



UNSG, Security Council welcome Sudan's acceptance of Heavy Support Package

The Secretary-General welcomed Sudan's acceptance of the heavy support package (HSP) assistance of the UN to the AU Mission in Sudan (AMIS). He now intends to move quickly with the deployment in close cooperation with the AU. The SG will also consult GoS for urgently providing land and other facilities necessary for deployment and operational needs of the HSP. He urged troop and police providing countries and donors to contribute generously for strengthening the peacekeeping operation in Darfur at the earliest. He also urged that hostilities on the ground be stopped immediately.

The UN Security Council (SC), welcoming Sudan's decision, stated that GoS must now facilitate deployment of the package. The SC will be writing a letter to the UNSG asking him to request funding from the General Assembly for the HSP.

Meanwhile, the SG had intensive consultation with AU Commission Chairperson Alpha Oumar Konaré and the Council members on the issue, which was also attended by the UN-AU Special Envoys to Darfur, Jan Eliasson and Salim Ahmed Salim. The SG will be having detailed discussions with AUC Chairperson Konaré on the future course of action in Darfur.

SG concerned over UN markings on aircrafts for military purposes

The Secretary-General (SG) has viewed with deep concern evidence about the flying of arms and heavy weapons into Darfur, in violation of Security Council (SC) resolution 1591 (2005). He was especially disturbed by reports of private or Sudanese national aircraft illegally using UN markings for military purposes. If substantiated further, such actions would be a clear violation of international law and in contravention of the UN's international status. The SG will work closely with the SC on this issue, seeking clarification from the Government of Sudan and other parties.

UNMIS condemns killing of AMIS officer

The United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) has strongly condemned the killing of an AMIS Officer on 14 April 2007 near the AMIS camp in El Fasher by unknown armed men. UNMIS expressed deep concern about the repeated attacks against AMIS that has resulted in ten deaths, and hijacking of several cars since the beginning of the year. The Mission urged all parties to act swiftly to identify the perpetrators and hold them accountable.

HEARD on RADIO MIRAYA:

On Sudan's ultimate agreement to the heavy support package by the UN...

"The government delayed its approval to maneuver the international community, and to gain reassurances that the package will not be used as a means to track down those who have been named by the International Criminal Court."

Ali Mahmoud Hassanein

Senior official, Democratic Unionist Party (17April)

"The government has made a rational decision. We believe it should commit to fulfilling the agreements that have an international and legal legitimacy."

Seif Al-Din Haroun

SLM(M/M) spokesperson (17April)

"We support putting an end to the killings which are happening in Darfur..... We have supported the deployment of an international force in Darfur from the start."

Pagan Amoum

Secretary General, SPLM (17April)

Tenth Tripartite Mechanism meeting

The Tripartite Mechanism, at its 10th meeting on 18 April welcomed the Sudanese Government's acceptance of the UN Heavy Support Package. The AU and the UN also welcomed the GoS decision to expedite issuance of travel visas to AMIS staff and other personnel without referral to central authorities in Khartoum. The GoS delegation further informed that customs authorities were asked to speedily release pharmaceutical products brought by the UN as part of the Light Support Package to AMIS. The 11th Tripartite meeting will be held at UNMIS HQs on 2 May.

CPA Monitor for March is online

The UNMIS CPA Monitor for March 2007 is now available online. Highlights include the second Sudan Consortium meeting of 19-20 March; the first NCP-SPLM Joint Leadership Committee meeting (24-26 March); the visit of President Bashir to Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States in March; the first meeting of the National Petroleum Commission and the activities of the Ceasefire Joint Military Commission, the Southern Sudan DDR Commission and the National Assembly which reconvened on 2 April.

The March Monitor is available at:

<http://www.unmis.org/english/cpaMonitor.htm>

Over 21,000 IDPs assisted to return in 2007

Nearly 6000 IDPs returned in the last few days mainly from Khartoum and South Darfur to Northern Bahr el Ghazal. With this the Joint Plan for assisted return of IDPs in 2007 season crossed the 21,000 mark.

Highlights include the departure on 14 April of the first convoy of IDPs from Muru camp, in Juba, to Mundri County in Jonglei State, with 91 individuals on board.

Further convoys will continue until all the over 1000 registered IDPs from Muru camp are transported.

Return activities also included the departure of the third and fourth IDP convoys from El Ferdous, South Darfur, to Northern Bahr el Ghazal with 527 and 638 individuals respectively. Till date, the total organized return figure from El Daein and El Ferdous IDPs camps is estimated at well over 6,000 individuals, of which 3,893 were part of organized returns. The final assisted returns operation from Nyala to Northern Bahr el Ghazal is due to commence later this month.

MIRAYA HIGHLIGHTS

Interviews and Features

Sudan People Liberation Movement - Northern Sector

Mohamed Ali Jacob, Secretary of the SPLM of the Northern State, discussed the work of his office following the SPLM – Northern Sector Conference in Jan 2007.

Horse Racing in Darfur

From the horse racing stadium in Al-Fasher, the DG, the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Muhammad Hami Ibrahim discussed the tradition and history of horse racing in Darfur.

Child Rape in Sudan

Feature on incidents of child rape in Sudan; and advocates child protection.

Land Mines

A report marking International Day for Mine Awareness. UN statistics indicate Sudan as one of the ten most landmine-affected countries in the world. Reports on de-mining efforts and testimonies from landmine victims.

Security and Humanitarian Developments

North Darfur *11 April* Some 40 civilians were killed and 25 wounded in an attack by alleged Janjaweed militia who came in 30 vehicles equipped with heavy machine guns and artillery. They attacked Abujogh Market, 20 km west of Serif Beni Hesain, and seven other villages (Sindala, Omrakena, Warda, Hijer, Obayed, Melibeida, and Betetil).

16 April A fire in the market at Abu Shouk IDP camp, near El Fasher, destroyed around 100 shops. No casualties were reported.

Armed men hijacked at gunpoint two vehicles of a UN agency near Zam Zam, 12 km South of El Fasher.

17 April Arab militias forcibly collected money and mobile phones from people at the Mawashi market in El Fasher.

South Darfur

13 April A man attacked with a knife an INGO staff in Nyala and attempted to hijack his vehicle. In another incident on 18 April, INGO staff were assaulted in Saleah (45 km NW of Ed Daein) before the attackers fled with their vehicle.

17 April Around 150 suspected Arab militia, attacked a Government military camp in Katur, North of Al Malam (110km North of Nyala). Several SAF casualties were reported as the attackers seized weapons and ammunition.

About 20 armed men attacked two trucks on its way from Zalingei to Nyala at Gemeiza Korma (20km Northwest of Kass).

West Darfur

14 April 24 people were killed and several wounded, in Abu Joga, when a clash broke out between Gimir and Boroug tribes, instigated by livestock theft. Four children were killed by a UXO 2 km East of Mukjar; and a commercial truck was looted by armed men 30 km East of Mukjar.

16-17 April The UN evacuated 39 INGO staff from Um Dukhum (220 km SE of Zaleingi) to Nyala following the hijacking of a vehicle and rising insecurity.

One person was killed and another injured in an attack on Riyadh IDP camp.

Southern Sudan and Transitional Areas

14 April Two SPLA soldiers were killed in an attack by Arab nomads in Koyoko village, near Baw, Blue Nile State (350 km S of Ed Damazin).

11 April Three SPLA soldiers and one policeman were killed when they tried to repel an attack by Murle tribesmen in Rot Jop village, Akobo, Jongeli State.

13 April Two men were killed and one woman injured in Kartala Village of Kadugli when armed men attacked them.

Juba returned to normal following an internal dispute within the SPLA on 17 April, reportedly over late food supplies to troops.

Darfur, Road to Peace

National Civil Service

Omar Suleiman Adam al Muhami, a Nyala based lawyer, discussed the National Civil Service.

UN MIRROR

Mine Awareness

Interview with the Deputy Coordinator of Mine Awareness, Ahmad Muhammad to mark the International Day for Mine Awareness. Reports covering the same occasion and describing the various types and shapes of land mines.

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www.unmis.org