chad.

“According to our team at the border, more people have crossed into Chad over the past weekend, following renewed attacks on Jebel Moun in West Darfur,” he said. “The latest arrivals are mainly women, children and elderly people and they are extremely traumatized. Our team noticed that refugees who were right at the border a week ago have moved further to safer areas into Chad, away from the volatile border.”

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said today that the continued humanitarian crisis in eastern Chad remained of grave concern. “There are over 250,000 Sudanese refugees and over 180,000 internally displaced persons in eastern Chad, the vast majority of whom are heavily reliant on humanitarian aid for their survival,” Eliane Duthoit, head of OCHA in Chad, said.

“Our life-saving operations in eastern Chad have continued despite the recent deterioration in the security situation. We must ensure that they are never interrupted, as the current crisis could otherwise turn into a humanitarian disaster,” she added.

[Uganda and rebels take another major step forward towards peace deal – UN](#)

25 February 2008 – The Ugandan Government and the rebel Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) have taken another major step forward in their peace process by signing a permanent ceasefire accord at the weekend, the United Nations envoy to the process reported today.

The ceasefire deal, which will take effect after the signing of a final overall peace agreement, is fundamental for building peace in Uganda, said Mr. Chissano, who signed the accord in Juba, Southern Sudan, on Saturday on behalf of the UN.

It is the latest in a series of accords reached over the past week as the two sides continue their talks in a bid to reach an overall accord ending the long-running conflict. Those talks are likely to resume later this week.

But the Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for the LRA-Affected Areas also warned that an absence of war should not be seen as the ultimate goal and he urged Ugandans to work tirelessly to ensure that peace becomes irreversible in the African country.

Saturday’s agreement provides for the encampment of all LRA forces within the Ri-Kwang-Ba assembly area in Southern Sudan and envisions the setting up of a ceasefire monitoring team comprised of senior officers from the Sudan People’s Liberation Army (SPLA), representatives of the two sides, delegates from African Union countries acting as observers to the talks, and a UN liaison team.

Ugandan Government forces have been fighting the LRA in the north of the country since the mid-1980s and during the conflict the rebel group has become notorious for its human rights abuses.

In an agreement reached last week at Juba, the two sides agreed that a special division of the High Court of Uganda would be established to try individuals alleged to have committed serious crimes during the conflict. They also agreed to set up programmes

to provide reparations for war victims, a truth commission-style body that will explore the past, and other measures to promote national reconciliation.

UN spokesperson Michele Montas told reporters today that the two sides have reached consensus on a draft text on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, but the LRA delegation to the Juba talks intends to consult its leadership before the talks resume.

She said that would leave only a few more steps before the signing of a final peace agreement to formally end the conflict.

[UN opens new camp for displaced in West Darfur](#)

(ST) February 26, 2008 (EL GENEINA) – The UN refugee agency has established a new camp in West Darfur for the newly displaced people who left their villages following recent attacks by the Sudanese army and Jajaweed militia in the region.

The UNHCR said the new camp, named Abu Zar II, which located outside the capital of South Darfur can accommodate up to 6,000 internally displaced people (IDP). A first group of 143 families, or about 500 people, are expected to move in on Wednesday.

The group due to move in tomorrow originally fled their home in Saref Jedad in January and found refuge in the village of Armankul. But general insecurity in the area earlier this month forced them to move again and some arrived at Riyadh IDP camp near El Geneina.

Upon their relocation to Abu Zar II, the IDP families will receive additional household items from UNHCR, such as plastic sheeting for shelter and cooking sets.

Meanwhile, UNHCR is taking part in joint UN follow-up assessment missions to Sirba, Sileah, Abu Suruj, Armankul, Kondobe, Saref Jedad and Tendelti – villages located in the so-called northern corridor which were the targets of this month's ground and air attacks.

In this area some 50-70 kilometres north of El Geneina, some displaced people are returning, despite the destruction. Humanitarian agencies will need to distribute food and other emergency assistance to these populations in the northern corridor, where fighting was reported on Monday.

"Civilians who were affected by the recent air raids in the northern corridor are not currently moving southwards to El Geneina. They mainly go to other villages or have been hiding in the Jebel Moun mountains," said Peter Trotter, senior UNHCR protection officer in El Geneina. "Many also appear to be attempting the dangerous journey to Chad in order to seek security."

UNHCR was on Monday able for the first time since last week to send an assessment team to eastern Chad's border with Sudan. The seven-member team went to the Birak area, where several thousand refugees have gathered since the latest attacks in West Darfur began on February 8.

Team members said on Tuesday that more people had crossed into Chad over the weekend, following renewed militia attacks in Jebel Moun area.

"The latest group of arrivals in Birak and Seinat told us that after their IDP camps and villages were attacked by Antonov planes and bombarded last week, they fled north," one staff member said, adding that the refugees said the militiamen had burned their remaining villages last Friday. "That prompted them to flee towards eastern Chad."

Catherine Huck, UNHCR's deputy representative in Chad, noted that the latest arrivals were mainly women, children and the elderly, adding that many were highly traumatized." We also noticed that refugees who were at the border a week ago have moved further into Chad, away from the volatile border," Huck said.

Even though some refugees have briefly gone to their homes over the border to collect a few belongings, they said they do not want to return to Darfur at this stage. UNHCR has been talking to the Chad authorities about the possibility of moving the refugees to one of 12 camps housing 240,000 Sudanese in eastern Chad.

The agency is concerned about the welfare of the new arrivals. The refugees are suffering from exposure to the harsh weather, living in the open, with cold winds affecting especially children and the elderly. Two refugee women and two children died on Monday because of the cold.

Wounded refugees among the new arrivals have been transported to health centres in Birak. The UNHCR team saw several injured people, including a five-year-old girl from the Sileah IDP camp in Darfur with shrapnel in her stomach. The team also reported cases of sexual violence and abuse committed against refugee girls and women by militiamen in Darfur.

GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA

[Sudan executes five men from Nile state](#)

(ST) February 26, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — Sudanese justice today executed five men from Nile state in Khartoum rejecting demands of converting the death penalty

The executed men, from the village of al-Bouga, were convicted by the Berber criminal court for the murder of 30-year-old farmer Hassan Mohamed Hassan in 2004.

The deputy chief justice, Judge Mohamed Ahmed Abu-Sin rejected demands from undisclosed foreign countries to renounce to death penalty considering that the waiver of the application of the death penalty waiver of the obligation to the Islamic "Shariah" legislation.

Defence lawyers had exhausted all routes of appeal, including taking the case to Sudan's Constitutional Court.

Relatives had also failed in an effort to get the sentence delayed while they sought to reconcile with the family of Hassan Mohamed Hassan, who had rejected the option of accepting blood money instead of the death sentence.

The Sudan Organisation Against Torture, which opposes the death penalty, has condemned its use by the Sudanese government.

The executed men are: Yaser Sayed (27 years old, single, farmer), Esmail al-Hage (27, married, farmer), Ayoub Ahmed al-Misbah (30, single, farmer), Mohamed Abdalla Mustafa (25, single, farmer) and Adil Bilal Daf al-Seed (25, single, farmer).

[New group in south Kordufan accuses Sudan SPLM of violating peace deal](#)

(ST) February 26, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — A new group in southern Kordufan accused the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) of violating the Comprehensive Peace Agreement slamming the failure of federal to take the appropriated measures.

According to a statement circulated in Kadugli, Southern Kordufan, on 23 February, a newly formed group called the "Rawarga Sons General Union" has accused the "Movement Army" of violating the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and committing repeated assassinations in the area.

The statement also criticized Sudanese authorities as well as other governmental entities for failing to take action against the perpetrators of such crimes, the UNMIS reported on Tuesday.

The Union stated there would be no immunity accorded to any SPLM official or Sudan People's Liberation Army commanders inside or outside Kadugli. The statement also said that UN vehicles would not be granted immunity to travel through Hawazma tribal land to reach SPLM areas.

UNMIS Sector Commander Col. Sherif Seif Eldien Hussein will go with Sudan Armed Forces Fifth Division Commander Maj. Gen. Abed Al Azeem to Torge (south of Kadugli) tomorrow (February 27) to assess the security situation. An emergency Area Joint Military Committee will be held on 28 February to discuss security in the area.

On the other hand, the leadership of the Misirryah tribe condemned statement made by Sudan people's liberation movement leader Edward Lino in which he rejected creation of joint administration between Miserria and Dinka Ngok tribes.

They said they are awaiting response from ruling National Congress Party and SPLM on their proposal on joint administration.

Tribal leader Mukhtar Babu Nimr said they are expecting to get a response on the joint administration proposal from the joint administration between NCP, SPLM within today or tomorrow.

He denied reports published by newspapers on opening of the roads leading to Abyei, saying the roads are still closed and will remain so until there will be an outcome from joint committee's meetings.

He said the joint administration proposal was temporary and not a final solution.

"The proposal is meant to be a beginning for the resolution of the issue by the presidency, it will help ease the tension until a lasting solution is found" Nimr said

[Dr. Nafie addresses mass rallies in Dewaim Locality, condemns Western media insult to Prophet Mohamed PBUH](#)

Kosti, Feb. 26 (SUNA) - The Assistant of the President of the Republic, Dr. Nafie Ali Nafie, announced in addresses to mass rallies in Al-Dewaim Locality, White Nile State, Tuesday support for development projects in the state. Dr. Nafie strongly condemned insults by the Western media to Prophet Mohamed Peace Be Upon Him (PBUH). He tackled the challenges facing the country, stressing the importance of unifying the national ranks and cohesion of the social fabric. The Assistant of the President of the Republic appreciated the health insurance projects and advanced steps by the Students Support Fund in the field of establishing university towns. Meanwhile, the Wali (governor) of the White Nile State, Dr. Mohamed Nourallah Al-Tejani, pointed out that the projects which have been inaugurated come in the framework of the development plan of the state in all fields.

[The Armed Forces condemns incident of killing of Sudanese national working with Red Cross](#)

Khartoum, Feb. 26 (SUNA) - The Official Spokesman of the Armed Forces, Brig. Osman Mohamed Al-Aghbash, has condemned the incident of the killing of the Sudanese national who had been working with the International Committee of the Red Cross on February 8, 2008 at Selaia area in West Darfur State. Brig. Al-Aghbash said in a statement to SUNA that an investigation is underway to reach the culprits, stressing that the Armed Forces is committed to the code of conduct of combat stipulated by the international law, adding that such criminal practice is the habit of the rebel movements that have remained terrorizing the citizens and destabilize security and stability in the area. He affirmed cooperation of the Armed Forces with the International Committee of the Red Cross in all its efforts in the field of the humanitarian work.

[Challenges facing the census in States of South and West Darfur \(Khartoum Monitor\)](#)

The Director of Census Department in South Darfur, Magbol Abdullah Abbaker, said in press release that the preliminary preparations for launching the census in South Darfur have been completed by 90%. He said many challenges were met particularly the prevailing security situation, essential facilities like transportation besides that some areas were not accessible.

[Masses in Khartoum will take to streets today to protest insult to the Prophet \(Al-Rai Al-Aam\)](#)

(Al-Rai Al-Aam) Masses in Khartoum will take to streets today to protest Danish newspapers' re-publishing of cartoons insulting to the Prophet.

Sudan Forum for Support to the Prophet called upon all Sudanese to join this march in support for the Prophet.

[Tension rises in Abyei, clashes between SPLA and Messeriya reported](#)

(Al-Rai Al-Aam) Tension shot up again in Abyei area between SPLA and Messeriya yesterday after the former attacked the Messeriya in the Aradeib area, killing one and wounding three others.

Mr. Edward Lino, in press statements yesterday following meeting with US Envoy, said he briefed the envoy on developments in the area adding that a comprehensive reconciliation conference will be held in a bid to resolve the crisis.

For his part, the US envoy expressed his full support for efforts to find an urgent solution to the crisis.

[Dr. Nafie: We will win elections and we will form a majority government \(Al-Sahafa\)](#)

The Assistant to the President of the Republic and Deputy Chairman of the NCP, Dr. Nafie Ali Nafie, appeared confident that his party would win forthcoming general elections and form majority government.

He vehemently criticized what he termed as false proponents of human rights and democratic transformation. “There are voices saying that elections may be rigged but we are capable of protecting elections result,” he declared. He criticized the Danish newspapers’ cartoons insulting the prophet.

Dr. Nafie made the statements while addressing a mass rally in the town of Diweim on inauguration of Al-Shahid (martyr) Gen. Yassin Arabi city.

[Washington: relations with Khartoum will not improve without resolution of Darfur problem and full cooperation with the hybrid operation](#)

(Al-Ayyam) The US State Department announced yesterday that there was no timetable for normalizing relations with Sudan.

The US statements were in reaction to Sudan Foreign Minister Deng Alor’s statement that relations with American would be normalized in six months time.

US State Department spokesperson said US policy on Sudan has not changed, adding that improvement in bilateral relations requires Sudan’s full cooperation for hybrid deployment and tangible steps to end violence on the part of Janjawid militias and others.

GoSS

[Goss to reconcile bickering Muslims](#)

(The Citizen) The Government of Southern Sudan will reconcile the leaders of the Muslim community in southern Sudan as part of efforts to regulate religious policies in the region, an official has said.

The Director of Religious Affairs at the Ministry of Gender, Social Welfare and Religious Affairs, Moses Telar Cindut, told reporters Tuesday that the Government would bring together the rival groups to resolve their differences. The Muslim leaders in southern Sudan last week wrangled over the leadership of their association. They also quarreled over control of property with northern Muslims claiming full control over properties built from Zakat, before the comprehensive Peace Agreement.

However, Telar yesterday said that GoSS should shut down bickering organizations. “The government will withdraw the mandate of any faith based-organization that will not promote the welfare of the people,” the director said yesterday.

[Two INGOs, IOM and UNOPs sub-contracted to implement public works programme in southern Sudan](#)

(Khartoum Monitor) The Ministry of Housing, Lands and Public Utilities, the Multi-Donor Trust Fund and the United Nations Development Programme has announced that four agencies and organizations have been contracted as Grants Management agents to assist several towns in implementing Public Works Programme Component of the Rapid Impact Emergency Project in various States of Southern Sudan.

The PWPC aims to provide basic services to urban populations while generating temporary employment for the communities in the 9 State capital towns (except Juba) and including Yei and Terekeka, counties in Southern Sudan.

Each town has been allocated \$1,000,000 for public works activities.

Darfur

[‘Don’t invest in Darfur blood’ senior Sudanese official tells China](#)

(ST) February 26, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — Sudan’s senior presidential assistant yesterday warned a visiting Chinese official about the negative implications of their role in Darfur.

Minni Arcua Minnawi met with the Chinese envoy to Africa Liu Guijin on Monday to discuss the Darfur crisis and the role Beijing could play in resolving it according to Sudan news agency (SUNA).

However Minnawi, speaking to Sudan Tribune by phone from Khartoum said that he had tough words for Guijin.

“I told him [Guijin] in no uncertain terms that the Chinese position on Darfur is not a good one and we are not happy about it” Minnawi said.

Liu Guijin arrived in Khartoum for top-level talks with Sudanese officials amid reports of fresh aerial bombings in western Darfur as the United Nations expressed grave concern for the safety of thousands of civilians.

Minnawi said that the Chinese envoy expressed his country’s willingness to “finalize the crisis through peaceful means”.

“He [Guijin] was talking as a diplomat and I could not play the same role. The lives of the innocent Darfurian people are at stake here” he said.

“The message I gave to the Chinese is this; Do not invest in Darfur blood” Minnawi added.

China has strong trade and military links with Sudan, which is accused of backing militias that have raped and murdered in Darfur.

Critics say Beijing should use these links to pressure Khartoum on this issue. China says it is already doing all it can.

International experts estimate 200,000 people have died in the conflict, which Washington calls genocide, a term European governments are reluctant to use. The Sudan government says 9,000 people have been killed.

This is the first time Minnawi makes a public rebuke of Beijing. The strong statements reflect a growing frustration among Darfurian people about the Chinese support to Khartoum which they feel is directed against them.

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 of the same year.

However Minnawi's faction accused the ruling National Congress Party (NCP) of ignoring the implementation of the DPA

Last week the UNAMID disclosed that Khartoum is not remitting payments to the Darfur Reconstruction and Development Fund (DRDF). The latter was formed under the terms of the DPA to administer development projects in the region.

The DPA states that Khartoum must "transfer from the National Revenue Fund into the Darfur Reconstruction and Development Fund an amount equivalent to \$300 million for the year 2006, not less than \$200 million in 2007 and not less than \$200 million in 2008".

Minnawi also said that the insecurity in Darfur means that no population census can be conducted and consequently no elections.

"There is no such thing as having a census without security on the ground. There are millions of IDP's and refugees all over Darfur. At the same time you cannot have elections without Darfur. If you do, then this means that you don't consider Darfur to be part of Sudan" he added.

The former rebel leader said that he spoke with the Sudan People Liberation Movement (SPLM) on the matter.

"They [SPLM] told me that resolving the issue of Darfur and Abyei is the key to having the general elections in 2009" Minnawi said.

However the SPLM made no commitment to postpone the elections if things don't improve in Darfur.

Al-Tigani Abdullah, a senior adviser to Minnawi said that the NCP could not win the elections in Darfur unless under these "chaotic circumstances".

"They resettled all these Arab tribes from West Africa in Darfur giving them lands and drove the original owners out. They want these tribes to vote for them in the elections" Abdullah said.

“This is a dangerous game Khartoum is playing. No elections conducted today in Darfur can be fair and they [NCP] know it. This would alienate the Darfurians and there are already mounting voices calling for the secession of Darfur from Sudan” he added.

Sudanese officials have made contradicting statements on the issue of conducting elections in Darfur.

Last week the Information Secretariat official in the ruling National Congress Party, Kamal Obeid and the minister of State for Information said that the general elections in the country can be completed without the participation of Darfurians due to the political instability in the region.

However Sudan’s presidential assistant Nafi Ali Nafi rebuffed Obeid’s remarks later saying that “elections can be held in 99% of Darfur”.

The SPLM signed a peace deal in January 2005 with the government of the National Congress Party in January 2005 ending two decades of civil war in Southern Sudan. The peace deal made the SPLM, the ruling party in the south and the NCP the ruling party in the north.

In 2011, southerners will be asked to vote in a referendum on whether they want to be independent or remain part of Sudan. A census is supposed to prelude the elections but has stalled because of cash shortage.

[South Darfur’s security, humanitarian situations stable –governor](#)

(SUNA) February 26, 2008 (NYALA) — South Darfur’s Acting Governor Farah Mushtafa Tuesday told visiting Chinese special envoy for Darfur Liu Guijin that the security and humanitarian situations in South Darfur were stable and making improvements.

"Please be assured that the security situation in South Darfur is very stable after the signing of the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA). The humanitarian situation is also stable as channels to transport humanitarian goods and daily materials have been completely open," said Mushtafa.

The DPA was signed in May 2006 by the Sudanese government and the main Darfur rebel faction of the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM). It was the first peace agreement, and so far the only one, between the central government and Darfur’s rebel groups.

At present, there were lies and false information about South Darfur but they were groundless, said Mushtafa.

He expressed gratitude to China for its "courageous support" for the Darfur people and their transitional authority, saying that China has played an important role in pushing forward the settlement of the Darfur issue.

South Darfur is the largest state among Darfur’s three states, which also include North Darfur and West Darfur, and South Darfur’s population, about 6 million, accounted for 60 percent of Darfur’s total.

Mushtafa said South Darfur's transitional authority will provide more humanitarian assistance to those internally displaced persons (IDPs).

He also urged other countries to provide more assistance, saying South Darfur is currently facing problems in relation to water, health, education and road.

"China has been helping to provide services in water and health, which are badly needed in South Darfur. Actually, China is the first foreign nation to provide such services here," said Mushtafa.

He also expressed much appreciation to Liu's visit, saying it came at a critical moment as the deployment of the UN-AU (African Union) hybrid peacekeeping forces was underway.

This is Liu's second visit to South Darfur and fourth to Sudan since his appointment last May.

"With such kind of field tour, I can have better knowledge about people's real need in Darfur, so as to enable the Chinese side to provide aid more effectively," Liu said.

"China is Sudan's friend. China is deeply sympathetic to conflicts and humanitarian problems in Darfur, and we are willing to provide more tangible assistance," said Liu, who flew to South Darfur's capital Nyala from the Sudanese capital earlier in the day for a one-day visit to Darfur.

China has committed itself to improving Darfur's security and humanitarian situations and helping resolve the Darfur issue as soon as possible, he added.

Liu arrived in Khartoum on Sunday for a four-day visit to Sudan.

Liu, a 62-year-old veteran diplomat and former Chinese ambassador to Zimbabwe and South Africa, has been engaged in African affairs for more than 25 years.

Since resuming his current post, he had paid three visits to Sudan and also shuttled between the United States, Britain, Egypt and other countries concerned, making efforts to resolving the Darfur issue.

[Envoy demands former Darfur rebels to protect Chinese peacekeepers](#)

(ST) February 26, 2008 (NYALA) – China's special envoy for Darfur urged former rebel groups to protect Chinese peacekeepers working in the war torn region during a visit to South Darfur state on Tuesday.

Liu Guijin, requested Darfur former rebel movements, signatories of Abuja peace agreement in May 2006 with the Sudanese government, to protect Chinese engineers working in the implementation of Nyala water project in Greida Basin which is located in areas controlled by those groups.

The 140 Chinese engineers arrived in south Darfur's capital Nyala on November 24, 2007 to pave the way for a 26,000-strong United Nations/African Union force which took over peacekeeping in Darfur in January.

The Chinese deployment comes amid accusations by human rights activists and Darfur rebel movements that China is partly responsible for Darfur's chaos because of its staunch military and diplomatic backing of the Sudanese government.

Rebel Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) and Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) have accused China of stocking the crisis by supporting Khartoum. The rebel groups don't view the Chinese as neutral peacekeepers and have opposed their deployment. IDPs also had staged a protest to manifest to the participation of "Khartoum's army supplier" in their protection.

JEM attacked a Chinese-controlled oil installation last month in the central Sudanese region of Kordofan near Darfur, last December.

Liu Guijin during a visit to Ottash displaced camp, called on the government and rebels to resume peace talks to end the suffering of the IDPs and to speed up the deployment of the peacekeeping troops in the region.

He further said that 175 Chinese peacekeepers will soon arrive in the region to join the 140 engineers increasing the number of the Chinese troops to 315. Also he said that 100 Chinese technicians would arrive soon to work in Greida Basin.

The Chinese envoy inaugurated Nyala ambulance service, which includes 7 ambulances to the hospitals of South Darfur and visited sites of Chinese troops in the state.

Miscellaneous