



## AU and UN Special Envoys conclude Sudan visit

The AU and UN special envoys for Darfur, Salim Ahmed Salim and Jan Eliasson, ended their first joint mission to Sudan by meeting President Omar Hassan Al Bashir on 17 January. The two briefed the President on their discussions in Sudan with senior government officials and Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) signatories and non-signatories. President Bashir reiterated his government's commitment to support dialogue with DPA non-signatories, and Sudan's keenness to improve relations with Chad. He also underlined his commitment to boost humanitarian work and cooperation with the UN and NGOs.

For pictures see: <http://www.unmis.org/english/pub-unmis/Npictures.htm>

## UNMIS meets with SWGU, observes FGM eradication day

UNMIS' Gender Unit met with the President of the Sudanese Women's General Union (SWGU) on 14 February to discuss how it could collaborate with the union in implementing a Security Council Resolution on women, peace and security. They agreed to organize a workshop in March to build up the Union's capacity.

The following day, UNMIS participated in the "International Day for the Eradication of Female Genital Mutilation" organized by the National Council for Child Welfare, Ministry of Social Welfare, Woman and Child (MOSW) in collaboration with UNICEF. Emphasizing that genital mutilation violates the rights of women and girls and harms their sexual and reproductive health, speakers called for its eradication through public awareness campaigns and community mobilization.

## LSP: UN civilian staff to be deployed soon

The sixth Tripartite Mechanism on the UN Light Support Package (LSP) to AMIS, which met at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 21 February, agreed to soon deploy UN civilian staff recruited for the LSP to Khartoum and Al Fasher. The list of staff will be provided to the government in due course.

The UN LSP to AMIS provides for the deployment of 105 Military Staff Officers, 33 Civilian Police Officers, and 48 civilian staff. To date, the UN has deployed 49 Military Staff Officers, 32 Civilian Police Officers and four civilian staff in Al Fasher and Khartoum. The seventh Tripartite Mechanism meeting will be held on 7 March at AMIS Headquarters in Khartoum.

## HEARD on RADIO MIRAYA:

*On corruption amongst political parties...*

"The SPLM (Sudan People's Liberation Movement) is the only political force that is talking about corruption. All the other political parties are putting a lid on it. This does not mean that there is no corruption amongst their ranks..... Corruption should be dealt with in a holistic manner...and people found to have embezzled public money should be expelled. ...There are people who are using the issue of corruption against the SPLM as a weapon to destroy the movement."

*On GoS disallowing the UN Human Rights Council team from visiting Darfur...*

"It was wrong to refuse entry to the UN Human Rights team. If the government has nothing to hide in Darfur, why did it refuse them entry. This issue deepens the distrust between the government and the international community, and gives Sudan a bad reputation."

**Pagan Amoum**

SPLM Secretary General (18 February)

## Sudan Humanitarian Overview is online

The Sudan Humanitarian Overview for January 2007, produced by UN-OCHA, indicates that an estimated 46,000 people were newly displaced throughout Darfur, as attacks on villages, sexual violence and intimidation continued to rise. Humanitarian access was compromised and key locations, such as Gereida (South Darfur) remained out of bounds for most agencies.

The report is available online at:

[http://unsudanig.org/mailman/listinfo/darfur\\_unsudanig.org](http://unsudanig.org/mailman/listinfo/darfur_unsudanig.org)

## Security and Humanitarian Developments in Darfur

*North Darfur was relatively calm but South and West Darfur continued to be rocked by sporadic violence, killings, hijackings and lootings, many of which were isolated incidents.*

### South Darfur

Between 70 to 100 tribesmen were killed in heavy fighting between Targem and Rezegat Maharia tribesmen 25 to 30 kilometres south of Kass. Hundreds of families fled to Kass, where 992 families -- about 3,352 individuals -- are receiving assistance.

As a result of renewed fighting last week between the local population and the Maharia tribal militia, 1,000 new Massalit Jebel IDPs arrived in Al Salam from Sanamanaga . In addition, about 300 Maaliya militia men On 19 February attacked Um Dai village, 27 kilometres north-northwest of Ad Deain. Unconfirmed reports say seven people died and four were injured.

Four government staff members (of Water, Environment and Sanitation-WES) who were abducted on 23 October 2006 in Sileah, southeast of Nyala, by suspected Sudan Liberation Army/Minni Minawi troops, were released on 19 February. A fifth WES staff member was killed after about 10 days of captivity.

### West Darfur

On 15 February, fighting erupted in Delebai village (17 kilometres southwest of Zalingei) between the Aballa and Targem Arab tribes. On 17 February, a UXO explosion killed two children and injured two others in Asunga village, 20 kilometres west of El Geneina.

Villagers from Arbeida and Masteri have abandoned their homes and sought refuge in IDP camps to escape frequent robberies and other harassment. About 10,000 Chadian refugees have crossed into Western Darfur in the past two weeks.

In Abou Souroug and Sliea, some 50 kilometres north of Al Geneina, there are reports of a heavy buildup of armed militia. In addition, a mobilization of suspected Janjaweed was reported on 19 February, in the vicinity of Um Shalaya area, 75 kilometres northeast of El Geneina.

## MIRAYA HIGHLIGHTS

### NEWS

#### Khartoum

*Opening of the trial of 19 people charged with murdering Al-Wifaq Editor Mohamed Taha Mohamed Ahmed.*

A Miraya journalist at the courtroom in Bahari reported security officials turned away media covering the proceedings. Mohamed Taha was kidnapped last September and later found beheaded. He was known for his controversial writings, particularly on Islamic issues and on Darfur. (21 Feb)

#### Juba

*Workshop on sexual exploitation and abuse held by UNMIS in partnership with the Government of Southern Sudan.*

Miraya reported speeches by GoSS Vice-President Dr Riek Machar and UNMIS Chief of Conduct and Discipline, Aster Zaoude. (20 Feb)

*On the official campaign against soldiers drinking in public places and other acts of indiscipline.*

SPLA Major-General Obuto Mamur told Miraya FM that such measures being taken are part of efforts to transform a former rebel movement into a regular army (19 February)

## Southern Sudan and Transitional Areas

### GoSS and UN establish Task Force on SEA

UNMIS, in collaboration with the Government of South Sudan (GoSS), UN Agencies, NGOs and local community leaders, organized a one-day workshop on sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) on 20 February in Juba. The workshop, attended by high-level GoSS officials, including Vice-President Riek Machar, and the Minister of Gender, Social Welfare and Religious Affairs, Mary Kiden, aimed to help prevent sexual exploitation and abuse and end impunity for SEA perpetrators.

The main outcome of the workshop was the establishment of a joint monitoring task force on SEA, comprising GoSS, UN, NGOs and local community groups. It was also agreed to launch a public campaign against SEA and raise awareness among UN personnel and local communities.

### Security and Humanitarian Developments

On 19 February, over 3,500 firearms were handed over in Rumbek at a disarmament ceremony organized by the Lakes State Government and attended by UNMIS. The weapons collected over a period of four months were mainly assault rifles (AK-47), along with a few sub-machine guns and rocket launchers.

Unconfirmed reports indicated that two to four students were killed and some 20 injured in Kadugli when police used tear gas and fired in the air to control a students' demonstration.

SSDF members (a former OAG affiliated to SAF) left Phom El-Zeraf and Tonga for Malakal in two barges on 19 February. In keeping with plans, they will ultimately go to the North.

UNICEF achieved 95% coverage of vaccination for meningitis in Kajo Keji county, Central Equatoria. The Mass Measles Campaign for Malakal was completed, and 36,592 women of child bearing age (WCBA) were vaccinated against tetanus.

#### RETURNS

Three assisted convoys to Southern Kordofan have so far carried 425 returnees.

The first convoy for Unity State left Khartoum on 17 February with 522 IDPs. Returns to Abyei brought some 634 people from Khartoum.

Since 23 January, UNHCR organized the return of 915 IDPs to Blue Nile.

#### LIVE DEBATES, GUESTS AND PHONE-INS

Malaria: Preventions and cure. Dr Otown Thabo Ojawal (19 February).  
Crime in Southern Sudan and how to fight it. Brigadier Jackson Elias, Central Equatoria State Police (20 Feb).

#### UN MIRROR

Franka Amoya, UNICEF Child Protection Officer in Malakal, highlights the agency's work with former child soldiers. The programme also features treating of children who have been sexually abused, and what the government and UNICEF are doing for children with HIV/AIDS.

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