



UNAMIS

UNITED NATIONS ADVANCE MISSION IN THE SUDAN

Date: 20 October 2004

Office of the Spokesperson

PRESS BRIEFING

Good afternoon.

- The SRSG, Jan Pronk, will meet tomorrow, Thursday 21 October, with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mutafa Osman Ismail. This meeting is the 7th meeting of the Joint Implementation Mechanism, co-chaired by the SRSG and the Minister of Foreign Affairs. The discussion will focus on the apparent deterioration of the security situation in Darfur and its impact of humanitarian operations and on the safety of humanitarian workers. The Upcoming Abuja Talks will be also discussed. The meeting will be the last JIM meeting for the month of October before the Secretary-General presents his monthly report on Darfur to the Security Council on 31 October.

- The Peace and Security Council of the African Union will meet tomorrow 21 October in Addis Ababa to consider and decide on the size and the mandate on the proposed expanded African Union Mission to Darfur. The Council will consider to this end recommendations presented to it by the Military Commission of the African Union.

- The SRSG will travel to Abuja on 23 October to attend the peace talks between the Government of the Sudan and the rebel groups (SLA and JEM). He will be meeting with the delegations of the parties to the talks. Issues to be raised include the role of the United Nations in Darfur.

Humanitarian

- The security situation remains tense in the three States of Darfur. Security incidents including possible cease-fire violations, attacks on villages, attacks on humanitarian convoys, militia activities and rape cases have been reported:

- **In North Darfur:** On 19 October, the AUCFC confirmed reports of attacks on GoS positions by suspected SLA elements in Abdul Shakur, 13km from Kutum. A number of injured have checked into the ICRC clinic in Kutum. As a result of the attack, North Kutum has been declared a 'no go' area for the UN. The Tawilla-Kebkabiya road was also closed for UN movement on 17 October after INGOs reported that GoS and SLA forces clashed east and west of Tawilla.

- UNAMIS received reports that an INGO teams experienced on 16 October harassments in three different incidents involving three different groups. One team was stopped by a GoS military checkpoint between El Fasher and Um Kadada at approximately 06:30 when the military personnel fired gunshots in the air. The same team reported being

questioned and harassed for 15-20 minutes by the Janjaweed around Um El Huseim, approximately 100km from Um Kadadda. A different team from the same INGO was reportedly surrounded by armed SLA troops approximately 13km from Kutum. The driver of the vehicle was forced to leave the car and his hands were tied behind his back. The troops also fired seven – eight gunshots in the air. The incident lasted for 15-20 minutes.

-Agencies report that an explosive (reportedly a hand grenade) exploded at Al Fadoz School in El Fasher town, close to UNICEF offices on 18 October. Eighteen children were reportedly injured and are currently recovering at El Fasher hospital. Agencies are investigating the incident.

-Following the incident of 10 October (two dead and 1 injured -SC/UK staff) UNICEF is facilitating land mine awareness training for all interested humanitarian agencies.

-An OCHA team met on 13 October with representatives of the SLA and they finalized an agreement on ground rules for humanitarian operations in areas controlled by the rebel movement and contested areas.

-In South Darfur, two vehicles belonging to an INGO were hijacked on 14 October by people reported to be SLA in Ta'asha area, following a polio vaccination campaign in Bashom camp. The two vehicles were subsequently released on 17 Oct.

-Agencies were informed at the HAC-chaired protection meeting on 16 Oct. that an attack took place in Bashom camp, Ta'asha locality on 5 Oct. Two people were reportedly killed and nine were wounded as a result of the attack. The police are reportedly investigating the incident.

-An INGO reported an attack that occurred on 14 October on Jongul and Levente villages, around Duma, leading to a new displacement of people.

- In West Darfur: -A commercial convoy of 36 trucks contracted by WFP was attacked and looted of personal items by bandits on 15 October between Netriti and Gildo.

-IDPs have recently reported that Arab militia passed through Kindrip 2 camp on several occasions discharging weapons and threatening IDPs.

-OHCHR investigated and confirmed 10 rape cases in Sisi camp. The monitors however determined that previous reports of 40 rape cases in the camp had been an exaggeration

Food/NFIs

-Samaritan's Purse plans to assess and subsequently intervene in Regelah village close to Marla (South Darfur) where approximately 3,500 IDPs are reportedly in need of assistance. ADRA distributed NFI items, during the second round of NFI distribution, including clothing and other assistance including seeds to IDPs in the Mukjar area. NFI flights were cancelled on 16 and 17 October due to security concerns in El Geneina.

-WFP has completed food distribution in Zam Zam camp (North Darfur) for the month of Oct. to approximately 16,300 IDPs. Gaps in the sanitation sector in the camp were raised as a

serious concern by agencies at a coordination meeting. In West Darfur, WFP deliveries are facing some delays due to security limitations particularly in the area of Kulbus and Masteri.

-Agencies are concerned about the steady stream of new arrivals in Kalma Camp (South Darfur), which is overstretching the camp's capacity. WFP has conducted a new round of distributions for the 93,000 registered IDPs there.

Health

-In North Darfur, GOAL reported that Jaundice/Hepatitis E cases in Kutum camp had reduced from 72 to 30 cases over the past week. WHO and UNICEF are preparing a polio vaccination campaign in the Jebel Moon area (West Darfur). The rebel-held area was recently cleared for UN operations and the polio vaccination campaign would mark the first phase of UN humanitarian assistance to the area.

- Agencies reported that a similar polio campaign conducted in El-Geneina reached almost 47,000 children.. The target population for the whole of West Darfur state is 202,000.