



UN Human Rights office releases report on Darfur

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, released on 7 March a 31-page report of the High-Level Mission to assess the human rights situation in Darfur. The High-Level Mission, which was unable to visit Sudan, carried out its work from 5 February 2007 to 5 March 2007 in Geneva, Addis Ababa, N'Djamena, Abeche and the refugee camps of Eastern Chad. They met hundreds of people, reviewed thousands of pages of documents, assessing the human rights situation and corresponding needs, and prepared its report to the Human Rights Council. The Mission proceeded to an assessment of the human rights situation in Darfur, noting the complex historical, economic, political, and other causes of the conflict.

Full report available at: www.ohchr.org

Special Envoy for Darfur to visit Eritrea

The UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Darfur, Jan Eliasson, will be visiting Eritrea on 22-23 March on a personal invitation from the President, Isayas Afewerki. The purpose of the visit is to discuss how to best coordinate Eritrean mediation efforts with those of the African Union and the United Nations, and to reenergize the Darfur political process. Following the visit, Jan Eliasson will undertake a second joint mission to Sudan before the end of the month, along with the African Union Envoy for Darfur, Salim Ahmed Salim.

Meet to improve delivery of humanitarian assistance

The Director of the National Intelligence and Security Service of Sudan, called a meeting on 12 March to address challenges faced by humanitarian organizations in carrying out their activities in Sudan, particularly Darfur. The aim was to find ways how the Government of Sudan and NGOs could cooperate better on the ground to improve delivery of humanitarian assistance

The meeting, held in Khartoum, was attended by the UNMIS Acting SRSG in Sudan Tayé-Brook Zerihoun, the Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator, and the

HEARD on RADIO MIRAYA:

On President Bashir's letter concerning UN support for the African Union in Darfur.

"The first and second phases of the support packages have been agreed upon in full. The main problem with the third phase was reaching an agreement over the force numbers....It is up to the committee to be formed from the three sides to agree on the force numbers.... Whatever this committee decides will be accepted by Sudan..... The force commander will be African."

Ambassador Ali al-Sadeq

Spokesperson, Sudanese Foreign ministry (14 March)

At a conference in Dilling attended by 280 tribal and clan leaders from South Kordofan.

"When the National Governments ruled Sudan after the departure of the colonial powers, they interfered in the affairs of the civil administration and embarked on strengthening some tribes and empowering them vis-à-vis the others. This led to the weakening of the traditional balance between those tribes. Also the civil war had a negative impact on the influence of the traditional leaders, and

UNMIS Chief Security Adviser. Speaking at the meeting, Mr. Zerihoun hoped that the meeting would help to improve the situation on the ground.

Some 50 national and international NGOs attending the meeting were assured that Government agencies would work to ensure a better working environment in Darfur. All government departments assisting humanitarian organizations were also present.

It was agreed that quarterly meetings would be held to follow up specific issues facing the humanitarian community.

Darfur Humanitarian Profile released

The quarterly report, covering the period up to 1 January 2007, says large numbers of people continued to flee their villages, taking the number of displaced to over 2 million. Meanwhile, access restrictions, bureaucracy and targeted violence, continued to impede humanitarian operations. On 1 January 2007, access for UN agencies in Darfur dropped to 64%. Some 20% of affected people could not be reached by any humanitarian agency due to insecurity. An average of 2.45 million people, 70% of the conflict-affected population, remained food insecure. In the last quarter of 2006, 50 humanitarian vehicles were hijacked and 17 convoys ambushed and looted by various factions of the rebel movements.

On the positive side, over 13,200 aid workers have generally been able to support the civilian population. Mortality and malnutrition hovered below crisis level, and outbreaks of diseases were swiftly brought under control. Achievements in 2006 include zero cases of polio throughout Sudan, a reduction in malaria, and an increased enrolment among primary schools in Darfur.

Full report available at: www.unsudanig.org

UNMIS man honoured on Women's Day

The North Darfur State government and women's groups awarded El Fasher based UNMIS Human Rights Officer, Sadiq Syed, for his contribution in the area of women's rights and empowerment. He is the first man, and first non-Sudanese, to have been conferred with the award.

The award, a certificate of honour, was given at an official ceremony on 08 March, in El Fasher, to mark International Women's Day. The award is an annual event where 10 persons are honoured on 'International Women's Day' for their contribution towards women's empowerment.

consequently, their legitimacy and power over their people weakened."

Dr. Francis M. Deng

Former Representative of the UN Secretary General for IDPs (12 March)

MIRAYA HIGHLIGHTS

DEBATES, GUESTS AND PHONE-INS

Security in Southern Sudan: UNMIS Force Commander Lt. Gen. J.S Lidder, SAF Brig-Gen. Hussein Ali Kabal and SPLA Brigadier Mak Paul discussed current security issues, redeployment of troops, slow progress on disarmament and the recent insecurity in Southern Central Equatoria. (13/03)

Government spending: Dr. Jimmy Wongo, Chairman of GoSS Public Accounts Committee. (12/03)

Children's vaccination in Blue Nile State: Interview with Dr. Ahmed Mohamed Alehimir, MoH (13/03)

CHOLERA PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGES

Appeals were broadcast throughout the week in Juba, asking people to use a special cholera ward at the Usratuna compound. It had the desired effect of reducing pressure on the Juba Teaching Hospital, MSF Spain reported.

Southern Sudan DDR Commission holds planning workshop

The South Sudan DDR Commission today completed a three-day workshop from 12-14 March in Juba, in collaboration with UNDDR. The aim of the workshop was to review existing DDR (disarmament, demobilization and reintegration) plans for both SPLA and SAF members, and to prepare for the next stage.

Inaugurating the workshop, GoSS Vice President, Dr. Riek Machar, described the DDR process as the “spinal cord of the CPA”. Emphasizing that DDR was a Sudanese-owned process, he said that national institutions have been established to implement the process. DSRSG, Manuel Aranda Da Silva, and UNMIS Force Commander, Lt-General Jasbir Singh Lidder, also attended the workshop, beside GoSS authorities, senior SPLA commanders, donors and UN Agencies.

Security and Humanitarian Developments in Darfur

North Darfur

Tension prevailed in El Fasher where a man was shot dead and another wounded, by a group of Arab militia north of El Fasher. While there have been reports of several similar killings in El Fasher in the last week, only four have been confirmed.

South Darfur

Ten people were killed and 14 injured when SLA (MM) soldiers, in a convoy of 18 vehicles, attacked Al Mutturwed village, 55 kms NE of Ed Daein. They targeted Maalia tribesmen who had recently resettled in the village after they had abandoned it last November.

Two incidents of carjacking took place near Ed Deain some 100 kilometers SE of Nyala on 12 March. The incidents occurred in 10 minutes of one another and involved a GoS military vehicle and another belonging to National Security.

On the same day, two INGO vehicles were robbed by six armed men, 5 kms South of Khor Abeche, 78 Kms NE of Nyala.

A UN-INGO convoy to Marla/Kalahit villages was stopped at gunpoint by three armed men who relieved the two INGO staff members in the lead car of all valuables.

UN MIRROR

Health in Sudan

Dr. Hussein al Gezairy, WHO Regional Director, visiting Sudan, gave his assessment of the country's public health situation.

Also reports on TB and healthcare for pregnant women.

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www.unmis.org