



Secretary-General recommends troops for Chad and CAR

UN Secretary-General's Ban Ki-moon's report on Chad and the Central African Republic (CAR) presented two options for finalizing the size, structure and mandate of a multidimensional presence in those two countries. The first would be a UN presence of 6,000 troops depending heavily on aviation, while the second would comprise a 10,900 strong force, mostly infantry.

Both options would also include some 260 UN police overseeing approximately 800 Chadian gendarmes and police seconded to the UN. The UN force would focus on protecting civilians at risk, particularly IDPs and refugees, and deterring cross-border attacks.

The report is available online at:

<http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=s/2007/97>

Secretary-General urges Darfur ceasefire, dialogue

In his recent report on Darfur, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon reiterated the urgent need for a ceasefire, calling for "dialogue and negotiation" from all sides. Strongly urging the Government of Sudan and other parties to desist from further hostilities, he appealed for more international assistance to AMIS as well as the UN's support packages to the AU.

Mr. Ban also reported on his discussions with Sudanese President Omar Al Bashir at the AU Summit in Addis Ababa, noting their views "clearly differed" on the security situation in Darfur. The Government of Sudan has not yet confirmed its readiness to implement both the UN heavy support package to AMIS and the hybrid AU-UN operation.

Acting SRSG highlights CPA achievements

Acting Special Representative of the Secretary-General (ASRSG) Tayé-Brook Zerihoun and UNMIS Force Commander Lt. Gen. Jasbir Lidder held a press conference on 28 February focusing on implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) as well as UNMIS' mandate, UN activities supporting AMIS, and joint UN-AU efforts to re-energize the Darfur political process.

The ASRSG highlighted recent achievements in implementing the CPA,

HEARD on RADIO MIRAYA

On the International Criminal Court naming war crime suspects in Darfur...

"The Sudanese government did not take any measures to contain the situation in Darfur...The Sudanese legal system is politicized and unable and unwilling to question the officials who were allegedly responsible for these awful acts."

Abdel Nabi

Ummah Party (28 Feb)

"The laws protecting those in power by granting them immunity are still in place..... That is why the International Criminal Court has stepped in now to achieve the justice we have lost in this country."

Bashi Adam Rahma

Popular National Congress Party (28 Feb)

On future dealings between UNMIS and Ahmed Haroun, who was indicted by the ICC...

"If the objective is to advance peace, we might meet with them (ICC suspects)."

Taye-Brook Zerihoun,

Acting SRSG for Sudan (28 Feb)

including the launch of Sudan's new currency on 9 January and approval of the National Civil Service Act, the Civil Service Commission Act and the 2007 budgets at the national and Southern Sudan levels. He noted that legislation was still needed to support the National Security Act and the Police Act as well as the Human Rights, Land and Electoral Commissions.

The ASRSG and the Force Commander agreed that there were difficulties in keeping CPA Security Arrangements on track, including integration of Other Armed Groups, formation of Joint Integrated Units, progress in Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration and redeployment of the Sudan Armed Forces out of Southern Sudan.

The full transcript of the press conference is available at: www.unmis.org

Deputy SRSG addresses humanitarian issues in Jabal Marra

DSRSG for Sudan and UN Resident Humanitarian Coordinator Manuel Aranda da Silva visited on 25 February the Deribat and Rowatta areas of Jabal Marra, North Darfur. Accompanied by representatives from UNICEF, the WFP and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, he met with rebel field commanders in the two areas. Discussions focused on health services, children's education, drinking water and health facilities.

Mr. Aranda da Silva pointed to increasing insecurity faced by humanitarian workers and the strain this was placing on their operations. Emphasizing that the responsibility for security lay with those controlling concerned areas, he called on field commanders to ensure the safety of humanitarian operations.

Arab Human Development Report 2005 launched

Sudan's Minister of Education, Hamed Mohammed Ibrahim, launched on 1 March the UNDP "Arab Human Development Report 2005: Towards the Rise of Women in the Arab World". This year's report is dedicated to Arab women and assesses their advancement in Arab countries. It calls for the adoption of time-bound affirmative action to expand the participation of women in all fields.

WFP disposes of food aid in Nyala

In Nyala, the World Food Programme (WFP) began disposing of 365 metric tons of mixed food commodities that were damaged during transportation from Port Sudan, and considered unfit for human consumption. The disposal, which is part of normal operations, was planned in advance with the full participation of representatives from the WFP, the Ministry of Health, the Humanitarian Aid Commission, the Environmental Department and the Police.

On UNMIS' role in stabilizing Southern Sudan...

"Our structures are very proactive in pre-empting violence... in Wau, Yambio, Rumbek and Juba. Our military observers and force protection are operating in areas which were totally inaccessible until now. We are also assisting the government in the civilian disarmament campaigns that are going on."

Lt. General Jasbir Lidder
UNMIS Force Commander
(28 Feb)

MIRAYA HIGHLIGHTS

NEWS

International Criminal Court

Live broadcast of ICC Chief Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo's press conference in The Hague announcing war crimes charges against Ahmed Haroun, Minister of State for Humanitarian Affairs, and Ali Kushayb, an alleged Janjaweed militia leader (27 Feb).

DEBATES, GUESTS, PHONE-INS

Sexual exploitation and abuse: Aster Zaoude, Chief, UNMIS Conduct and Discipline Unit (22 & 23 February)
Water, sanitation and hygiene: Joseph Aligo, Rose Buko, Central Equatoria Legislative Assembly parliamentarians (23 Feb)
Maternity health: Dr. Joy Thilophilus, UN Population Fund (26 February)
Adult education for women: Victor Muburuku, Amadi Rural Development (27 February)

Locusts may infest Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, FAO warns

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reported an increase in locusts along the northern coast of Eritrea and adjacent coastal areas of Sudan. FAO warned that other Red Sea and Gulf of Aden countries could be infested by the crop-devouring insects this winter due to good rains and favourable ecological conditions. FAO reported small-scale locust breeding in coastal areas of Saudi Arabia and Yemen, and concentrations on the northwest coast of Somalia.

For more information:

<http://www.fao.org/newsroom/en/news/2007/1000503/index.html>

UN Mine Office clears over 10,000 square kms

The UN Mine Action Office (UNMAO) in Sudan reported the clearance of 602 out of 1,696 dangerous areas as well as the destruction of 1,150 anti-tank mines, 2,581 anti-personnel mines, 318,245 Unexploded Ordnances (UXO), 225,672 small arms ammunition, and provision of 980,211 Mine Risk Education (MRE) kits. UNMAO reported receiving \$55 million in contributions and pledges against the 2006 funding requirement of \$81 million. UNMAO's 2007 Work Plan for Sudan, budgeted at \$56.1 million, will mainly focus on expanding mines/UXOs clearance operations and the MRE programme. Development of institutions such as the National Mine Action Authority (NMAA) and the Southern Sudan De-mining Authority (SSDA) will also be undertaken.

Security and Humanitarian Developments in Darfur

South Darfur

About 5,500 new Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) arrived in Kass after fleeing tribal conflict between the Tarjam and Mahariya tribes. Some 104 families that arrived at El Sereif camp in January as a result of fighting between the Rizeigat and Tarjam tribes in the Balabel and south Kass areas have set up their own shelters. Spontaneous returns of 838 households (3,712 individuals) were reported from Yassin, Gereida and Assalaya to their area of origin, Esheraya (30 kilometres southeast of Yassin).

Reconciliation was reached between the Tarjum and Rezeigat tribes on 24 February following local government intervention. Several people were killed and injured on 25 February when fighting broke out between the Aballa and Targem tribes in the Jabal Cargo and Kass locality.

UN MIRROR

Special Report from El Obeid

Joseph Amazon, UNMIS logistics assistant, explains the UN Mission's contribution in reviving the local economy. Dr Nagm El Deen Ahmed, at the Mission clinic, describes how medical facilities are helping not only UNMIS staff but also local people in emergencies.

Two feature reports were presented, one on the role of NGOs in helping villagers, and the other on the health situation of returnees in transit camps.

West Darfur

Several hijacking incidents occurred in and around El Geneina. Some 50 new IDP families arrived in Hamadiya camp (Zalingei) from Saraf Omra (North Darfur).

Southern Sudan and Transitional Areas

Security and Humanitarian Developments

Following reports of increased raids by the Murle tribe in Jonglei State, UNMIS visited Pieri area in Wuror County last week. Locals called for an enhanced SPLA presence in the affected areas.

On 26 February, suspected LRA elements looted food and livestock from villages in Magwi County. On the same day, suspected LRA members allegedly killed three people and looted food in Parjok village (39 kilometres south of Magwi).

On 29 February, restriction of UN movement to the north of Abyei imposed by the SAF was discussed at an Area Joint Military Committee meeting. SPLM has again announced its own restriction of movement south of Abyei. Both parties agreed to refer the matter to the Ceasefire Joint Military Committee on 4 March.

Return Operations continue

A total of 2,214 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) have left Khartoum since organized returns began on 3 February. Eight convoys carried 1,052 IDPs to Southern Kordofan, while three others took 1,162 to Unity State. As of 18 February, some 1,322 IDPs had returned from other Sudanese states to Southern Sudan and the Transitional Areas.

We are on-line:

www.unmis.org