



OHCHR: Darfur attacks violate international law

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) said on 11 May it had received reports that government forces using helicopter gunships and Antonov aircraft had carried out bombings in North Darfur between 19 and 29 April. The bombings, which resulted in numerous civilian casualties and destruction of property, school buildings and livestock, violated international humanitarian and human rights law, the OHCHR said.

IOM assists more than 50,000 returnees

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has provided transport assistance and medical screening for more than 50,000 Sudanese internally displaced persons (IDPs) who have returned south since December 2005, according to an agency press release. The IDPs returned from Khartoum and South Darfur to Southern Kordofan (Transitional Area) and Southern Sudan, as organized or spontaneous returns.

Over 34,000 IDPs return south

Over 34,000 Sudanese internally displaced persons (IDPs) have returned to Southern Sudan and Southern Kordofan by road convoy since early February under the Government of National Unity, Government of Southern Sudan, and UNMIS Plan for Returns. With the beginning of the wet season, road convoys to Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Western Bahr el Ghazal, Warrap and Lakes states have been suspended. Road convoys will continue from Khartoum to accessible parts of Southern Kordofan, Upper Nile and Unity States.

120,000 refugees to return to Eastern Equatoria

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) announced on 16 May that it had agreed with Sudan and Uganda to begin repatriating some 120,000 refugees to Southern Sudan's Eastern Equatoria state, beginning in August. At a meeting in Kampala from 7 to 9 May, the UNHCR and representatives of the two countries' governments also decided to speed up existing repatriation from Uganda through such means as new buses, trucks and ferries.

FAO organizing seeds, tools for IDPs

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has agreed with seven partners to distribute seeds, agricultural tools, and equipment to Sudanese returnees. FAO Malakal has already received 122 metric tonnes of seeds and is awaiting tools for distribution to implementing partners. To prevent seed consumption, the World Food Programme is offering Food for Seeds support to agencies receiving seeds.

HEARD on RADIO MIRAYA:

On whether the SPLM has digressed from its declared unitary approach since it joined the government of national unity...

"I fear that the Sudan People's Liberation Movement has a more unitary vision than their partners in government, the National Congress Party. This is particularly so after it held its political conference in Yei, which recommended that their leadership have a presence in the North.

Also their initiative aimed at resolving the crisis in Darfur and their invitation to the members of the association for uniting the national front to hold a meeting in Juba are all indicative of their unitary approach."

Bashir Adam Rahma
Leading member of the
Popular Party
(16 May)

"The Sudan People's Liberation Movement has passed through many changes since its formation. Absolutely, the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement is the greatest achievement for the movement. In spite of its attempt to become a national party, the SPLM is still facing many obstacles and I think it is still at the first stage towards achieving this goal."

Al Dardeiri Mohamed Ahmed
National Congress Party MP
(16 May)

CJMC focuses on SAF, OAGs and demining

At a meeting in Juba on 10 May, the Ceasefire Joint Military Committee (CJMC) recognized that the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) was committed to meeting the 9 July deadline for complete redeployment from the south. It also reiterated that both the SAF and Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) were responsible for their aligned Other Armed Groups, and directed the CJMC and Area JMCs to verify Joint Integrated Unit (JIU – combined SAF and SPLA forces) figures. In addition, the CJMC decided to invite the head of UN Mine Action Office to present a detailed briefing on demining progress to the Committee.

Police and UNMIS find no evidence of rape

No evidence has been found by local police or UNMIS officials for the alleged rape of a boy by a UN peacekeeper in Wau, as reported on 8 May in the Sudanese daily *Akhir Lahza*. Although the boy was reportedly taken to Wau government hospital, the facility said it had no record of him, and UNMIS Wau Head of Office said he had no information on the matter. The UN's Office for Internal Oversight Services and the Conduct and Discipline Unit carried out a thorough review of information and reports from UNMIS officials in Wau.

Security and Humanitarian Developments in Darfur

North Darfur

Two armed men attacked an international non-governmental organization (INGO) vehicle near Khazan Tugur village (60 kilometres southwest of El Fasher) on 14 May. One of the staff members on board was shot in the shoulder and the attackers fled the scene with the vehicle. After two armed men hijacked another vehicle of the same organization at its compound in Khazan Tugur, the UN relocated the INGO's staff to El Fasher.

An NGO was forced to suspend food distribution in the Dar Zaghawa area as a result of GoS aerial bombings and a high risk of carjackings. The NGO's suspension of activities could affect people in Kutum Rural, leaving 165,000 people without food assistance at the beginning of the hungry season.

The Humanitarian Affairs Commission and the Ministry of Urban Planning gave final approval for the relocation of 1,000 IDP families to an extension of Krinding II camp on 14 May. Of these, 660 households will move from the Sultan House settlement in Geneina town and the rest will come from overcrowded areas in Krinding II.

South Darfur

A possible outbreak of meningitis in South Darfur is currently being tackled through such measures as training of medical staff, supply of drugs and medical equipment. A vaccination campaign is planned for the coming week.

Sanitation work has continued in El Neem camp, where an NGO has completed 200 household latrines. Another NGO has constructed 600 latrines and an additional 2,000 are planned for the end of the month. Water supply has also been improved, with work on a new borehole completed and three elevated water tanks erected in the

On why the SPLA began paying salaries overdue for five months only last week...

"There were a lot of problems in the Ministry of Finance -- the ex-Minister of Finance was put under house arrest and then a new acting Minister came in. So this is one reason which was the cause of the delay. Another delay is connected with the delay of pay sheets from the units."

Major General Kuol Deim Kuol
Spokesperson of the SPLA
(15 May)

On the Nile basin being threatened with drought and desertification during the coming years, especially in North Sudan...

"We have seen this today in northern Sudan after the cutting down of the forest along the Nile which led to the appearance of deserts along the Nile. So scientifically if we look at the Nile valley today it has been affected in a clear way. This happened due to the rapid deforestation which has struck areas of northern Sudan strongly and it has now moved in to the Nile basin."

Nasr El-Din Shulqami
Environmental expert
(15 May)

camp.

West Darfur

Two INGO vehicles were hijacked by unknown armed men near Habila (80 kilometres south of El Geneina). The INGO staff members on board the vehicles were temporarily taken by the attackers, but released later unharmed. The attackers fled with one INGO vehicle and abandoned the other due to mechanical problems.

Security and Humanitarian Developments in Southern Sudan and Transitional Areas

Four armed men, allegedly SPLA soldiers, reportedly stopped a lorry transporting about 60 people at Panyok in Abyei on 11 May. They told the driver he should obtain permission from them before traveling south and assaulted the lorry's passengers with sticks, although no serious injuries were reported.

On 10 May, in Lobira (60 kilometres east of Torit), unknown attackers shot at a group of women working in a field, killing one and severely wounding two others. The injured women, who were from Lotuko tribe, said they suspected the attackers were from the Boya tribe, which has an ongoing conflict with their people, mainly over cattle and access to water.

On 9 May, a group of about 30 armed men, allegedly from the Toposa tribe, ambushed 2 trucks heading to Torit at Farasika (100 kilometres northeast of Torit), killing the driver and injuring two passengers.

On 8 May, following the death of a local tribesman in a traffic accident involving an SPLA vehicle in Torit, the tribe of the deceased opened fire on the SPLA vehicle, killing one soldier and injuring three others. The same day, an SPLA convoy was ambushed by unknown attackers at Kapoeta (100 kilometres northeast of Torit). One SPLA soldier was killed and two others injured.

MIRAYA HIGHLIGHTS

LIVE STUDIO GUESTS

Fight against HIV/AIDS:

Captain David Marle and Lt. Martin Taban of SPLA HIV/AIDS Secretariat in discussion with many callers on the SPLA's HIV/AIDS campaign, designed to increase awareness among the armed forces (9 May).

Unemployment in Southern Sudan:

Honorable Jacob Aligo, MP, Central Equatoria Legislative Assembly (10 May).

INTERVIEWS AND FEATURES

Sudanese Women in Politics:

Interview with Mariam El Sadig El Mahdi, Foreign Affairs Officer UMMA Party (10 May).

Reconciliation Conference:

Interview with Father Matthew Legge, Organizer, Conference on "Reconciliation and Peace" by the Catholic Church in Southern Sudan, attended by chiefs from Southern Sudan (15 May).

Darfur: The Road to Peace - DDR – Reintegration

Mohamed Nahid, Chief Consultant of the Darfur Tribes Council in matters of Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration, discusses reintegrating former combatants into society.

UN Mirror: International Press Freedom Day Special

Aisha Busri, communications officer with the UNDP, discusses International Press Freedom Day (3 May). Excerpts from a roundtable discussion with Sudanese journalists. Report with senior Sudanese journalists giving their advice and tips on the tricks of the trade to young journalists in the country.