



Secretary-General welcomes agreement between parties to CPA

In a statement issued on 13 December by his Spokesperson, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon welcomed the announcement by the parties to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) that recent discussions have resulted in an agreement on a number of key outstanding issues, with the exception of Abyei. The parties also affirmed that the agreement will pave the way for the return of ministers of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement to the Government of National Unity.

The Secretary-General commended both parties for their commitment to preserve the integrity of the CPA through dialogue and partnership, and looks forward to early implementation of the decisions reached by the two sides. He hoped the Presidency would expedite a resolution to the Abyei issue.

SRSG Qazi highlights progress in CPA implementation and challenges

On 17 December, in his first press conference since assuming office, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) in Sudan Ashraf Qazi highlighted the progress made by the two CPA parties in overcoming the political impasse, following the SPLM's 11 October decision to cease participation in the Government of National Unity. A series of meetings between President Omar Al Bashir and First-Vice President and President of the Government of Southern Sudan Salva Kiir Mayardit, contributed to the progress made he said.

The SRSG also indicated some positive movement with respect to the redeployment of forces North and South of line 1.1. 1956 and hoped demarcation of the Line would begin early next year. He also noted that preparations were underway for the national census, a prerequisite for the holding elections before July 2009. He also noted that Presidency was now addressing the important issue of Abyei in a bid to resolve it by the end of this year.

SRSG Qazi admitted that there are still challenges ahead that need to be overcome. He indicated that the leadership of both parties had demonstrated their determination, willingness, and ability to deal and overcome these challenges. "This is very hopeful sign which encourages us in our own mission", he said.

HEARD on RADIO MIRAYA

On the NCP and SPLM reaching an agreement to resolve their differences....

"The political crisis has been resolved - which sprung from the implementations of the agreement, what remains are administrative and technical procedures."

Yasir Arman
SPLM spokesman
13 December

"December 31st is the deadline, [to allow the Presidency] to solve the issue of Abyei...The deadline [was] given to the Presidency, so the two parties would by then implement the Abyei protocol, or at least agree on how to resolve their differences."

Al-Dirdiri Mohammed Ahmed
NCP Spokesman
13 December

On the UN Human Rights Council dissolving the panel of experts charged with monitoring rights abuses in Darfur...

"This is a victory for Sudan. ...We were able to convince all these experts of the accuracy of our stand in regards of human rights and all the unfounded allegations.... Another issue remains now, to end Sima Samar's [mandate]."

Special Rapporteur's mandate in Sudan extended

The Human Rights Council concluded its sixth session on 14 December after adopting six resolutions, including one extending the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Sudan for one year. Another resolution terminated the mandate of the Group of Experts on Darfur.

The Council urged the Government of Sudan to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur and to respond favourably to her requests to visit Sudan, and to provide her with all necessary information to enable her fulfill her mandate. It requested the Special Rapporteur to assess the needs of Sudan in the context of her mandate and to mobilize the necessary international technical and financial support for Sudan in the field of human rights, and invited relevant United Nations bodies and agencies to continue providing support and technical assistance to Sudan in the field of human rights. The Council also requested the Special Rapporteur to submit her outstanding annual report to the Council at its seventh session in March 2008 and the next report to the Council at its ninth session in September 2008.

UNMIS mourns fallen colleagues in Algiers

United Nations staff all over the world observed a minute's silence on 18 November in tribute to 17 staff members, mostly Algerians, who were killed in a devastating attack on 11 December in Algiers.

In Khartoum, led by Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sudan, Ashraf Qazi, UNMIS staff assembled at mission headquarters under the UN flag in a show of solidarity with colleagues worldwide to mourn the victims of the explosion.

Condemning the attack, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said earlier, "I stand with the people of Algeria and the wider region in the face of the scourge of terrorism."

Offices of United Nations Development Programme, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Labour Organisation were razed in the attacks, which also destroyed a government building. The death toll was 37.

Special Representative Adada Meets North Darfur Governor

AU-UN Joint Special Representative for Darfur and AMIS Head of Mission Rodolphe Adada met the Wali of North Darfur on 16 December to discuss security issues related the UN-AU Mission in Darfur (UNAMID). The meeting was held in the wake of the attack by four unidentified armed men on AMIS Military Chief of Staff on 14 December near the AMIS camp in Al Fasher. The Chief of Staff survived the attack but the attackers hijacked the vehicle and injured

Mohammed Ali Mardi
Justice Minister
15 December

On allocating funds for border demarcation..

"They have gathered the necessary maps and they categorized them into four groups, coming from different sources; from UK, from Egypt, from Sudan."

Gabriel Changson Chang
Minister of Information and Broadcasting, GoSS
19 December

On the NCP approving the 2008 budget, and the 3% increase in VAT using its majority granted by the CPA...

"Even if the opposition powers came together, the other power such as the SPLM cannot cancel the budget in the face of the NCP. Therefore, we always resort to continue our [efforts] in the street."

Suleiman Hamid
Member, Democratic Alliance, National Assembly
17 December

the driver. Government police forces later recovered the vehicle and handed it over to AMIS.

JSR Adada discussed with the Wali necessary measures to be put in place to avoid such incidents in the future, when UNAMID deploys by the end of December. The Wali expressed readiness of the authorities of North Darfur State to cooperate with UNAMID and provide necessary assistance.

UNMIS Pakistani Contingent provides free medicare

Some 1,720 patients were treated on 13 December at a free medical camp organized by UNMIS Pakistani Contingent in Abu Hashim town, where public health facilities are desperately lacking. The town has a population of nearly 5,000 and has no hospital and practically no medical services.

The one-day clinic was set up at Ezza Primary School, with twelve outpatient departments. A total of 316 men, 651 women, and 753 children were treated at the Camp. The most common diseases in Abu Hashim are anemia, malaria, worm infestations, according to the Commanding Officer of the Pakistani Hospital. Patients were also treated for other ailments like upper respiratory tract infections, weakness, backache, urinary tract infections and skin diseases. A blood group classification was also carried out.

The Pakistani Contingent has organized sixteen medical camps in Blue Nile State since October 2005, primarily focused on areas where medical services are lacking.

Security and Humanitarian developments

North Darfur

Four armed bandits ambushed the vehicle of AMIS Military Chief of Staff in El Fasher on 14 December. The gunmen shot at the driver who sustained wounds, the military COS escaped unhurt with personal effects robbed. The vehicle was later found abandoned at Abushok.

West Darfur

Three armed bandits entered an INGO compound in Kebkabiya (140 km W of El Fasher), and carjacked one Land Rover vehicle 13 December.

On 14 December, an unknown armed group hijacked two vehicles belonging to an INGO, between Garsila and Bela (67 km SW of Zalingie). The perpetrators also abducted the driver.

On 14 December, fighting between JEM and SLA forces and SAF was reported in El-Geneina-Kulbus road around Sirba, 65km north of El-Geneina. Reportedly three civilians were injured and 18 houses burned during the attack. The fighting extended into 15 December. ENDS

MIRAYA HIGHLIGHTS

LIVE debates & CALL-INS

Public safety and traffic

Maj. Gen. Mashar Akau Mashar, Spokesperson, SSPS, and Birol Musli, UNPOL

Role of Women in Parliament

Dr. Ghada, Chairman Committee on Culture and Information- Central Equatorial State.

Youth and education, youth and employment

Moses Opio- Youth activist.

Role of women in census

Margret Labanya, Director of Finance and Administration in GoSS.

Livestock pricing and products

Noel Lomode & John Nemensiu Inspectors livestock and marketing unit, Ministry of Animal resources and Fisheries.

Interviews

GoSS President Salva Kiir on Anti Corruption.

Traffic lessons for Children.

Report on International Human Rights Day.

Sexual Exploitation workshop by CDU/ UNMS.

UN Mirror

Suad Abdel Rahman Abdallah Iraqi of the UNDP Project Against Female Circumcision in Sudan.

National strategy for water in Sudan, and profile of a traditional healer.

DARFUR: Road to Peace

Profiles of nomadic schools in south Darfur and the changes they have been forced to make as a result of the conflict in the region.