



THE WEEK In Focus

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE UNMIS NEWS BULLETIN AND RADIO MIRAYA 19-25 JAN 2007

Indian Peacekeeper killed in Southern Sudan

A UN peacekeeper, Cpl Mohan Singh Gurung, of the Indian Contingent was killed in an attack on 26 January, by unidentified gunmen. Gurung was part of the UNMIS Force Protection that was escorting a de-mining team in a three-vehicle convoy on the Torit-Magwi-Operi road, in South Sudan. Two other UNMIS Indian peacekeepers also sustained injuries and were evacuated to the UN hospital in Juba. They are in a stable condition.

Extending its condolences to the Government of India and to the family of the deceased peacekeeper, UNMIS has condemned the killing and demanded an immediate investigation and apprehension of the killers. The wreath laying ceremony will be held in Khartoum tomorrow before Gurung's body is flown off to India.

UN protests arrest of UN, AMIS and INGO staff

On 19 January Sudanese police and security officials raided an international NGO compound in Nyala arresting 20 people attending a social gathering. Among those arrested were five staff members of the United Nations, and some from the African Union Mission in Sudan and INGOs. They were subsequently released.

During their arrest and detention UN staff and others were subjected to physical assault and verbal abuse by the Nyala police. Several of them sustained serious injuries, some requiring treatment at the UN clinic in Nyala.

A UN investigation into the circumstances of the staff arrest is ongoing, while it continues to investigate the incident in complete cooperation with the competent Sudanese authorities in Nyala and Khartoum, along established procedures agreed with the Government of Sudan under the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA).

Meanwhile, the UNSG's Spokesperson said the SG was "extremely concerned" about the recent arrest of 20 staff members of the UN, NGOs and the AMIS in Nyala, South Darfur, adding, he expects a "swift investigation" of the incident.

Secretary-General raises concern

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon met with a GoS delegation headed by Mutrif Siddig, Under-Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 23 January at UN HQs in New York, and raised concern about developments in Darfur over the last few days, including aerial bombardments by the GoS in several areas of North Darfur.

On 24 Jan, following his meeting in Brussels with the President of the European Commission, Jose Manuel Barroso, the SG said that he will engage in dialogue

HEARD on RADIO MIRAYA:

Criticizing media speculation on alleged plans by the South to secede.

"The peace agreement allocates to the government of the South clear powers. There are many who still live in the pre-peace agreement era.....The federal system in its new form is been based on having two systems in one country, it gives the government of the south clear jurisdictions that are practiced within one united Sudan."

Yasser Armman

Senior SPLM Official

On the 24th January hijacking of the Air West plane to N'Djamina...

"The plane was on a regular flight from Khartoum to Al Fashir with 103 passengers.... After take off one armed passenger entered the cockpit and asked the pilot to divert the flight to N'Djameina. The plane landed safely in N'Djamina"

(The lone hijacker sought asylum with the French embassy and surrendered to the Chadian authorities.)

Seif Marzoug

Officier, Air West Airlines

with African leaders, including the President of Sudan, on the crisis in Darfur during the AU Summit to be held end January in Addis Ababa.

Sudanese security visits UNMAO; suspect alcohol

Sudanese security and other government officials visited the UN Mine Action Office compound in Khartoum on the evening of 21 January saying they suspected the UNMAO compound contained a shipment of alcohol. UNMIS assured the officials that the matter will be investigated in cooperation with the competent Sudanese authorities, based on the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) signed between UNMIS and the Government of Sudan

Update on Light Support Package

The 5th meeting of the LSP Tripartite Mechanism held on 24 January was informed that five more UNPOL Advisors and 20 Military Staff Officers will be deployed to Darfur shortly, bringing the total by end of January to 47 UN Military Staff Officers and 30 UNPOL Advisors. Another 10 civilian staff have arrived in Khartoum, some of whom will be deployed to Darfur while the others will assist AMIS Headquarter in Khartoum.

A fact sheet summarizing actual deployment of personnel and equipment to the LSP will shortly be posted on www.unmis.org in both English and Arabic.

The tripartite mechanism will meet again on 7 February at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Khartoum.

Darfur remains volatile

Several of security incidents were reported in Darfur.

North Darfur: An SAF Antonov airplane reportedly bombed Ein siro (50 km NW of Kutum), killing two civilians and several livestock; on 20 January, a WFP contractor and a staff member of an International Organization were abducted at the market area in Kutum by Arab Militias base in Sheik Abu Da Bagi, and were released the following day; on 22 January, Military Intelligence at El Fasher Airport delayed UN operations, taking four hours to offload a cargo plane containing UN Light support package material for AMIS, arguing that the cargo manifest was not stamped by MI and National Security in El Obeid.

On 23 January, IDPs in Dar El-Salaam Camps complained about harassment by SLA/MM soldiers; tribal fighting in Kafod (60 km.NW of El Fasher) has led to the displacement of around 662 families; a large convoy carrying GoS troops and armed militia left El Fasher on 23 January, passed Kutum (105 km NW of Al Fasher) and proceeded north.

South Darfur: A SAF convoy from El Obeid to Nyala was reportedly ambushed near Sania Fandu on 20 January; following the recent tribal conflict that erupted in South Darfur, the Governor of South Darfur issued a decree on 18 January suspending three deputy Nazirs of Tarjum, Habania and Fallata. An investigation committee was set up to look into allegations of their involvement in the recent conflicts among Arab tribes (Maharia-Tarjum and Habania-Fallata). Meanwhile, other investigation committees will look into mid-level tribal leaders involved in the escalating conflict.

West Darfur: on 21 January, an INGO staff member in Krinding II IDP camp was robbed by two gunmen dressed in military uniform; on 23 January, two armed

MIRAYA HIGHLIGHTS

UN Mirror

Ismail Balla, UNMIS Civil Affairs Officer based in Khartoum, explains the peace-building role of the Unit in Sudan and its efforts to enhance cooperation between the parties in the National Unity Government.

Also featuring the conflict between farmers and shepherds in the Nuba Mountains; and the voices of children in the Jabarona IDP camp, talking of their dreams and desires.

Darfur: The Road to Peace

This week's programme looks at Darfuran representation in the national government as outlined in the DPA, explained and analysed by Abuzaid Sabi Kulo, a Darfuran journalist who covers the region for *Sahafa* newspaper. Listeners can also hear IDPs sending messages to their relatives and friends living in various camps throughout Darfur.

men, reportedly Chadian rebels, stopped an INGO vehicle in Umdirbo Hajar about 10 km from For Baranga and took away radio communication equipment and money; on 23 January, armed militia reportedly attacked elements of one of the SLA factions 20 km South West of El Geneina; same day heavy fighting was reported between the Aballa and Tergem tribes 60 km from Zaleingi. On 23 January, it was reported that GoS Antonov planes had been transporting uniformed men and arms to El Geneina airport for three days.

UN Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict in Sudan

Radhika Coomaraswamy, UN Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict is visiting Sudan from 26 January to 1 February 2007. She will be accompanied by Rima Salah, UNICEF's Deputy Executive Director. The aim of the visit, at the invitation of the Government of Sudan, is to ascertain first hand the situation on the ground, and collaborate with all the stakeholders to ensure greater protection for children affected by the conflict.

Coomaraswamy will discuss these issues with GoS, and will also engage with non state parties to the conflict in an effort to address grave violations against children. She will also visit Southern Sudan and Northern and Western Darfur.

The mission follows the recommendations of the Secretary General's report on the situation of children and armed conflict in Sudan in the framework of Security Council Resolution 1612 (2005).

SOUTHERN SUDAN

White Nile Return Operation Resumes

The first group of some 350 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) will board an IOM chartered ferry this week, taking them on an 18-hour long journey up the White Nile from Juba to Bor, in Jonglei State. This is part of an IOM-assisted return operation for some 10,000 IDPs from Southern Sudan's provinces of Eastern, Central and Western Equatoria. Earlier, the operation, which helped some 3,000 vulnerable IDPs return to their homeland in Bor County, was suspended in June last year because of the rainy season.

The resumption of the Juba-Bor return operation, carried out in coordination with the UN and government of South Sudan, will be witnessed by group of representatives from main donor countries, who will also visit IOM operations in Khartoum and Darfur. This movement is the first planned assistance to some 200,000 IDPs expected to return home this year.

IOM is seeking USD 24.2 million to ensure IDP returns to and within Southern Sudan. This is part of a broader IOM appeal for USD 61 million for 2007 operations in Sudan.

Vehicle ambushed; UNMIS compound in Wau intruded

A civilian vehicle in Nimule village was ambushed by an unknown armed group on 19 January, wounding seven people.

On 21 January, four intruders entered the UNMIS TCC site compound in WAU, broke into containers, and stole some boxes of tent poles. The UN security Kenbat TCC protection force arrested one suspect, three others escaped. The World Food Programme has condemned the killing of its national staff when a vehicle belonging to the GTZ, a WFP implementing partner, was ambushed on 10 Jan. on the Juba-Torit road. A GTZ staff and two SPLA escorts were injured.

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