



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN UNMIS

Media Headlines, 23 January 2007
(By Public Information Office)

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HIGHLIGHTS :

UN/ Agencies

Concerns over security of UN and agency staff

(AlSahafa/ SudanTribune.com, et al) AlSahafa daily reports that authorities in Khartoum were busy all day yesterday trying to resolve the “crisis faced by some officials of the UN” who were taken into detention the day before yesterday on suspicions of importing commercial quantities of alcohol.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has declined to comment on the issue.

It is not yet clear clear whether formal charges have been filed against the detained but informed sources confirm that legal measures will be instituted.

Informed sources intimate that authorities have expressed understanding to the cultures of the UN’s foreign officials and do not object to their importing alcohol to their premises enough to last them a year but point out that documents used to import the suspect alcohol had been forged.

[The paper goes on to say that the UN abused the immunity granted to import commercial quantities of whiskey and how the Sudanese market has of late been flooded with such commodities causing a drop in prices of whiskey. It says that some Sudanese merchants who came into the premises of the National Mine Action Service to collect their goods were also taken into detention alongside some 18 UN personnel including some high rank staff and technicians].

In another development, the UN, in a press statement* yesterday, expressed concerns over the arrest of UN, African Union and NGO personnel working in S. Darfur during a raid by the police on the compound of an aid group last week.

The UN says it will protest the arrest and mistreatment these personnel suffered during detention.

South Darfur police and security officials raided an International Non-Governmental Organization (INGO) compound in Nyala on 19 January 2007 and arrested 20 people including 5 staff members of the UN, and a number of staff of the AU and INGOs, who were in the INGO compound for a social gathering.

The UN did not explain the reason of the arrest, but the Sudanese radio alleged that the AU, UN and NGOs staff were arrested over misconduct.

The radio linked between this arrest and the ongoing probe over sexual abuse in southern Sudan, adding “the southern Darfur city of Niyala was the new scene of misconduct from the AU and UN missions there.”

However the African Union has strongly rejected the claim saying all what happened that some neighbors complained of disturbance to Nyala police which stopped the proceeding saying that the event had been organized without permission.

The staff members had subsequently been released.

The Sudan People's Liberation Movement invited the ruling National Congress Party last week to stop political exploitation of the sexual abuse cases in South Sudan. The NCP had organized some protests over Juba abuses by UN personnel.

Aid groups have meanwhile suspended operations in Darfur and may pull out of a French relief worker was raped, another sexually assaulted and an Oxfam employee was severely beaten at a refugee camp, reports *The Independent* on 22 January '07 (sourced from the AMIS Daily International News Digest of 23 January '07).

Details of the attack which took place on 18 December at Gereida camp in S. Darfur are only beginning to emerge. It marks the first time a Western aid worker has been the target of rape.

"We have suspended our operations and we may not go back," said Thomas Gonnet, the director of operations for Action Contre La Faim (ACF), whose colleague was raped and another was molested.

"The attack lasted about half an hour and was well planned and violent. Up to 40 armed men broke into the compound. Apart from the rape, our team was forced at gunpoint to lie on the floor. One person was rifle-butted, many shots were fired and there was a mock execution," he said.

In the capital, Khartoum, Oxfam's spokesman, Alun McDonald, said two male expat workers and seven Sudanese employees were at the Oxfam compound, adjacent to the ACF buildings, when the attack took place at night. "They knew we had six Toyota Landcruisers but only five of them were at the compound. They beat our Sudanese guard to try to find out where the sixth one was."

Oxfam says that £150,000 of equipment was taken in the attack. ACF lost seven vehicles, as well as radios, satellite and mobile phones, cameras and computers.

Mr Gonnet said the four expats who were at Gereida at the time of the attack, including the two women who were sexually assaulted, had been flown back to France. ACF's remaining 19 local staff had been redeployed to Nyala. Oxfam's seven local staff are also now in Nyala.

A further 39 aid workers, including several from the British group Merlin, have been evacuated, leaving the 130,000 people in Gereida dependent on the Red Cross. One evacuated relief worker said : "The security risks are at a high point. We simply cannot work if our lives are at risk."

Gereida is controlled by the majority faction of the rebel Sudanese Liberation Army commanded by Minni Minnawi. Since he signed a peace agreement with the government last year, his movement has become fragmented.

Mr Gonnet said ACF had received an apology from Mr Minnawi but that he may no longer be in control of those who carried out the attack. He added that the ACF had not yet decided whether to report the attack to the International Criminal Court in The Hague, which is investigating war crimes in Darfur.

** For more details, please refer to the UN statement and an AMIS statement along the same line posted as separate attachments to this MMR.. Also attached separately is a commentary on misconduct by the UN.*

United Nations & the Transition Debate

UK announces additional £15m for AU peace force in Darfur

(SudanTribune.com) The Secretary of State for International Development Hilary Benn, and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Minister for Africa, Lord Triesman, have today announced a further UK contribution of £15m to the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS).

Minister Benn said there is an urgent need for the international community to provide sufficient funds for the AMIS following the extension of its mandate and especially called on the Arab League to commit the funds it had pledged for support to AMIS.

Please click on the link below for the full text of the story from the SudanTribune.com
[UK announces additional £15m for AU peace force in Darfur](#)

EU threatens Sudan with sanctions over Darfur

(Reuters) Raising strong concerns about the "intolerable" situation in Sudan's remote west, EU foreign ministers urged other donors to provide funding for the struggling African Union mission there, while the EU executive said it had no more cash to support it.

"The (EU) Council expresses its readiness to consider further measures notably in the U.N. framework against any party which obstructs its implementation," the ministers said in a joint statement diplomats said was a reference to sanctions.

Aid groups and analysts said the statement would not be sufficient to stop the killing and the EU should threaten Khartoum with a specific list of sanctions.

"They need to be much stronger," Nick Grono, of the Brussels-based International Crisis Group said, adding that the EU should say if Khartoum does not allow the hybrid force, the bloc would target Sudan's oil revenue and impose travel bans on key officials.

Discussions on a peacekeeping force have been going on since early 2004, about a year after mostly non-Arab rebels took up arms against the government, charging neglect.

Please click on the link below for the full text of the Reuters story sourced from the SudanTribune.com. The full text of the EU statement is also available as a separate attachment.
[EU threatens Sudan with sanctions over Darfur](#)

CPA

Deng Alor and Pagan Amum respond to recent trade in accusations between partners to the CPA

(*AlKhartoum, AISahafa*) Minister for cabinet affairs Deng Alor says the National Congress Party seeks to divide the SPLM into smaller groups, reports *AlKhartoum*.

The minister, in an interview by the paper, denied reports of differences brewing up between foreign minister Lam Akol and some key SPLM figures.

He also blamed the National Congress Party for the slow implementation of the CPA and pointed out that most of what has been implemented of the agreement has been implemented mainly through the efforts of the SPLM.

He denied el-Deiriri Mohamed Ahmed's (NCP) claims that the SPLM has allowed people with Israeli passports into southern Sudan but pointed out that the SPLM has the right to sign regional or international agreements.

On Abyei, the minister pointed out that the implementation of the Protocol on Abyei is the only key to resolving the problems of Abyei. He also pointed out that the Misseiriya are not indigenous to and do not enjoy a permanent presence in Abyei but the CPA has granted them the right to a seasonal existence in that area.

In an interview with *AISahafa*, SPLM Secretary-General Pagan Amum also agreed that the SPLM had the right to sign regional and international agreements with foreign organisations and states on technical and regional cooperation.

He said that the recent trade in accusations between the President of the Republic and First Vice-President Salva Kiir was a healthy transparent practice but pointed out that relations between the Parties are strained as a result of "acts of sabotage from some quarters" as they seek to destabilise southern Sudan.

On GoSS finances, the Secretary-General of the SPLM agreed that after some delay, the federal government did indeed send the amount of 60 million US dollars to the GoSS account. He said that the money was received by the then GoSS finance and economy minister who was also the finance secretary of the SPLM who, on his part, handed to the SPLM the amount of 18 mlln. Dollars after lengthy talks. He said that the Arthur Akouen will have to account for the deficit.

Amum also blamed the NCP for controlling radio and television and the editorial policies of some newspapers in order to serve the interests of the Islamists in Sudan and muzzle others, especially the SPLM.

He also echoed Mr. Alor's claims that some groups are seeking to split the SPLM into smaller isolated groups thus ushering in the coinage "Garang's Boys" and "Salva Kiir's Boys". This, he claims, is all in an attempt to "hammer in the last nail in the coffin of the CPA".

JDC convenes in Juba

(Khartoum Monitor) The Joint Defence Council convened yesterday in Juba for the first time, reports former JDC spokesperson, Mjr. Gen. Bior Ajang.

He said that a committee comprising of members of the SAF and the SPLA and charged with collecting illicit weapons have started its work in southern Sudan and will report to the JDC.

He also said that the term of the JDC has been extended to another three months upon request of the JDC's chairperson.

The meeting also saw the formation of a committee of two members from each of the Parties to be in charge of unifying military training and doctrine. The committee members to be based in Khartoum will report before a forthcoming meeting on 2 February. Another committee comprising of 3 members each was set up to help in demining.

Of issues yet to be resolved, Mjr. Gen. Ajang mentioned the 18 mlln. Dollars in salary arrears for SPLA soldiers in the JIU (deferred for more discussion on a forthcoming 6 February meeting) and the issue of militias (which he said had not been officially discussed).

SG of the SPLM says GoSS finance minister answerable for the \$60 million

(AISahafa) Secretary-General of the SPLM, Pagan Amoum ,has revealed that the federal ministry has sent a 60,000,000 \$ to the GoSS which was received by GoSS Finance Minister, Arthur Kween, pointing out that the he managed the money ,he never offer the government of GoSS the whole budget but just 18,000,000\$.

Pagan Amoum said that Arthur must bear the responsibility, claiming for his answer.

World Bank urges progress in peace implementing

(WB) Hartwig Schafer, Acting Vice President for the Africa Region of the World Bank, visited Sudan from January 13- 16 to take stock of progress in implementing the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement and in carrying out recovery and development programs funded by two Multi- Donor Trust Funds.

Following visits to the Government of National Unity (GoNU) in Khartoum and the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) in Juba, Mr. Schafer said, "We are seeing real progress in carrying out the programs funded by the trust funds, though the challenges of

restoring basic services and rebuilding infrastructure are considerable.” He added that the Bank is augmenting its staff in Sudan, particularly in Juba, to strengthen support to the Government institutions responsible for implementation of the programs.

Please click on the link below for the full text of the story sourced from the SudanTribune.com

[World Bank urges progress in peace implementing](#)

“Kifah Army/Movement” issues statement on impending release of a prisoner

(Sudaneseonline.com) A new movement going by the name Kifah Army/Movement for Development and an End to Marginalisation, Kordofan Sector, issued a statement on 21 January praising the efforts of its “gallant revolutionaries”.

In its statement, the movement welcomes the birth of the Kordofan Development Alliance but says it will only cooperate with its “legitimate leadership” headed by a Mr. AbdelBagi Ali Shati.

The movement also took the opportunity to send good tidings to the relatives of a certain Hamid Ali el-Fahad whom it said it will soon send home via the ICRC.

Southern Sudan

GoSS earmarks 550 mln. Dollars for its defence budget

(AlSahafa) The GoSS intends to allocate 550 million dollars (about 40% of the region’s 1.3 billion dollar budget for 2007) for it’s Ministry for SPLA Affairs.

The GoSS Legislative Assembly started yesterday discussions over the budget with a number of lawmakers expressing satisfaction over the new budget which they say will contribute to the realisation of security and stability in southern Sudan.

Civilians killed by unidentified gunmen in Bahr-el-Jebel

(AlHayat) Two people were killed in Bahr-el-Jebel State [*the paper doesn’t mention when*] when unidentified gunmen stormed into the offices of the energy ministry shooting.

The two, both females, were working for the ministry.

The gunmen took off with an amount of 7,200 Sudanese Dinars. Authorities are in pursuit of the culprits and an investigation into the incident is still going on.

HEALTH: CORRECTED - Sudan meningitis outbreak strikes 211, kills 17

(Reuters) A meningitis outbreak sweeping through southern Sudan has killed 17 people and infected 211, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said on Monday, adding it had enough vaccines to contain the outbreak.

On Sunday, the governor of south Sudan's central Warap state said in a statement that at least 1,000 people had died in one week in an outbreak of meningitis and another unknown disease.

But Abdullahi Ahmed, head of WHO in south Sudan, said on Monday: "As of January 17 the number of cases was 211 of which only 17 died and that includes Central Equatoria states and Warap states."

He said health officials had not confirmed any disease other than meningitis but laboratory tests were under way.

Please click on the link below for the full text of the Reuters story sourced from the SudanTribune.com
CORRECTED - Sudan meningitis outbreak strikes 211, kills 17

Darfur

Sirte to host 5-member summit on Darfur

(*AlRai AlAam*) The Libyan town of Sirte hosts today a 5-member summit meeting on Darfur.

It was not yet confirmed until late last night whether or not President Bashir will participate but diplomatic sources confirm that the meeting will take place.

Locals uncover 8 bodies in grave near Gereida

(*AlSahafa*) Local inhabitants in Gereida have uncovered the bodies of 8 people near Gereida.

Local chiefs say the 8 had earlier been taken by SLA-Minnawi and their relatives and local authorities had been demanding the SLA to tell them about the fate of these people.

AU denounces Sudan airstrikes; SAF denies

(*AP/ST*) Sudan's air force bombed Darfur villages in violation of a recent ceasefire, hindering African and American attempts to unite rebel groups under a common leadership that can commit to peace, the African Union said Monday.

The A.U. comments were the first independent confirmation of reports from rebel leaders about the air raids in northern Darfur last week. The Sudanese military on Sunday denied the bombing raids.

"Preliminary investigations by (the African Union) have confirmed that the aerial bombings indeed took place" against the village of Anka and in the region of Wadi Korma last week, the A.U. said in a statement.

Quoting the Sudanese independent Al-Mashaheer website (22 January), *BBC Monitoring* reports that a spokesman for the SAF has denied that the army has carried out any raid operation in Darfur and said the SAF was committed to the ceasefire agreement wigned with the rebel movements in Darfur.

** Please refer to the full text of the African Union CFC story sourced from www.amis-sudan.org*

ICC team heads to Khartoum as part of Darfur investigation

(AP) A team of investigators from the International Criminal Court will head to the Sudanese capital within days, the court's prosecutor said Monday, as he prepares to present his first Darfur war crimes case to judges.

"We have our first case ready. We are checking a few things but we are planning to file a document to judges in February," Luis Moreno-Ocampo added in an interview with The Associated Press.

Moreno-Ocampo did not give further details of the mission to Sudan, which was being organized in consultation with Sudanese authorities.

Please click on the link below for the full text of the AP story sourced from the SudanTribune.com
ICC team heads to Khartoum as part of Darfur investigation