



Security Council authorizes hybrid UN-AU force

The UN Security Council unanimously approved on 31 July a hybrid UN-AU peacekeeping force for Darfur in what Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called a “historic and unprecedented resolution”.

The resolution authorizes the establishment of a force – to be known as UNAMID (UN-AU Mission in Sudan) -- of nearly 20,000 military personnel and more than 6,000 police officers. The hybrid operation has an initial mandate of 12 months and will incorporate the existing AU Mission in Sudan (AMIS), becoming the largest UN peacekeeping mission.

According to the resolution, UNAMID is scheduled to have its management, command and control structures in place by October and to take over operations from AMIS by the end of the year. Command and control structures as well as backstopping for UNAMID will be provided by the UN, and the operation will have a single chain of command.

Human Rights Rapporteur visits Sudan

The UN's Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Sudan, Dr. Sima Samar, visited the country from 25 July to 2 August. She held meetings with representatives of the government, civil society and UN agencies in Khartoum El-Fasher, Juba, Wau and Kadugli.

Speaking at a press conference in Khartoum on her final day, Dr. Simar commended Sudan for committing itself to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), but said implementation of the accord as well as the country's transition to democracy has been slow. She noted that the government had yet to set up a national Human Rights Commission, as stipulated in the CPA. Dr. Simar also voiced concern about freedom of expression in North Sudan, where media were restricted and journalists as well as politicians had been arrested.

On Darfur, Dr. Samar cited reports of human rights violations by the Sudan Liberation/Minni Minawi faction in North Darfur, including illegal taxation, torture and non-government prisons. On the positive side, the government had acknowledged a human rights problem in the region and agreed on the new hybrid UN-AU force for Darfur. She stressed, however, that the primary responsibility for civilian protection lay with the government of Sudan.

As for Southern Sudan, she noted that the region had established a Human Rights Commission, but was still lacking basic social and economic rights, including access to education, health and water. This situation was even more worrisome with the continuing influx of refugees and internally displaced persons into the south, she said.

For further details, see transcript of press conference at:
<http://www.unmis.org/english/2007Docs/HR-Samar-PC-aug02.pdf>

HEARD on RADIO MIRAYA

The SPLM's Secretary-General, Pagan Amum, speaking on the occasion of the second anniversary of the death of the SPLM/A founder, John Garang ...

“The northern political elites, who ruled Sudan since independence, should apologize for their wrongdoings. The Umma Party should apologize for the excesses committed during the al Mahdi revolt. The May (al Numeir) revolution should apologize to the Umma and Communist parties. All military governments should apologize to the Umma party for the oppressive measures they inflict on it repeatedly. There will be no unity of Sudan if these terrible acts of the past are not redeemed by an apology.”

31 July

On the position of the United States towards Sudan ...

“There is no change in US position on Sudan. That is entirely connected to the situation in Darfur. We hope there will be an improvement of relations in the next few months with the arrival of the hybrid force. There is a possibility obviously of improvement of the relationship in some fields with the return of the visa operation in the Sudan and also the building of the new Embassy in Sudan. That is

Sudan commemorates John Garang

The second anniversary of the death of former President of Southern Sudan and First Vice-President of Sudan John Garang was commemorated in Sudanese cities on 30 July with candlelight vigils, prayers, traditional dances and speeches by local dignitaries.

Speaking at the event in Juba, President of Southern Sudan and First Vice-President of Sudan Salva Kiir noted that considerable progress had been made in implementing the country's Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). He added, however, that the National Congress Party had failed to remove troops from the south, implement the Abyei Protocol or cooperate on demarcation of the border between north and south (the so-called 1-1-1956 line).

UN assists with Southern Sudan mine action

The UN Development Programme, in collaboration with the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, organized a Capacity Development Workshop on Mine Action for the Southern Sudan Demining Commission in Juba from 23 to 27 July. The workshop included a high-level segment to engage government ministries in mine action as well as a field visit to a demining site, hosted by Norwegian People's Aid.

IDPs continue to return by air

Air Operations to return internally displaced persons (IDPs) to their areas of origin, sponsored by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), continued from 24 to 30 July, with 227 individuals (59 households) transported from Khartoum to Central Equatoria State. This brings the total number of IDP returnees to 44,211 individuals, which represents about 70% of the revised UN/IOM target (63,719 IDPs) under the Government of National Unity/Government of Southern Sudan/UN Joint Plan for Return.

Security and Humanitarian Developments

South Darfur

Fighting between the Rezeigat Abbala and Tarjam tribes resumed on 30 July in Bulbul Abu Zarzur (42 kilometres northwest of Nyala) and 31 July in the same area, reportedly in the village of Dul Alaham. There are conflicting reports on the numbers of casualties, but most reports indicate tens of deaths and injuries.

West Darfur

Passengers in one of two NGO vehicles moving on 31 July from Garsilla to Soja near Kolnge (70 kilometres southwest of Zalingei) were stopped by six persons in military uniform and robbed of their money. No one was injured and they later returned to Garsilla with the assistance of the Humanitarian Affairs Commission and police. The second car saw the robbers approach and managed to return to Garsilla safely.

something we would like to see."

Alberto Fernandez

Charge d'Affaires of the US
Embassy in Khartoum
30 July

*On the absence of
Abdelwahid Al-Nur, an
influential figure of Darfur's
rebel groups, from the
Arusha talks ...*

"This does not mean that the outcome of the meeting will be negative, but it may serve the fundamental issues of the Darfur crisis,"

Abdallah Adam Khatir

Expert in Darfur Affairs
4 August

*On the conflict between the
Tarjum and Rezeigat
tribes, which led to the
death of 51 people and the
wounding of 23 others in
South Darfur State ...*

"In fact, it was a response to an atrocity by the forces of the regime in Khartoum. Some government troops attacked the area of Mazrout, which is one of the liberated areas under the movements' control. Our forces moved and found that the government forces had withdrawn; we followed them up to Adiella town and engaged in a fierce fight. This was yesterday at 4:20 p.m."

Abdelrahman al-Zain

Chairman of the Casualties
Committee
2 August

The dead body of a middle-aged man with his hands tied behind his back was found floating in a pond about 700 metres east of Khamsa Digaig Camp in Zalingei on 31 July. The victim's face had been attacked with an axe and bullet holes were found in other parts of his body. Details about the individual so far remain unknown. Police are investigating the matter.

A group of forty armed militia traveling by camel, horse and a vehicle approached Sirba (45 kilometres north of El Geneina) from the south on 30 July, allegedly aiming to attack the town. An exchange of fire broke out between the group and local defense forces (LDF) and the militiamen pulled back. No casualties were reported.

A UN contracted convoy of 12 trucks escorted by the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) was ambushed on 30 July by unknown armed men in Jiljela (11 kilometres from Sirba). The SAF confronted the attackers who managed to flee the scene with one of the trucks. National Security reported that 4 people were killed, including an SAF soldier.

A vaccination team from an international organization and Sudanese health workers were attacked by armed men on 29 July while distributing vaccines in Jebel Moon. A staff member from the Ministry of Health was shot in the leg and another from the international organization was beaten up. The perpetrators stole personal belongings from the two health workers.

Following reports of two confirmed cases of polio in Chad, UNICEF, the World Health Organization and other partners are set to launch an emergency vaccination campaign in West Darfur in the coming days, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

A recent survey conducted by an INGO indicates that the global acute malnutrition rate in Geneina has risen from 12.3% to 17.9%, above the emergency threshold of 15%.

North Darfur

Three armed men broke into an INGO clinic in Kassab IDP Camp, north of Kutum, on 25 and 28 July, and stole communication equipment as well as drugs. The INGO has temporarily closed the clinic and the matter is under investigation by National Security in Kutum.

A headcount of new IDPs in Sereif Beni Hussein near Kabkabyia revealed that 2,371 persons were displaced from the Abojokha and Dartani areas in April 2007.

Southern Sudan

Internal conflict involving the Nuer tribe in Duar Boma at Nhialdiu Payam, Rubkona County, has resulted in 15 deaths – one due to stabbing and 14 from shootings. Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) troops have been deployed in the area to disarm civilians found with firearms. UN Security at Bentiu has restricted movement of UN personnel to the area until further notice.

Locals looted some food from a UN agency warehouse on 27 July in Nyamlel, Western Bahr el Ghazal State.

We're online:
www.unmis.org