



THE WEEK In Focus

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE UNMIS NEWS BULLETIN AND RADIO MIRAYA 6 -12 Apr 2007

Another AMIS soldier killed

On the heels of the killing of five Senegalese AMIS peace keepers, unidentified armed men attacked on 10 April an AMIS patrol team at Kube Water Point, near Sortony, in North Darfur, killing one AMIS Protection Force soldier and seriously injuring two others. The attackers also took an AMIS vehicle. Investigation of the incident is ongoing.

AU-UN consult GoS on the Heavy Support Package

A high-level technical meeting in Addis Ababa discussed the UN's Heavy Support Package (HSP) for the AU in Darfur, and observations by the Government of Sudan. However, while the 9 April meeting agreed on the package, the Sudanese delegation will consult further and hopes to give a positive response soon.

The meeting agreed on the need to move expeditiously to implement the package with full transparency and with the cooperation of all parties. The UN-AU Consultations on Darfur will continue in New York when UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and AU Commission Chairperson Alpha Oumar Konaré meet on 16 and 17 April. They will be accompanied by the UN and AU Envoys on Darfur, Jan Eliasson and Salim Ahmed Salim respectively.

UNFPA prepares for the Sudan Census

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) carried out an eight-day training programme in March for trainers from North and Southern Sudan in Wad Madani. The training was part of preparations for the pilot census scheduled in April. The programme was organized in cooperation with the Central Bureau of Statistics and the Southern Sudan Census, Statistics and Evaluation Commission. The fifth National Census is scheduled to take place from 15 to 30 November 2007.

More information at: www.sudan.unfpa.org

Over 50,000 refugees return to Southern Sudan

On 9 April, a convoy from Fugnido camp in Ethiopia brought 543 Sudanese refugees to Upper Nile State. Another two flights brought 100 returnees from Mboki camp in the Central African Republic (CAR) to Yambio in Western Equatoria State. This brings Sudanese refugees assisted by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) since repatriation began in March

HEARD on RADIO MIRAYA:

On Muhammad Jasem Najem Al-Din, who died of flying debris from explosions at the army ammunition warehouse in Khartoum on 7 April

"The lives of residents are being endangered The mass media, parliament, civil society organizations, and residents should pressurize the government to evacuate and relocate these military warehouses".

Zuheir Al-Sarraj
Journalist, Analyst (10 April)

Denying speculations on Sudan's intention to strike back at Chad, following clashes between armed forces of the two countries

"There are two ways of responding; the first would be diplomatic, and if that fails a military action would be called for...the option, whether or not to strike back has not been discussed."

Al-Sawarmi Khalid Saad
SAF spokesperson (10 April)

2005 to a total of 50,533.

All six return corridors being operational, refugees from CAR, Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, Egypt and Libya are returning at nearly 4,000 per week. UNHCR aims to scale this number to 5,000 per week, to ensure maximum returns before the rainy season begins in May.

Since the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in January 2005, over 120,000 Sudanese refugees have returned, 70,000 of them spontaneously. UNHCR expects to repatriate 102,000 of the approximately 300,000 Sudanese refugees still in countries of asylum in 2007.

Over 15,000 IDPs return

Meanwhile, under the joint UN/GoNU/GoSS plan for returns, some 15,677 internally displaced persons (IDPs) returned to their areas of origin in Southern Sudan and the three Transitional Areas. The figure includes 6,611 IDPs from Khartoum and other Northern States who returned to Southern Sudan and South Kordofan. Another 9,066 IDPs returned to Southern Sudan and the three Transitional Areas from South Darfur and Wau as well as Equatoria and Blue Nile States.

DPA Monitor reports decline in hostility

The Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) Monitor reported a slight decline in hostilities in Darfur between the Government of Sudan (GoS) and the DPA non-signatories in March. There have been no reports of air strikes by GoS since February. However, ground attacks by the Sudanese Armed Forces and armed militia continued, particularly in areas of rebel concentration. The GoS and the Sudan Liberation Movement/Minni Minnawi faction clashed on several occasions. Tribal clashes continued to claim high casualties.

The Ceasefire Commission (CFC) met regularly during March. However, the issue of disarmament of armed groups remained unresolved. The Joint Commission decided not to meet in El Fasher until the security situation improved. The DPA Monitor also has information on the joint visit of Jan Eliasson and Salim Ahmed Salim, the UN and the AU Special Envoys to Sudan, respectively. On the Darfur-Darfur Dialogue and Consultation (DDDC), it reported that the Chairperson of the DDDC Preparatory Committee felt that there could be no meaningful outcome until the peace agreement commands popular support of all Darfurians.

The Monitor is available at: <http://www.unmis.org/english/dpaMonitor.htm>

UNICEF issues Darfur Nutrition Update

In its latest Darfur Nutrition Update, covering December 2006 to February 2007, UNICEF reports that the survey on Emergency Food Security and Nutrition Assessment in Darfur for 2006 will be released in mid-April.

UNICEF also reports that the results of two out of three localized nutrition

MIRAYA HIGHLIGHTS

NEWS

International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action:

Interview with Major Engineer Awad Bashir, Director of the National Center for De-mining.

West Bahr Al-Ghazal two years after signing the CPA

Interview with the Governor, Mohammad Amin, in which he discussed the security situation and other developments since signing the CPA.

Birth anniversary of Prophet Mohammed (Al Maowled Al Nabawi)

Feature on celebrations in Wau.

Al-Damazin Hospital

The feature sheds light on various developments since signing of the CPA, especially health services in regions affected by the war. The Al-Damazin hospital report discusses challenges facing the hospital.

Citizen's rights after arrest by the police

Call-in program featuring Chief of the Police of the Northern Division, Juba Colonel Philip Madut Tong.

surveys, conducted in Otash Camp and Ed Daien, South Darfur, in December 2006 and February 2007, were worrying, confirming poor water and sanitation conditions as well as population displacement. Malnutrition rates reported in other surveys in South Darfur (Gereida) and West Darfur are below emergency levels. However, they might rise during the dry season, and in the event of further insecurity and population displacement.

Further, the joint FAO-WFP Crop Assessment Mission carried out from October to December 2006 reported that insecurity was affecting production, harvest, and commodity movement to markets in Darfur.

Darfur Nutrition Update at: www.unicef.org/emerg/darfur/files/

Security and Humanitarian Developments

North Darfur A commercial vehicle was attacked by 5 armed men in Kaura area (45 kilometres east of Kabkabiya) on 8 April. In another incident, four armed men forcibly entered an INGO medical compound at Khazan Tunjur, 25 kilometres south of Tawilla. No casualties were reported for either incident.

South Darfur On 6 April, four unidentified armed men forcibly entered an INGO guesthouse in Duma (40 km North of Nyala), looting all personal belongings at gun point.

On 10 April, UNMIS Human Rights and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) visited Bulbul Abu Jazo to verify a reported massive displacement of the Tarjam tribe from Murray Jangué and Uyer to Abu Jazo, following an attack from Abala tribesmen on 31 March. The team found no evidence of the reported 15,000 displaced people, and could only confirm a few displaced households accommodated by people of Abu Jazo.

West Darfur On 9 April in For Baranaga, clashes occurred between the Chadian army, the Sudanese army and Chadian rebels. INGOs operating in the area requested UN assistance to relocate their non-essential staff to El Geneina.

On 10 April, shooting between armed Arab militias, National Security and GoS police injured six in Dorti IDP camp, El-Geneina.

Southern Sudan and Transitional Areas

On 5 April, a private vehicle was ambushed by suspected LRA in Jebelleh Village on the Torit-Magwi Road.

A UN Military Observer driving to his residence in Wau was stopped by a group of young men on 9 April. They took his laptop, mobile phone, and other personal articles.

Darfur, Road to Peace

Wealth Sharing

Interview with Abed El Hay Rabei, journalist covering Darfur. He gives an insight into the general principles of wealth sharing as outlined in the DPA. Also messages from IDPs to relatives and friends.

UN MIRROR

Fiftieth edition

A report on the press conference organized by UNMIS in Wau, featuring the head of UNMIS office in Wau, Fred Babi, highlighting the activities of the UN mission in Wau, in addition to the challenges faced there.

We are on-line:

www.unmis.org