



Door remains open, says UN-AU Spokesman

The first phase of Darfur peace talks in Sirte, Libya, had successfully begun and the door remained open for those who wished to join them, UN-AU mediation team spokesman Ahmad Fawzi said at a press conference on 5 November at UN Headquarter in New York.

Seven rebel movements, including the Sudanese Liberation Movement (SLM) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) had sent delegates, Mr. Fawzi said. Among those absent were leaders who had rejected the talks, had certain preconditions, or could not attend for logistical reasons. A joint UN-AU mission had arrived in Juba to consult with those who could not attend and would be going to Darfur for the same purpose.

UNAMID capabilities launched

The Office of AU-UN Joint Special Representative Rodolphe Adada announced in a press release on 1 November that initial management, command and control capabilities for the UN and AU Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) had been formally launched on 31 October in El Fasher, North Darfur.

The capabilities were now in place and financial arrangements for all troops and personnel deployed to AMIS had been established, the release said. It urged troop contributing countries to pledge technical support units to the force, especially helicopters and ground transport, and also stressed that the government should do all it could to assist UNAMID' rapid deployment.

Ashraf Qazi visits Southern Sudan

Special Representative of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon Ashraf Qazi recently stressed in Juba the vital importance of successful implementing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) for sustainable peace, stability, and development throughout Sudan.

UNMIS was ready to assist the parties in achieving CPA objectives and bringing implementation back on track, Mr. Qazi said in a meeting with First Vice-President of Sudan and President of the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) Salva Kiir, Vice-President of the GoSS Riek Machar, and Speaker of the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly James Wani Igga during his two-day visit to Juba and Bor on 31 October and 1 November.

Security Council Extends UNMIS mandate

The UN Security Council unanimously extended UNMIS' mandate for six

HEARD on RADIO MIRAYA

On the killing of three senior police officers in Yambio by a soldier from the JIU on 4 November ...

"I don't want to hear anybody saying this act has been committed by a Dinka or Nuer. I don't want to hear somebody has beaten up a Dinka or Nuer because of this incident. This is just a criminal act. Let's mourn peacefully so the souls of the departed may rest in peace."

Clement Wani Konga

Governor of Central Equatoria State
7 November

On the failed attempt by the French organization Zoe's Arch to remove children from Chad ...

"The crime is clear to local and international opinion -- it's a big crime. The Chadian authorities have assured that legal procedures will continue until everyone achieves their rights ... the children will then go back home while the criminals receive their deserved punishment."

Abdullah Al Sheikh

Sudanese Ambassador to Chad
5 November

On UNICEF condemning the attempted removal of children by Zoe's Arch...

"I don't think it's within UNICEF's mandate to be part of the investigation. UNICEF's mandate is to protect children

months until 30 April 2008, expressing its intention to prolong it further after an assessment on the mission's mandate. The assessment would determine whether changes were needed to strengthen the mission's ability to support full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA).

UN official expelled from South Darfur

Citing preliminary reports from the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), UN Spokesperson Marie Okabe said on 8 November in New York that OCHA Head of Office in Sudan Wael Al-Haj-Ibrahim had been asked by state authorities to leave South Darfur.

Ms. Okabe said the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Sudan, Ameerah Haq, was taking the matter up with central authorities in Khartoum. The expulsion violated the letter and spirit of the Joint Communiqué on the Facilitation of Humanitarian Assistance in Darfur and the Joint Communiqué signed between UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir on the occasion of the Secretary-General's visit to Sudan, the Spokesperson said.

UN Coordinator condemns attempt on children

UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Sudan Ameerah Haq strongly condemned on 5 November the attempt by the organization Arche de Zoe to remove children from Chad. The action went against all international laws and standards on movement of children and infringed on humanitarian principles the UN stood for, Ms. Haq said. The UN was currently assisting to identify the children and their places of origin, so that they could be reunified with their relatives.

Rift Valley Fever found in three states, says WHO

Rift Valley Fever (RVF) has been detected in 15 areas of White Nile, Sinnar, and Gazeera states, with 228 cases and 84 deaths reported as of 7 November, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

The WHO notes that RVF in humans is typically preceded by infection in animals, who pass it between them through mosquitoes. Humans most at risk are those in close contact with infected domestic animals, especially with their body fluids. With no specific treatment and no effective human vaccine, awareness raising and protective measures to prevent exposure are the only ways of reducing infection and death, the WHO says.

Polio, vitamin campaign launched in Upper Nile

In collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF, the Department of Extended Programme Immunization of the Upper Nile Ministry of Health (MoH) launched a Polio and Vitamin A vaccination campaign at Malakal stadium on 5 November.

and it will do everything that we can to protect those children. I think this case should be investigated and I think national authorities are going to have to take appropriate action to investigate under national law, because this has been committed in a country."

Ann Veneman
Executive Director of UNICEF
5 November

On the Ugandan LRA peace delegation to Juba leaving for Kampala to consult with war-affected people in the north of the country ...

"This is an important turn of events in the peace process because ... when they come back and hold the final consultation conference in Kampala, they should be able to overcome some of the problems with implementation modalities for the two agreements they signed"

Riek Machar
GoSS Vice-President and
Juba talks Chief Mediator
1 November

"Our duty is to sign a comprehensive peace agreement and come out with a credible reconciliation and accountability mechanism that make both the local and international benchmark. The ICC (International Criminal Court) will automatically become irrelevant. First of all, the referral of the situation of Uganda to the ICC was misplaced."

Odongo Ayena
Lawyer to the LRA peace
delegation
1 November

Students from Malakal schools participated in launching the campaign, which was attended by local government officials and the WHO Coordinator. In addition to the four-day Malakal campaign, vaccination teams were deployed to counties throughout Upper Nile State to carry out similar programmes.

Security Developments

West Darfur

Two women from the Erenga Tribe were shot dead and a child wounded on 31 October on the main road between Kondobi and Birdageeg (30 kilometres north of El Geneina). No information was available on the identity of the attackers or their motives.

Three armed Arab militiamen on horse back entered Dorti IDP camp on 30 October, and shot a man they were looking for, who died on arrival at El Geneina hospital.

North Darfur

Unknown armed men hijacked on 1 November a commercial UN-contracted truck carrying sorghum, salt, and sugar near Jebel Hisa in Malha (200 kilometres northeast of El Fasher).

Southern Sudan and the Three Areas

Three people were killed and 15 injured as the result of an armed clash between communities in Ayod, Jonglei state, on 5 November. INGO and UN agency staff were relocated and UN security is monitoring the area.

A fight reportedly broke out on 7 November in Kolnyang Payam, Upper Nile State, over the ownership of land used for grazing cattle. Some 11 people from the Kolnyang and Gak Bomas tribes were hospitalized as a result of the fighting.

Five members of a Joint Integrated Unit from the Sudan People's Liberation Army opened fire on 4 November at local police in Yambio police station, killing three senior officers. Preliminary information indicated that the JIU soldiers opened fire after a heated argument on the release of JIU soldiers being detained for suspected involvement in the killing of another JIU soldier on 3 November. Local police are investigating.

Following an armed incident on the 1 November, the UN security level was raised and a double armed escort required for travel on the Mabor-Kolmerek road, Jonglei state. The security level was also raised and a minimum of one armed escort required for the Duk-Padiet-Mabor-Bor-Malek road.

On 30 October, a group of armed men, allegedly from the Murle tribe, attacked a cattle camp in Makol Chuei Boma in Bor county. Two herdsmen were killed and four others wounded during the attack. The attackers left the scene with about a thousand cattle.

MIRAYA HIGHLIGHTS

Live Debates and Call-ins

Success of Polio Awareness campaign in Juba: Dr Anthony Lasuba, UNICEF Health Officer, and Dr. Anthony Laku, Expanded Programme on Immunization in the GoSS Ministry of Health (5 November).

Land Crapping: Robert Land, Chairperson of the GoSS Land commission (1 November)

African Charter on the Rights of a Child, Articles: 25. Separation from Parents, 26. Protection against Apartheid & Discriminations: Rev. Benjamin Lakio, Rule of Law promoter (1 November)

What are Antiretroviral Drugs?: Second Lt. Alison Dau, SPLA Secretariat, and Maj. Festo Ladu, SPLA Secretariat (31 October).

Features and Interviews

Features: Lives of HIV/AIDS victims in Yei and Juba; Rumbek Market; Poverty in Southern Sudan; Problems Affecting Pregnant Women.

Interviews: Paramount Chief, Yei, on roles and responsibilities; Malaria in Sudan; Commissioner of Al-Zaraf County; Disputes in Southern Kordofan.

Darfur: The Road to Peace

Profile of youth group in North Darfur which organizes sports competitions to promote peaceful interaction among communities of North Darfur.

UN Mirror

Interview with Abdul Faraj, Secretary-General of the Council of Child Welfare, on the problem of street children and how they are working with UNICEF to address the issue. Also, reports on child labor in Sudan and Nuba wrestling in Khartoum.