



THE WEEK In Focus

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE UNMIS NEWS BULLETIN AND RADIO MIRAYA 2 -8 Mar 2007

SC calls for cessation of hostilities in Darfur

The 6 March Security Council meeting on Darfur urged all parties to cease fighting, improve conditions for the delivery of relief aid, and to facilitate the political process. Jan Eliasson, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Darfur, who was in Sudan last month with his AU counterpart, Salim Ahmed Salim, pointed out that both GoS and non-signatories to the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) agreed there was no military solution to the conflict. "They have to prove this point by first reducing violence, in fact achieve a cessation of hostilities," he said. Welcoming the cessation of bombings since mid-February, he, however, cautioned that violence in Darfur remains a serious problem, with growing warfare between the tribes.

Emphasizing the Council's involvement, Mr. Eliasson warned that Darfur was growing into a regional conflict. "We see great flows of refugees into Chad, we see unfortunately movements of people from across the border who feed the conflict, and I think the relationship between Chad and Sudan is going to be absolutely crucial to find a political solution to the problem of Darfur."

SC representatives pressed for improved security conditions to allow humanitarian operations. In this regard, they would be in touch with regional actors – not just Chad but also Libya, Egypt and Eritrea, Mr. Eliasson said.

For more details go to UN News Centre at: <http://www.un.org/news>

SG sends another letter to Sudanese President

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has written a new letter to President Bashir, detailing a proposed UN-AU hybrid force of up to 24,000 personnel. AU Commission Chairman Alpha Oumar Konaré is expected to send Mr. Bashir an identical letter. Mr. Ban's earlier letter to the President on the second phase has not yet received a reply.

The UN and AU have concluded that between 19,000 to 20,000 troops, together with 3,700 police officers and 19 formed police units, will be required on the ground, and the two will now proceed to develop detailed operational plans. Mr. Ban's Special Envoy for Darfur, Jan Eliasson, meanwhile, told reporters that Sudan had accepted the hybrid force in principle. The hybrid force is the final phase of a three-phase plan, agreed to by the UN, AU and Sudanese Government, to help end the fighting in Darfur which has killed over 200,000 people, and uprooting 2.5 million.

For more details go to UN News Centre: <http://www.un.org/news>

HEARD on RADIO MIRAYA:

On this week's endorsement of the National Council Act for Languages

"This act comes as a relief to the unfair treatment of the other languages spoken in the country. These non- Arabic languages have not been given the opportunity to express themselves, leading some languages to face the threat of extinction and some cultures to the dangers of disappearing."

Prof. Al-Amin Abu Manga
Member, National
Constitutional Review
Commission (5 March)

At the centenary celebration for organized education of women in Sudan held in Ahfad University, Khartoum.

"It's unfortunate that even now there is a high percentage of illiteracy among women and a big number of girls drop out from schools...In Southern Sudan many displaced women have not returned home. We have launched studies on women's conditions...They said they would not go back until there were schools....."

Dr. Balques Badri
Dean of students, Ahfad
University (6 Mar)

UN: End impunity for violence against women

In his message on International Women's Day, the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said, "This day is an opportunity for all of us -- women *and* men -- to unite in a cause that embraces all humankind." The Secretary-General drew attention to the plight of women saying, "In almost all countries, women continue to be under-represented in decision-making positions." This year's theme is "*Ending impunity for violence against women*". Louise Arbour, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, highlighted the difficulties in prosecuting perpetrators of violence against women. UNMIS saluted all women working and living in Sudan, and reiterated its call to involve all Sudanese women as partners in shaping their society and country.

UNMIS condemns killing of two AMIS soldiers

The United Nations Mission in Sudan has condemned the killing of two AMIS soldiers on 5 March 2007 in the town of Gereida, South Darfur, bringing to 11 the number of AMIS military personnel killed since it deployed in 2004. Extending its condolences to AMIS and to the families of the two soldiers, UNMIS has expressed deep concern at the repeated attacks targeting those assisting the people of Darfur. UNMIS also deplored that those who carried out previous attacks and carjackings remain at large.

Meanwhile, the Acting Special Representative of the Chairperson of the AU Commission in Sudan (ASRCC), Mrs. Monique Mukaruliza, expressed deep concern on the spate of attacks against AMIS personnel.

USG Humanitarian Affairs to visit Sudan, Chad, CAR

John Holmes, the new Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and UN Emergency Relief Coordinator, plans to visit Sudan, Chad and the Central African Republic (CAR) from 20 to 31 March, during which he hopes to meet with Government officials, humanitarian workers and those living in camps. He described the region as a major humanitarian priority, because of the worsening problems in Darfur, eastern Chad and, to a lesser extent, in north-western CAR.

Security and Humanitarian Developments in Darfur North Darfur

Four armed men in Al Fasher robbed an AMIS staff member of valuables and his official car earlier in the week. AU reported that 91 AMIS vehicles have been stolen since its mission in 2004.

Some 170 families arrived in Shangil Tobayi after being displaced from the Funga area in eastern Jebel Marra. This is their second displacement, having originally fled from Dadaneira (Tawilla area).

South Darfur

Heavy fighting between the Targam and Rezegat tribes continues near Kass. Unconfirmed reports indicate that around 10-13,000 new IDPs have arrived in

On the killing of two AMIS soldiers in South Darfur...

"This follows another incident in which one officer went missing since 10 December. He was abducted from Al Fashir and so far we have not received any information on his whereabouts."

Nour El Din Al-Mezni
AMIS spokesperson, (7 Mar)

MIRAYA HIGHLIGHTS

DEBATES, GUESTS AND PHONE-INS

Meningitis: Dr. James Jada, Juba Teaching Hospital (2/03)

CPA implementation: SPLM General Secretary Pagan Amum on talks with NCP and other political parties (6/03)

Policing in South Sudan: Major General Acuil Tito Madut, S. Sudan Police HQ (6/03)

Job opportunities for women in South Sudan: Margaret Ayite, Technical advisor for alternative education system & Helen Mayer, Director General for gender equality and social change, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, GoSS (6/03)

Kass.

On 4 March, armed SLA/MM men entered Kalma camp and captured two Government security officers.

West Darfur

IDPs are returning to Kublus, as security and economic conditions are improving.

The nomadic Amir in Zalingei reported severe water shortages in the area.

In Berit area, south of Gereida, tribal conflicts between the Tama and Zagawa tribes have forced about 2,000 Tama tribesmen to flee to Karanga.

Southern Sudan and Transitional Areas

Emergency response, meningitis in Southern Sudan

WHO announced that from the beginning of 2007, some 2,243 suspected cases of meningitis, including 174 deaths, were reported in Southern Sudan. A mass immunization campaign, targeting 609,848 people in high risk areas, is being jointly implemented by the Federal Ministry of Health and the GoSS Ministry of health, with assistance from WHO, UNICEF, OCHA, the EC, and INGOs.

The WHO Country Office has provided the Federal Ministry of Health with an emergency stockpile of drugs for case management and necessary supplies for outbreak investigation. WHO is also providing technical support for strengthening preparedness and response to the epidemic which has spread to eight out of 10 States in Southern Sudan.

Cholera kills 16 in Malakal and Khurfulus

The recent cholera outbreak in Malakal and Khurfulus continues with new cases being reported everyday. Till date eight people have died in both the towns, taking the toll to 16. Over 160 people were affected by the disease in Khurfulus and 130 in Malakal. The cholera task force, chaired directly by the State Minister of Health, is keeping a close watch on the situation. A leading cause for concern remains the consumption of contaminated water.

UNMIS promotes rule of law in southern Sudan

In partnership with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Canadian International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy (ICCLR), UNMIS Rule of Law Section organized a one-week training course for senior prison officers from the ten Southern Sudan States. Thirty-eight prison directors and officers-in-charge of prisons in Southern Sudan

UN MIRROR

On the Ground in Kadugli
Osman Bilel, a health coordinator with WHO discusses the health needs of the region. The programme also included features highlighting HIV/AIDS awareness and the issue of female genital mutilation in Kadugli.

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

attended the training course, which was formally opened by the GoSS Minister of Interior. An eleven-point resolution was prepared at the end of the course, including recommendations on development and management of the Prisons' Service in accordance with international standards.

Returns to N. Bahr El Ghazal and Blue Nile

The first convoy of IDPs from Northern Bahr El Gazal departed from Ed Daein camps on 7 March. The joint organized return will take home more than 13,000 IDPs.

Meanwhile, in the past month IOM returned more than 1,500 IDPs to their homes in Southern Blue Nile State.

- UNMIS in Wau has facilitated a ten-day Peace, Reconciliation and Justice Conference in Raja, to diffuse tensions between the communities. An AJMC team will visit Raja soon.
- SAF demobilized soldiers demonstrated in Juba, on non-payment of salaries.
- An UNMIS helicopter and Force Protection relocated 4 NGO staff members from Tambura to Juba on 4 March as gunshots shook the town.
- Dinka tribesmen from Yirol County raided Tombe village (30 km South of Terekeka), killing two Mudaris and looting cattle.
- Alleged LRA soldiers attacked Yubu town (22 km from Tambura), looted shops and houses, killing two civilians and injuring two others.
- On 2 March alleged LRA men killed three civilians on Magwi-Nimule road.
- LRA movements between CAR and Western Equatoria have increased forcing CAR to reinforce its military positions on the borders with DRC and Sudan.

We are on-line:

www.unmis.org