



Authority transferred from AMIS to UNAMID

Authority was transferred from the African Mission in Sudan (AMIS) to the UN/AU Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) on 31 December 2007, as laid down by UN Security Council Resolution 1769 (2007).

The ceremony was attended by Special Representative of the Secretary-General to Sudan Ashraf Qazi, Joint UN-AU Special Representative and Head of UNAMID Rodolphe Adada, UNAMID Force Commander Martin Luther Agwai, UNAMID senior officials, UNMIS Force Commander Jasbir Lidder, other UNMIS senior staff, and the Wali of North Darfur.

In his address, Mr. Qazi said the transfer of authority from AMIS to UNAMID, the largest peacekeeping mission and the first to be jointly undertaken by the UN and AU, was a significant day in the history of UN and AU peacekeeping operations.

Mr. Adada delivered the message of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who emphasized the need for troop and police contributing countries to deploy personnel as quickly as possible. "If we are to have a real impact on the situation on the ground within the first half of 2008, these deployments must happen far more swiftly than they have done so far," Mr. Ban said.

The Secretary-General added that critical gaps remained in the UNAMID force, as no pledges had been received for ground and transportation units or aviation assets, which were vital for force mobility as well as to protect civilians in the vast area of Darfur.

CFC Chairman concerned over arrest of JEM representative

Ceasefire Commission (CFC) Chairman General Matrin Luther Agwai expressed concern over the arrest of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) representative to the CFC, Major General Bashir, and five other JEM members on 30 December 2007 in El Fasher.

Mr. Agwai has been in contact with both JEM and the Government of Sudan to de-escalate tensions and ensure the safe release of the JEM representatives. He expressed regret over the resumption of hostilities between JEM and government forces in northwestern Darfur.

The CFC Chairman condemned JEM's attack on government positions

HEARD on RADIO MIRAYA

On Chad's reported violation of Sudanese airspace and bombing in West Darfur ...

"What the Chadian government has done is a result of the failure of the peace agreement between the Chadian government and the armed Chadian opposition that was signed last October in the Libyan town of Sirte. The Chadian government has been supporting the activities of the Justice and Equality movement. It even organized a conference for it in Bahai area, in which the movement received direct Chadian support."

Maj. Gen Mohammed Othman

Al-Agbash
Spokesman, Sudan Armed
Forces
29 December

On giving amnesty to defendants in the sabotage attempt case on the fifty-second anniversary of Sudan Independence Day...

"We take this opportunity to announce before you the pardoning of the accused in the latest sabotage attempt, and that they should be immediately released so as to confirm the essence of national consensus, and to turn a new page in which we will write our readiness to

in Silea, north of El Geneina, on 29 December, as well as the movement's publicly stated insistence to use force in addressing the conflict in Darfur.

Mr. Agwai stated that actions taken by the Government of Sudan in El Fasher and JEM's attack on Silea violated the 2004 N'Djamena Ceasefire Agreement and jeopardized ongoing efforts to rejuvenate peace talks in Sirte, Libya.

work for a nation that is free of hatred and conspiracy, a nation in which power is passed in peace and opposition is dialogue.”

Omar Al-Bashir
President of Sudan
1 January

MIRAYA HIGHLIGHTS

UN MIRROR

Interview with Muna Agla, a Human Rights Officer based in Malakal.

The programme also included reports about prisoners jailed in Malakal and on human rights in Kadugli.