



# THE WEEK In Focus

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE UNMIS NEWS BULLETIN AND RADIO MIRAYA 26 Jan-1Feb 2007

## Talks on Darfur “useful and constructive”

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon told a press conference in Addis Ababa on 30 January, that he had “useful and constructive” talks on Darfur with Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir and Alpha Oumar Konare, Chairperson of the African Union during which he stressed on the centrality of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and the importance of its timely and effective implementation. He added that President Bashir “welcomed a joint AU-UN mission to Khartoum and Darfur in early February”. [The mission is a technical assessment mission to finalize details of an AU-UN hybrid operation in Darfur, including the force size].

The Secretary-General said he was looking forward to a prompt and positive response from the Government of Sudan to his letter dated 24 January forwarding the UN Heavy Support Package to AMIS, which was jointly finalized by the UN and AU. He urged President Bashir and all parties to cease hostilities and provide a sound foundation for a successful peace process, and humanitarian access. “No more time can be lost. The people of Darfur have waited much too long,” he told President Bashir and several other African leaders. (Full transcript of the press conference and other press encounters of the SG at: [www.un.org/apps/sg/offthecuff.asp](http://www.un.org/apps/sg/offthecuff.asp))

## Sudan gives commitment for child protection

Sudanese authorities have promised to address issues of child soldiers, sexual violence and humanitarian access. The assurance comes following the seven-day visit of Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy, Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict, accompanied by the Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF, Ms. Rima Salah. The two focused particular attention on recruitment and use of children as soldiers by all parties to the conflict; rape and other grave sexual violence against children in Sudan, and especially in Darfur.

The delegation commended the efforts on legislative reforms in the north and south and urged them to accelerate the process of adoption of critical child protection legislation such as the *Child Rights Bill* and the *Armed Forces Act*. The recent allegations of sexual abuse and exploitation of children by peacekeepers were also addressed. “Such abuses are absolutely unacceptable and the Secretary-General’s Zero Tolerance policy must be vigorously enforced,” Coomaraswamy said.

### GoS commits to:

Timely adoption and implementation of national legislation to criminalize recruitment of child soldiers, and to allocate adequate resources for reintegration in their communities. The SAF and allied armed forces agreed to identify and to release any children in their ranks and to allow the UN to monitor compliance.

Establish, with the UN, a joint Task Force on Sexual Violence and Abuse Against

## HEARD on RADIO MIRAYA:

On Ghana becoming chairman of the African Union overtaking Sudan's bid .....

“The choice was good and Sudan has agreed to step aside for Ghana. We chose Ghana to maintain the unity of the continent.”

**Lam Akol**

Foreign Affairs Minister,  
Sudan

As told to AFP, the French  
Press Agency

“This is a positive development because all the African leaders feel they have to be neutral in their dealing with conflicts like Darfur. It is best that whoever is the chairman of the African Union is seen as unbiased to either side in any conflict such as the one raging in Darfur.”

**Dr Hassan Al-Turabi**

Secretary General of the  
Popular Congress Party:

“Ghana’s chairmanship of the AU is a positive development for us-..... because we believe the Sudanese Government is a party to the conflict in Darfur. Had Sudan become the chairman of the African Union, perhaps this would have further complicated the crisis.”

**Seif El Dein Saleh**

Spokesman of the  
Darfurian opposition group,  
SLM/MM

children and to undertake a major public campaign to combat sexual and gender-based violence.

#### **GoSS commits to:**

Undertake an audit and a monitoring mechanism of the SPLA and allied armed forces to identify and release children associated with their forces.

Increase the budget for child disarmament, demobilization and reintegration.

Establish a Task Force on Sexual Violence and Abuse Against Children and to organize a major awareness campaign.

Advocacy for children and women to be among the highest priorities in the context of the peace negotiations between the LRA and the Government of Uganda.

#### **DPA Non-signatories agreed to:**

Cooperate fully with the UN in the preparation of action plans to identify and release children associated with their forces and to institute a system for monitoring and verification.

### **AMIS Condemns killing of UN Peacekeeper**

AMIS has expressed shock at the killing of an Indian UN peacekeeper in Southern Sudan on 26 January in an attack by unidentified gunmen when driving on a convoy with Force Protection that was escorting a de-mining team. AMIS condemned the "unprovoked criminal act" and called on all Sudanese parties to desist from such acts and to cooperate fully with UNMIS "in its efforts to create a secure and conducive environment for the citizens of South Sudan."

On 28 January UNMIS held a memorial service for the deceased Indian Peacekeeper. Deputy-SRSG for Sudan, Manuel Aranda da Silva paying tribute to the peacekeeper, condemned the attack and demanded that those responsible be brought to book. He also emphasized that UNMIS will not tolerate any such attacks and will respond as mandated by the Security Council Resolution 1590 (2005)

### **UN condemns killing of AMIS civilian police**

The UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) has strongly condemned the killing of a Civilian Police from the AU Mission in Sudan (AMIS) who was shot dead on 1 February by unknown gunmen during a hijacking of an AMIS vehicle inside Kassab camp in Kutum, North Darfur.

UNMIS, extending its condolences to the family of the victim and to AMIS, has urged all parties to fully cooperate with AMIS and to ensure the safety and security of its personnel. It has expressed alarm that the killing happened inside an IDP camp and has urged all concerned to prevent the access of armed individuals into camps. UNMIS has, meanwhile, requested the release of the AMIS peacekeeper abducted on 10 December 2006 and the handover of all AMIS vehicles hijacked.

### **UN delegation visits Nyala following assault**

UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sudan, Manuel Aranda da Silva and a host of senior officials from UNMIS, WFP, UNICEF and OCHA visited Nyala on 3 January to follow-up on the 19 January incident including violence against UN staff. The delegation met with the UN and INGOs staff and reviewed steps to address the incident and prevent its reoccurring. The UN delegation also met with the UN-Wali of South Darfur and conveyed to him the UN's deep concern about the safety of UN and INGOs' staff in Nyala.

"Ghana's chairmanship of the African Union represents a snub to Sudan and is seen as a negative development in its history, considering that Sudan was one of the founding countries of the organization of the African Union."

**Mohammed Ibrahim Nuqud,**

Communist Party leader  
on Mirror FM

### **MIRAYA HIGHLIGHTS**

#### **UN Weekly**

This week, the 30-minute programme interviewed Ms. Radhia Achouri, Spokesperson of the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) speaking about what UNMIS is doing to combat sexual abuse in Sudan.

The programme includes a feature by Mai Elnow which illustrated the efforts of the World Food Program and ADRA's to provide breakfasts to primary schools in Malakal.

The second feature by Jellab Atroon took a look at the harvest and the rituals involved in preparing the land for the next planting season in the Nuba Mountains.

#### **Darfur: The Road to Peace**

In this special episode of *Darfur: The Road to Peace*, IDPs in Sakaly camp, Nyala offer their feedback and suggestions about the radio program.

## Continued restriction on movement, harassment

On 29 January, three SOFA violations were reported. GoS officers at the check point south of El Fasher denied a UN agency convoy to proceed demanding a HAC permit. Meanwhile, National Security forces at Zam Zam check point stopped another UN agency convoy for the same reason. In another incident, Military Intelligence at El Fasher Airport refused UNMIS personnel to offload cargo from an aircraft from El Obeid, demanding copy of the manifest, finally agreeing after two hours of negotiation. Another SOFA violation was reported on 30 January, as a UN team was denied passage at the GoS checkpoint along the Malit road on its way to Mellit (North Darfur).

On 29 January, three armed men, allegedly belonging to SLA-MM, came to an INGO compound in As Salaam camp in North Darfur and threatened staff at gunpoint, demanding assistance to IDPs from Turra.

## Darfur violence continues

**North Darfur:** On 29 January, a former police officer was reportedly killed fighting three unknown persons armed with AK 47 at Maiwaseeh market in El Fasher. On 26 January, an AU contractor vehicle was stolen in El Fasher by two armed men who fled southwards towards Zam Zam.

**South Darfur:** on 28 January, seven people were killed and several injured in fighting between Maalya Militia and SLA/MM at Kalajo, 12 km SE of Muhajeria, and Khujaa. Seven armed men, suspected members of a rebel group, ambushed a commercial truck on along the Ed Daein-Nyala road and looted 400 liters of diesel. On 27 January, 10 ten armed men on camel back attacked a commercial bus and nine lorries on the Nyala-Kass road, 32 km SW of Nyala. When GoS police, escorting a convoy of 12 vehicles, arrived at the scene the bandits took six passengers hostage and threatened to kill them. Later the bandits escaped, looting the passengers.

**West Darfur:** On 26 January, unidentified gunmen attempted to stop and loot a truck near Thur village but failed as GoS forces intervened. On 28 January, two armed men entered an INGO compound in Mukjar and took away a car and a Thuraya phone at gunpoint. They apparently fled towards Chad. On 30 January, a policeman was shot dead and another seriously injured when they allegedly attempted to rob a house in El Geneina.

## Large number of new displacements reported

A large number of new displacements are being registered, including 2,160 new IDPs verified in KASS town (**South Darfur**) where 2,000 displaced are still in the process of verification. The number of displaced in East Jabal Marra following GoS and militia attacks in December is estimated between 30,000 and 35,000. Another large number of new IDPs have reportedly arrived in Kalma camp in the past month from Muhajeriya via Se Leah and the Bulbul area, including the most recent ones from from Amakassara.

In Gabral Ghanam (**North Darfur**), an inter-agency assessment mission verified about 5,000 villagers who had dispersed into surrounding hills following an attack on their village by SLA/MM faction on 6 and 8 January.

In **West Darfur**, the new IDPs from Ortega comprising some 300 households agreed to move to a new area in Ardamata camp.

### Programme Highlights:

The Feature looks at children living with HIV/AIDS .

The Shony lak singing group of Jabarona camp, singing songs of peace

Interview/Profile of a tea seller in Khartoum

## Over 100,000 refugees to return

Over 100,000 Sudanese refugees are expected to return home from neighbouring countries to Southern Sudan in 2007, depending on improved security, and peace talks between the Lord's Resistance Army and the Government of Uganda, which hosts the largest Sudanese refugee population (156,000). According to UNHCR 100,574 Sudanese refugees had returned home since the launch of voluntary repatriation in 2005, over 30,000 of them assisted by UNHCR. Repatriations from the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Kenya and Ethiopia, are conducted by air and road through various border crossings.

More information at:  
[www.unhcr.org/briefing-notes](http://www.unhcr.org/briefing-notes)

## UNHCR launches US\$19.7 million appeal for Darfur

UNHCR launched on 30 January a \$US19.7 million appeal to fund protection and assistance activities in 2007 for tens of thousands of Sudanese IDPs as well as Chadian refugees in West Darfur. The appeal (*see [www.unhcr.org](http://www.unhcr.org)*) says the ongoing conflict and prevailing insecurity in Darfur are the main challenges for IDPs and refugees as well as for all humanitarian actors. The appeal also notes that given the extremely volatile security situation, there is no prospect of return for IDPs in Darfur, nor for the 230,000 Sudanese refugees living in 12 UNHCR camps in eastern Chad.

An estimated 2 million IDPs are there in north, south and west Darfur, including 250,000 who have fled fighting in the past six months. West Darfur alone has an estimated 700,000 displaced. There are also 20,000 Chadian refugees who have fled to Darfur following insecurity in their homeland over the past year. UNHCR is present in five locations across West Darfur, with over 100 staff in Darfur delivering a range of services despite precarious security conditions.

## UNICEF requests \$121 million for Sudan

UNICEF's Humanitarian Action Report 2007, launched on 29 January, calls on donors to provide \$635 million to aid children and women in 33 emergencies worldwide. Of this \$121 million is for Sudan, including programmes in the war-torn Darfur region, where continued conflict between Sudanese Government forces, allied militias and rebel groups has disrupted the lives of some 4 million people, including 1.8 million children. Children account for half of the more than 2.5 million people displaced.

## Southern Sudan

28 January, OCHA led an assessment mission in Taam payam in Mayom County, Unity State, where 48 villages have been rendered homeless as a result of floods, and are currently residing on the roadside. The mission has agreed to distribute NFIs to the affected population.

29 January, an inter-agency assessment mission led by OCHA visited Marial Bai and Nyamlel, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, to verify reports of meningitis cases in the area. The mission also noted a high number of malaria and chest infection cases.

Unknown gunmen stopped an oil company pickup and killed one and injured another at around 15km south of Bentiu on the road to Leer.

UXOs detonated as a result of fire caused by burning grass at the Kajo Keji airstrip. A de-mining NGO in collaboration with UNMAO conducted a clearance and demolition exercise.

**We are on-line:**

[www.unmis.org](http://www.unmis.org)