



Assistant Secretary-General visits Darfur

UN Assistant Secretary-General Jane Hall Lute visited Nyala and El Fasher on 5 July. Speaking to staff at a town hall meeting in El Fasher, she said the hybrid mission would be separate from UNMIS and have a new name. Describing the mission as the “most expensive” ever, she said that it would be a new experiment, with the AU and UN working together under UN regulations. Earlier, she met with the Deputy Wali, who assured her of greater security in the coming days. She also had positive discussions with the Wali on acquisition of land for the hybrid mission.

AMIS/hybrid commander arrives in Khartoum

The new Force Commander of the African Union Mission in the Sudan (AMIS), Gen. Martin Luther Agwai, arrived in Khartoum from Addis Ababa on 2 July. Gen. Agwai, a Nigerian national, will serve first as Force Commander of AMIS and then as Force Commander for the AU-UN hybrid operation, once the latter is established.

UN Special Envoy for Darfur arrives in Sudan

UN Special Envoy Jan Eliasson arrived in Khartoum on 4 July for his fourth visit in a joint effort with AU Special Envoy Salim Ahmed Salim to re-energize the Darfur political process. Mr. Eliasson met with the AU-UN Joint Mediation Support Team to review preparatory work for the Tripoli meeting on 15 and 16 July as well as implementation of the first phase of the Joint AU-UN roadmap for Darfur -- Convergence of Initiatives and Consultations Phase.

Mr. Eliasson left Khartoum on 5 July for El Geneina, where he met with representatives of political parties, civil society and native administration involved in the Darfur-Darfur Dialogue and Consultation process, as well as representatives of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and local authorities.

DPKO appeals for troops, police, to staff hybrid operation

Jean-Marie Guéhenno, UN Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, appealed on 29 June for early contributions to the AU-UN hybrid operation in Darfur at a Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) meeting with troop and police contributing countries. He said offers from

HEARD on RADIO MIRAYA

On the President of Southern Sudan's decision to reshuffle his cabinet ...

“The concept of reshuffling means to bring in competent people with enough experience to do the task in the best manner possible. But the final outcome of this reshuffle indicates the opposite, because we have the same people only in different places.”

Peter Abdul Rahman El-Sule
Chairman, United Democratic Front Party
3 July

On the reconciliation agreement signed on 29 June between the Ugandan government and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) ...

“This agreement will bring stability and security to South Sudan, and trade will also flourish. Now that people will have no cause to fear the LRA, they will be able to move freely and go to their regions.”

Alfred Taban
Editor in-Chief, Khartoum Monitor
2 July

African countries would be given priority, but that contributions from outside the continent would be accepted if needed.

Describing the meeting as constructive, DPKO said it would hold informal discussions with potential contributors and schedule another meeting after the UN Security Council officially authorizes the hybrid operation and establishes its mandate.

UNMIS holds workshop on juvenile justice

UNMIS Rule of Law section organized a workshop in Khartoum on the administration of juvenile justice for 35 participants, mainly judges and prosecutors, on 26 and 27 June. The workshop reviewed international standards governing administration of justice for juveniles as well as Sudanese legislation and the experience of participants in the field.

UNHCR shows lower HIV rate in conflict

A new study of 12 refugee camps in seven African countries showed that nine actually had a lower prevalence of HIV than surrounding host communities, while two had similar rates and only one a higher prevalence. The study, carried out by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), challenges views that conflict, forced displacement and wide-scale rape have increased the prevalence of HIV in sub-Saharan Africa, and that refugees spread the infection in host communities.

A UNHCR team led by Dr. Paul Spiegel of the agency's Public Health and HIV Section studied population data in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Southern Sudan, Rwanda, Uganda, Sierra Leone, Somalia and Burundi. Dr. Spiegel said the study's results did not necessarily mean lower HIV rates in conflict than in non-conflict countries. Nor should the findings be interpreted to mean people should cease to worry about HIV or rape in conflict, he said.

UNMAO suspends operations due to rains

The UN Mine Action Office (UNMAO) has suspended its operations due to an early onset of the rainy season and to prepare for the coming wet season stand-down period (July to September). The agency reports that travel restrictions have continued to hamper its operations in Kassala, although its work plan has been approved by the Northern Mine Action Authority and Humanitarian Aid Commission, and all required travel procedures followed. Operational restrictions have also forced UNMAO to postpone many tasks planned in South Darfur.

UNMIS assists Bari-Mundari-Nyangwara

UNMIS Civil Affairs section in Juba has facilitated meetings between the Bari-Mundari-Nyangwara tribes over the past week to resolve long-standing differences. A taskforce was established to enhance and normalize community relationships in conflict areas, identify challenges in repatriating

On the first anniversary of Miraya FM, celebrated on 30 June with a concert in Juba and another in Khartoum...

"It's currently the only station which is being heard in Juba, Wau, Malakal, and Rumbek. And because of this it helps connect people from all these different parts.... Radio Miraya is the building block of upcoming media houses in South Sudan."

Luka Biong Deng
Minister of Presidential
Affairs, GoSS
30 June

"Radio Miraya has been, and will be in the future, a major training center for radio journalists in Southern Sudan."

Peter Shuman
Head of UNMIS in Juba
30 June

Mundari cattle camps and resettle displaced Bari communities.

Security and Humanitarian Developments

North Darfur

A UN agency-contracted 13 truck convoy carrying food was attacked on 26 June near Om (75 kilometres west of El Fasher) and two trucks were hijacked with their drivers.

Continuous insecurity in eastern Jebel Marra led to the displacement of 2,700 new IDPs to El Fasher in June. No food was distributed in northern Dar Zaghawa and Kutum for the month, leaving 165,000 conflict-affected people without food aid.

South Darfur

A group of 10 unknown armed men forcibly entered a house in Kalma IDP Camp on 2 July, killing a man and wounding several others, including a woman who died later. The attackers took 19 IDPs at gun point to another location within the camp and later released 17 of them.

Insecurity continues to displace thousands of IDPs to Al Salam camp and Um Dukhum. Al Salam camp, which had a population of 13,300 in March, now houses over 33,000 IDPs, with over 2,300 IDPs still to be verified.

West Darfur

A two-vehicle convoy of an INGO was carjacked with staff on board while on its way from Rigil Kubri to El Geneina on 2 July. The INGO staff members were later released in Kurti (seven kilometres northwest of El Geneina).

One child was killed and three injured on 27 June, when a grenade they were playing with exploded in Kereinding IDP camp, El Geneina.

In Um Dukhum, West Darfur, the World Food Programme (WFP) and an INGO have been distributing emergency food rations for two weeks to nearly 950 IDP families, who fled from militia harassment in Um Dafog. A large number of refugees/returnees are also moving there from Chad and the Central African Republic.

Some 304 IDP families reportedly arrived in Um Dukhum from South Darfur.

Southern Sudan and Transitional Areas

Five armed Lou-Nuer tribesmen reportedly attacked Mandieng village near Nassir, Upper Nile State on 27 June. Two Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) soldiers responded, killing two.

The Food and Agriculture Organization and partners completed 90% of seed and tool distribution in Southern Sudan over the past week. Of some 24,750 households targeted, 80% were returnees and 20% from the host communities.

The UN-monitored returnee barge from Kosti was expected to arrive in Bor, Jonglei State, on 6 July. Upon arrival, the returnees would receive a three-month food ration from the WFP. Transportation from Kosti to Bor as well as non-food items was being organized by the IOM.

MIRAYA HIGHLIGHTS

SPLA HIV Programme

Captain David Marle and Captain Festo Ladu discussing basic HIV/AIDS facts (3 July).

Education in South Sudan

John Agouk Maleth, Director of Education, Science and Technology at the Ministry of Education in the GoSS, and teachers from Western Equatoria State discussed the subject (2 July).

Miraya Anniversary

Celebrations with live music-mix from Juba University with various artists from Southern and North Sudan, listeners calling in congratulating and expressing opinions on Miraya's first anniversary and winning T-shirts (30 June).

UN Mirror

Happy Birthday Miraya FM

Interview with Gabriel Shadar, news editor at Miraya FM. The programme also included listeners' greetings and reactions to Miraya's programming.

Darfur: The Road to Peace

Bedria Abdul Rachman Yousif, Consultant to the Governor of West Darfur on women and children's issues, discusses the role of women in the peace process.