



# THE WEEK In Focus

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE UNMIS NEWS BULLETIN AND RADIO MIRAYA 12-18 JAN 2007

## SG: 'Darfur top priority'

In his first address to the UN Security Council on 8 January, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said that addressing the Darfur crisis would be one of his top priorities. "In the coming days, weeks and months, I will coordinate closely with leaders in Africa and beyond, and I will work through my Special Envoy for Darfur to secure the constructive engagement of Sudan, African Governments, and the international community as a whole", the Secretary-General said.

## SG's Special Envoy for Darfur visits Sudan

Jan Eliasson, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's Special Envoy for Darfur, concluded his first three-day visit to Sudan on 12 January, during which he met with President Omar Al Bashir, Foreign Minister Lam Akol, Minni Minawi, Chairman of the SLM/A and Senior Assistant to the President, Presidential Advisors Majzoub Al Khalifa, Salah Josh, Nafie Ali Nafie and Mustafa Osman Ismail. Expressing satisfaction on the warm reception accorded by the Sudanese Government, he described his meetings as "fruitful" and "constructive". He also met with top UNMIS and AU officials, including Salim Ahmed Salim in Addis Ababa, and discussed steps for a durable solution to the Darfur crisis.

In a bid to revive the political process with different parties, he visited the North Darfur capital Al Fasher and met local government officials, DPA non-signatories, including the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A). He also met IDP representatives, AMIS, and UN officials and INGOs operating in North Darfur. Mr. Eliasson asked the conflicting parties to abjure violence and create an environment conducive to a political settlement. The Special Envoy will be joining Mr. Ban Ki-moon in Addis Ababa for the AU Summit on 29 January, which will also discuss Darfur.

## Light and Heavy Support to AMIS

The fourth Tripartite Mechanism meeting on UN support to AMIS, held on 14 January, agreed to deploy a second batch of 10 military staff officers to Darfur in addition to the 17 UN military staff officers and 19 UN police advisers who are already there. UNMIS also handed over the first batch of \$ 21 million worth of equipment and supplies to AMIS, including night vision goggles, generators, and tents.

AMIS Deputy Head of Mission Ambassador Hassan Gibril said the support "will go a long way in smoothing operations in Darfur". He said that AMIS was looking forward to the UN Heavy Support Package (HSP) to further overcome logistical problems in Darfur.

The HSP, including additional staff and equipment, is being jointly worked out by the UN and AU, details of which will be communicated to the Government

## HEARD on RADIO MIRAYA:

On CPA anniversary speeches by President Bashir and First Vice-President Salva Kiir.

"....A military government that is accountable to no one is not a body to do business with. This government can sign all the agreements in the world but when it comes to the implementation there is the crunch."

**Hassan Al Turabi**

Chairman, Popular Congress Party

"The complaints are a normal thing between two partners with different agendas. I do not think this public exchange is dangerous to the CPA."

**Mohammed Ibrahim al Nugud**

Leader of the Communist Party

of Sudan. A final round of consultations is being held this weekend.

UN support to AMIS, including the HSP, was endorsed by the Government of Sudan during the Addis Ababa Consultations and the Abuja Summit of the AU Peace and Security Council, which were both held in November 2006.

## Prep. Committee for Darfur-Darfur Dialogue

Tayé-Brook Zerihoun, UNMIS Head of Mission, met on 16 January with Mr. Abdul Mohamed, Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee for the Darfur-Darfur Dialogue and Consultations (DDDC). They reviewed the activities of the Preparatory Committee and support and assistance to be provided by UNMIS to the DDDC process. The Committee was set up by the AU in September 2006 to prepare the agenda of the DDDC, identify participants, venue and funding.

According to the DPA, the DDDC is to be held under AU leadership and in cooperation with international partners, including the UN, the League of Arab States and the European Union. The DDDC mandate is to promote reconciliation and broad popular support for the Darfur peace process by addressing issues underlying the conflict.

## Heavy casualties in S. Darfur, displacement in West

Heavy inter-tribal fighting between Targem and Rezegat Mahariya over the last fortnight has killed 95 Targem and 40 Rezegat Maharia tribesmen. The burning of 12 villages, all belonging to the Targems, has led to an influx of IDPs to Bulbul Abujaso, Bulbul Dalalangara and Bulbul Tombisco. Some IDPs have moved to Nyala and Kass. The Government has deployed a joint military and police force in all three areas.

On 8 January, a tribal militia attacked and torched four villages in Murdadi area (south of Kass). Reportedly, 11 people were killed. Villagers, mostly women and children, fled 36 kilometres south of Kass. In Nyala, armed men entered the house of an Sudan Armed Forces officer on 12 January and killed his wife. On 11 January, a group of armed men stopped two buses in the suburbs of Nyala and looted the passengers.

In **West Darfur**, which has been consistently attacked by Arab militias, 25 families from the Twonga area (bordering with Chad) arrived in Hassa Hissa (Zalingei) on 16 January. An INGO stated that, among the displaced, around 64 people were diagnosed with leprosy.

Since the beginning of the New Year, about 700 families have arrived in Zalingei Hamadia IDP camp, fleeing harassment from the Abala Arab tribe in Abata (50 km Northeast of Zalingei). IDPs alleged that Government police did not do enough to protect them.

## Over 20 killed in N. Darfur, SAF attacked

On 8 and 9 January, fighting between the Mima and Zaghawa tribes in Bhar Umm Durman (North of Wada'a, Southeast of El Fasher, North Darfur) killed over 20 people, wounding 14.

On 8 January, a group of armed men reportedly attacked a Sudan Armed Forces military installation in Savanga village, Jebel Marra of West Darfur. The attackers are suspected to be members of the "Popular Forces Army" (a group that claims to be the armed wing of a new political and military movement established by members of Darfurian Arab groups).

## MIRAYA HIGHLIGHTS

### Also in the news this week:

Jan Eliason, UNSG's special envoy to Darfur.

Soltan Kowal Deng, chairman of the Abyei Development Committee on unrest in Abyei

News feature on rise in child diabetes cases. Sudan has the second highest recorded rate in the world

### United Nations Mirror

This week's 30-minute programme focused on Wau.

Interview: Captain Zaid Hammadna, UN military observer, explains the security situation in Wau town and the role of Milobs there. The programme also included reports on education and the challenges facing the hospital in the town.

### Darfur: The Road to Peace

The 15-minute programme highlighted the voluntary return of IDP's to their respective villages.

Interview with Mr. Munir Mohammed Khater, a Lawyer in El Fasher, North Darfur.

## Assessment and Evaluation Commission

Mr. Tayé-Brook Zerihoun met on 16 January with Tom Vraalsen, Chairperson of the Assessment and Evaluation Commission. They discussed the implementation status of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and exchanged views on ways and means to assist the parties in expediting the implementation of remaining commitments stipulated in the CPA.

## OIOS approaches Daily Telegraph on SEA allegations

To investigate allegations by the UK Daily Telegraph on sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) by UN personnel in Juba, South Sudan, the UN Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) sent a letter on 4 January to the newspaper, requesting all relevant information it might have to help the investigation. No response has been given so far by The Daily Telegraph. OIOS also contacted the two reporters who wrote the article and made the same request, but no reply has been received yet.

In response to the Government's queries on the subject, UNMIS requested Sudanese authorities to provide OIOS any relevant evidence they might have.

## Preventing sexual exploitation and abuse

UNMIS, UNICEF and AMIS participated in a one-day workshop on sexual abuse and exploitation organized by the Sudanese National Council for Child Welfare (NCCW). The workshop, held on 18 January in Khartoum, reviewed policies of the GoS, the UN and the AU Mission in Sudan, and discussed ways and means to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse, and strengthen existing instruments to ensure better protection for women and children.

It also agreed to establish a UN/Government of Sudan taskforce to address issues relating sexual abuse and exploitation by military personnel, including UN peacekeepers; review existing mechanisms for reporting and response and follow up on allegations of sexual abuse and exploitation.

## Special Envoy for the LRA arrives

Joaquim Chissano, the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Lord Resistance Army Affected Areas arrived 15 January in Juba. The aim is to expedite the negotiations' process to achieve a political settlement to ensure lasting peace in Uganda and neighboring countries affected by the LRA's activities, including Sudan.. Chissano met with First Vice President and President of the Government of Southern Sudan Salva Kiir and the Vice President of the GoSS and Facilitator of the talks between the Government of Uganda and the LRA. He is also scheduled to meet with the LRA negotiators, before meeting President Omar Al Bashir and senior officials of the Government of National Unity.

### WFP driver killed

*The World Food Programme has condemned the killing of its national staff when a vehicle belonging to the GTZ, a WFP implementing partner, was ambushed on 10 Jan. on the Juba-Torit road. A GTZ staff and two SPLA escorts were injured.*

### We are on-line:

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