



Secretary-General calls for quick action on Darfur

At a press conference on 16 July in New York, UN Secretary-General (SG) Ban Ki-moon called for speedy deployment of peacekeepers to Darfur, and accelerating the political process. Noting that the Security Council was considering a draft resolution on the proposed hybrid operation, and that it had requested Member States to finalize their contributions within 90 days, he commented, "I think this is fast. But the political situation on the ground is too fragile to waste more time."

The SG said that work should start immediately in preparing the ground for peacekeepers to arrive in Darfur. He noted that China will soon be sending a contingent of military engineers to Darfur to commence communications and logistical work. Optimistic about peacekeepers deploying by October, the SG vowed to step up the political negotiations involving all parties. "The goal is to get them around a table by early September," he said, cautioning that a political accord must be followed by development programmes.

The SG also indicated that he would honour an invitation to visit Sudan soon, the timing of which would depend on when it is most appropriate in terms of consolidating the gains made so far.

On a new SRSG for UNMIS, the SG stated that he will soon announce "a very distinguished person".

Darfur Envoy prepares Arusha meeting

UNSG Special Envoy Jan Eliasson arrived in Khartoum on 16 July following the two-day Tripoli meeting on Darfur. The Tripoli meeting concluded with the adoption of a Communiqué reconfirming the AU-UN lead of the political process in partnership with regional actors. The meeting also marked the conclusion of the first phase of the joint AU-UN Roadmap for the Darfur political process (convergence of initiatives) and launched the second, pre-negotiations phase. In this regard it endorsed the proposal to convene a meeting in Arusha, Tanzania, from 3 to 5 August, with the non signatory movements to facilitate preparations for negotiations.

Mr. Eliasson's visit to Sudan aims at speeding up implementation of the second phase of the Roadmap, including finalization of arrangements for the Arusha meeting. His visit also included a series of meetings with Senior Government officials in Khartoum; representatives of IDPs and civil society groups, UN Agencies and INGOs, as well as the local authorities in Nyala on 18 July. On 19 July, Mr. Eliasson met in Khartoum with the diplomatic

HEARD on RADIO MIRAYA

On SAF maintaining its forces in the oil fields in South Sudan's Upper Nile and Unity States even after the 9 July deadline

"I hope this will be resolved by the Ceasefire Political Commission. The re-deployment does not require any condition. According to the CPA the oil fields should be protected by the JIUs because it represents both parties."

Brig.Gen.Mac Paul
SPLA representative
to the CJMC,
18 July

"The re-deployment of the SAF forces will continue strategically according to the CPA. A plan is underway how to protect these oil fields."

Mohamed Ali Ahmed
SAF liaison officer in Juba
18 July

On the failed coup attempt by Umma party-Reform and Renewal wing leader, Mubarak Al-Fadil

"I'm glad the attempt was contained. We call on all the Sudanese, regardless of their political color, to stand firm behind the CPA, because its main objective is Sudan's unity."

community and UN agencies operating in Sudan. Speaking at a press conference Mr. Eliasson said that the political negotiations would bring about cessation of hostilities. He also said that the negotiations would take into account the views and demands of all Darfurians, particularly those who are displaced.

ASRSG meets UK State Secretary for International Development

Acting Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sudan, Tayé-Brook Zerihoun met with visiting UK Secretary of State for International Development, Douglas Alexander on 19 July. ASRSG Zerihoun briefed the Secretary of State on progress made on CPA implementation and highlighted priority commitments and timelines to be met by the parties. While acknowledging that the focus on Darfur was well justified, he emphasized the importance of the CPA as the bedrock for sustainable peace in Sudan. They were later joined by the UN Special Envoy for Darfur, Jan Eliasson, who briefed them on developments in the political process and the expectations for the pre-negotiations phase of the AU-UN Joint Roadmap to begin in Arusha, Tanzania from 3-5 August. They also discussed progress towards the hybrid operation.

S C discusses June mission recommendations

The UN Security Council on 16 July discussed the recommendations of its mission to Africa conducted from 14 to 21 June, which included Sudan. *These recommendations are contained in document S/2007/421 and corr.1 available at: <http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/missionreports.html>*

The leaders of the Security Council mission to the Sudan, the Ambassadors of South Africa and the United Kingdom, stressed that the Council should work quickly to approve the deployment of the UN-AU hybrid operation.

For more details:

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs//2007/sc9079.doc.htm>

Workshop on the Protocol to the African Charter

UNMIS Human Rights sponsored a workshop on the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights and on the Rights of Women in Africa. Held in Khartoum on 17 July, the workshop was organized by the Advisory Council for Human Rights (ACHR) and Sudanese Women General Union. Around 100 Sudanese women activists, parliamentarians and government officials attending the workshop urged the GNU to ratify the Protocol (adopted by the 2nd Ordinary session of the Assembly of African Union, in Maputo, South Africa in 2003) without any reservation, to protect and promote the rights of women in Sudan. Government representatives indicated that the GNU would soon ratify the Protocol, as Sudan is a State party to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights.

James Wani Igga
Speaker, Southern
Legislative Assembly,
and SPLM senior member
18 July

"We advocate legal and constitutional methods... According to the new constitutional system, the National Security has no right to make arrests; it is the job of the police and the judicial bodies."

Noman Hasan Jumaa
Umma Party-Reform and
Renewal wing
Spokesperson
16 July

On the Federal Ministry of Health's warning of a deficit in this year's anti-malaria budget and the recent floods across 12 states

"Our budget was set to deal with four million malaria cases a year, but we are now dealing with an abnormal situation where the number of infections could rise up to eight or even 16 million."

Dr. Al Fateh Malek
Head, Emergency Unit,
Ministry of Health
15 July

Police presence in Bir Dagig

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) reported marked deterioration in Bir Dagig village, 30 kilometres north of El Geneina in West Darfur. The problem was sparked by accusations from a neighbouring Arab community that the villagers had stolen their livestock – a charge the residents of Bir Dagig denied. A number of human rights abuses were said to have been committed in the village, mostly by armed men in military uniform, since 1 July. But abuses, particularly against women and girls, were occurring since January 2007. The Government has pledged to the UN that it would open investigations into both the livestock theft and the human rights abuses, and would deploy a permanent police presence in Bir Dagig.

Security and Humanitarian Developments

North Darfur: The Deputy Humanitarian Affairs Commissioner in El Fasher was shot and killed by an armed man during a carjacking incident on 16 July inside the HAC compound.

The suspect has been reportedly arrested.

Chadian authorities recovered last week an INGO vehicle carjacked on 14 May 2007 in the Khazan Tungur area (60 km SW of El Fasher).

South Darfur: 15 July Two INGO vehicles on their way to Ed Daein (140 km South-east of Nyala) were carjacked at gunpoint.

West Darfur: Two armed men broke into an INGO guesthouse in Nertiti (62 km East of Zalingei) and took at gunpoint 29,200 Sudanese pounds from the staff.

Five people died in Sirba (40 km N of Geneina) on 11-12 July during shooting between Arab militia and a local defense force, alleged JEM supporters.

In the evening of 13 July, a group of people, reportedly from the Central Reserve Police attacked Sirba market and looted a shop and restaurants.

Southern Sudan and Transitional areas

Last week, UNHCR assisted the return of 157 Sudanese refugees to Southern Sudan - 62 from the Kakuma in Kenya, 72 from Uganda and 23 from Ethiopia.

The reproductive health coordination forum comprising the Ministry of Health, UN agencies and NGOs, held a meeting on 13 July in Juba to finalize a five year plan to reduce maternal mortality in Southern Sudan.

WHO and MoH confirmed a cholera outbreak in Wau, Western Bahr El Ghazal. WHO/MoH and OCHA have airlifted supplies to Western Bahr El Ghazal to contain the outbreak. So far 90 cases and 10 deaths have been reported.

The FAO-led global seeds and tools distribution campaign to returnees and host communities has been concluded in all States. A total of 113,463 families received agricultural inputs.

MIRAYA HIGHLIGHTS

Public safety, traffic rules

Lt. David Okweir Aakway, General Inspector in South Sudan Police Service, and Brig. Joseph Ladu Lagu, Deputy Director in Central Equatoria State discuss 17/7.

Diaspora's role in elections, referendum

John Ukec Lueth Ukec, Sudan's Ambassador to Washington D.C discusses (13 July).

Interviews & features

Demolition exercise at Customs market and the handover ceremony of Malakal garrison (16 July).

Arrival of the first batch of IDPs repatriated by air from Khartoum to Juba (13 July).

Rebecca Garang, on the need for improving Juba Airport, her functions at the Ministry of Transport, and the death of her husband, John Garang (12 July).

UN Mirror

River Nile State

Achievements in rebuilding the state's infrastructure. Aicha Elbasri, communication officer UNDP, talks about UNDP support to the projects.

Darfur: The Road to Peace Local Administration

This episode looks at traditional, inter-tribal participation in local councils.