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HIGHLIGHTS:

UN

Achouri describes incident in Jonglei as a clear violation of the CPA*

(*AlRai AlAam* – 6th Feb. **Khartoum**) The UN has sent a joint team of civilian and military personnel to Jonglei which has been the scene of recent clashes that left a number of civilians and SPLA dead. The UN and national DDR components are also to embark on joint investigations over the clashes.

Meanwhile, UNMIS Spokesperson Radhia Achouri says UNMIS will send an urgent report to the Security Council on the issue in order that it may take the appropriate decisions on what sanctions to take against instigators of the incident in which, according to the SSDF, 200 people lost their lives. She said that a UN team was urgently dispatched to the site and their good offices have helped bring the clashes to an end.

She described the issue as a clear violation for the CPA especially since 9th January 2006 had been set as the deadline for reintegration of militias into either the SAF or the SPLA. She warned the issue may escalate if these militias are not disarmed and demobilised.

Radhia also called on these militias to be clear on their decisions to reintegrate and pointed out that Mjr. Gen. Paulino Matib had earlier notified the UN of the decision that the SSDF reintegrate to the SPLA.

In response to accusations by some members of the SSDF that the UN condoned such action, the Spokesperson pointed out that the UN had no UNMOs on the site at the time, has no interest in backing one group against another and has no mandate to forcefully disentangle groups engaged in such clashes but merely monitors the situation or uses its good offices to reconcile the warring parties. (*Also see related articles listed below under the CPA theme*).

*** Rejoinder from Office of the Spokesperson:**

The Spokesperson was misquoted in the above article and explains the following:

1/ The CPA stipulates that all "other armed groups", and that includes the SSDF, are requested either to join the SPLA or the SAF to join the DDR programme within a period of a year after the signing of the CPA. Failing to do so is technically a CPA violation. I said this in an answer to a question if the fighting between SSDF and SPLA was a violation of the CPA.

2/ UNMIS has already intervened using its good offices and violence has stopped and the parties (SAF, SPLA and SSDF) committed not to resume violence. I haven't said that the UN will investigate. On reporting to UNSC, I mentioned that we report to the Security Council on all relevant events and developments in our areas of operation. That was part of my answer to UNMIS role in situations similar to the Jonglei fighting.

UN envoy urges warring factions in Darfur not to "internationalize" conflict

(*SUNA/BBC* – 4th Feb. **Abuja**) The UN secretary-general's representative to Sudan, Jan Pronk, has affirmed that UN troops will not interfere in Sudan against the will of the Sudanese people and considering the fact that the UN forces are not part of NATO. He said that they will not

enter Darfur unless the AU requested and when movement was possible. He said that the international forces would not work unless there was peace and cease-fire.

During his address in Abuja this evening to the joint session of delegates [taking part in the Darfur peace talks] with the participation of the AU and the international community, Pronk urged the AU to continue with the peace process, affirming the UN's full support to this mission.

Jan Pronk also urged all the Darfur parties who signed the peace agreement to work towards development and democracy. He said that the UN was greatly concerned about the escalating violence and the deaths of civilians. He pointed out that the tensions between Sudan and Chad had left negative effects in Western Darfur State.

Pronk said that there were a number of armed groups that could not be controlled. He said that UN humanitarian workers were attacked by those groups. He said a decision had been made not to provide humanitarian aid to areas where there was fighting.

Pronk affirmed that if the UN requested it to send international forces to Darfur, it would not act alone but in partnership with the AU.

Pronk urged disputing parties in Abuja not to internationalize the Darfur issue and ally with the armed rebel movements in the country. He also urged them to avoid receiving arms from foreign countries and not to participate in supporting political goals of other countries.

Jan Pronk urged [the disputing parties in Abuja] to stop attacking convoys, especially the trade ones, and called a halt of the armed militias considering the fact that most of their victims were civilians, as well as capture outlaws and present them to court. He said the AU should be respected and not attacked.

CPA

SPLM attributes Jonglei clashes to ignorance of the civilians on the CPA

(*AlRai AlAam, AlAyaam* – 6th Feb. **Khartoum**) Commenting on the recent clashes in Jonglei involving SPLA forces, SPLA Chief-of-Staff Wayay Deng said the clashes occurred as a reaction to the efforts by the SPLM to disarm citizens in southern Sudan. The clashes, he said, was between the SPLA forces and citizens who had refused to be disarmed.

He said that the operation was carried out in the full knowledge of the representative of the DDR program in Juba, Haroun Jamal. He said that the SPLA only sought to disarm civilians in possession of illegal arms and not to kill them. He further pointed out that the operation is part of a wider operation called for by the president of the GoSS and has been successful in a number of states in southern Sudan such as Bahr-el-Ghazal, Equatoria and Upper Nile while the operation is yet to be carried out in other areas such as Pibor, Fashala and Kapoeta.

The Chief-of-Staff said that the SPLA sent on 27th January a force to reinforce its forces already in Jonglei but lack of awareness on the side of the local community contributed to sparking the clashes with the SPLA causing death and injury from both sides. He expressed doubts over the statistics for the casualties.

The SPLA CoS stressed however that the SPLA will continue to carry out the disarmament operation in all parts of southern Sudan but disclosed that new arrangements will be

introduced and this includes that launching of campaigns to raise the level of awareness of the citizens before embarking in the disarmament process.

“We will not stand with our hands tied while waiting for the DDR committee to come,” he said.

On the other hand, SPLA Spokesperson has accused some parties he declined to name as responsible for encouraging some citizens not to hand over their firearms.

SPLA Spokesperson Pibor Ajak said that these groups have in interest in destabilizing the area. He says the situation is now back to normal. He also said the SPLA will continue in the disarmament process until firearms will only be in the possession of the army and police forces in order that stability may be imposed and the citizens will then concentrate on development.

SSDF denies fighting against SPLA in Jonglei

(*ST* – 5th Feb. **Khartoum**) Spokesman of South Sudan Defence Forces (SSDF) Brig. Mohamed Chull Al-Ahmar has denied reports by some newspapers, which referred to the fighting that occurred at Yowai, in Jonglei State was between SSDF and SPLM forces.

He said in a statement to the state-run SUNA that the fighting was between the SPLM forces and the citizens and not with SSDF. He affirmed that SSDF is committed to all articles of the Agreement, pointing out that disarmament should be carried out by the D.D.R. and the UN organizations.

Government of National Unity

Salva Kiir to embark on tour of African states

(*AlRai AlAam* – 6th Feb. **Khartoum**) Yassir Erman, the head of the SPLM’s parliamentary bloc, has disclosed that Vice-president and SPLM leader Salva Kiir Mayardit will travel to Abuja to give impetus to the talks in Abuja. This is part of a tour that will also take him to other African states concerned with the Darfur conflict.

Erman has disclosed of recent contacts between Salva Kiir and some leaders of the rebel forces whom he may hold talks with while in Abuja.

On SPLM’s dissatisfaction over cooperation with the National Congress party on Darfur, Erman said that the SPLM had made great efforts on the Darfur process but this did not receive the required response from the National Congress party. He mentioned however that efforts are underway to reach common grounds over solutions to the Darfur issue.

Darfur/ Chad

Preparatory meeting to reconcile Sudan, Chad to start in Libya 6 Feb

(*Sudan Radio/BBC* – 6th Feb. **Khartoum**) Preparatory meetings for a mini AU summit on Darfur and containing tensions between Sudan and Chad will start today [Monday 6 February] in the Libyan capital Tripoli.

Upon departure to Tripoli, the adviser of the president of republic, Dr Mustafa Othman Isma'il, said the two-day meeting will discuss the progress made so far and is under the framework of efforts being exerted by Libya to reduce tensions between Sudan and Chad.

He added that besides Chad, Sudan and Libya, the African Union, Central African [Republic] and Nigeria are also expected to attend the meetings. The meetings will be led by the Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Gadhaffi.

Governor of the State of North Darfur State lauds US Administration over assistance

(SUNA/BBC – 5th Feb. el-Fashir) The *Wali* (Governor) of Northern Darfur State, Othman Muhammad Yusuf Kibir, has commended the assistance being provided by the US Administration to his state in the humanitarian field, via the contribution of the World Food Programme (WFP), as well as its role in boosting the peace process in the country.

The governor, who received Saturday [5 February] the US Charge d'Affaires and the accompanying delegation who paid a field visit to the capital of the state, Al- Fashir, has called on the international community to meet their obligations towards the African Union forces operating in Darfur, so that they would be able to discharge their duties with regards to achieving peace, security and stability in Darfur.

The governor had meanwhile explained to the visiting Charge d'Affaires the development of the situation in the state, saying the state was currently witnessing a relative stability despite the repeated violations by the armed movements and their aggression on villages and small town in the state at a time the international community has remained silent towards them whereas they should be condemned clearly.

The Charge d'Affaires had explained at the outset of the meeting that his visit to the state was aimed at getting acquainted with the situation on the ground saying his country support the realization of peace in Sudan and in Darfur in particular.

US urges greater NATO role in Sudan, Russia offers troops

(AP/ST– 5th Feb. Munich, Germany) The United States urged NATO on Sunday to play a bigger role helping peacekeeping efforts in Sudan's conflict-wracked Darfur region and Russia offered to send 200 troops for a U.N. mission there.

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick said NATO could offer more logistics, intelligence, and planning assistance to the current African Union peacekeeping mission in Darfur, including the deployment of a small number of experts on the ground.

He told an international security conference the United States would try to speed up the takeover of the peacekeeping mission by the United Nations, which was approved by the Security Council on Friday. U.N. officials have said it could take a year for the world body to take over the mission.

Russian Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov said Russia was willing to send 200 peacekeepers and a helicopter strike force to Darfur as part of a U.N. mission.

The Security Council unanimously authorized the U.N. to start planning for the takeover of the 7,000-strong AU peacekeeping force which has failed to stop violence in the region which is estimated to have killed 180,000 people, most from hunger and disease.

Sudan's government denies charges it has unleashed Arab tribal militias against civilians in response to a local uprising.

Zoellick said NATO assistance was needed while the U.N. prepares its force. NATO has helped to fly the African peacekeepers into Darfur and provided some logistical support and training.

However, France in particular has expressed concerns about a wider NATO role, suggesting the European Union could be better placed for an African operation. Zoellick held talks with French officials on Darfur in Paris before traveling to Munich.

"I just hope people don't get theological about this," Zoellick told the conference, in an apparent reference to French concerns. "I hope that capitals that sometimes get a little complex on these issues don't on this."

Jan Pronk, the top U.N. official in Sudan, told the German newspaper Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung recently that he expected a U.N. force to be embarked in Darfur by early 2007. He has said four years and a 20,000-strong force will be needed.

The U.N.'s Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Jean-Marie Guehenno last month said NATO and EU nations were best placed to provide the military muscle needed for that mission.

"A force in Darfur has to be robust, mobile," he told reporters in Brussels after meeting officials from the two organizations. "When we talk about firepower there are capacities that exist more in the member states of NATO and the European Union than in the rest of the world."

GoSS/ Southern Sudan

First V-p orders scrap of Unified Police Force system in southern Sudan

(*AlRai AlAam* – 6th Feb. **Khartoum**) First Vice-president Lt. Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit, has issued a Presidential Decree scrapping the Unified Police Forces and established independent units for Police, Prisons, Customs, Wildlife and Fisheries.

The decree was made in accordance with a decision taken by the Council of Minister of the Government of South Sudan which recommended such a move.

Prior to the CPA, the Customs, Police, Wildlife and Prisons forces existed as a unified force nationwide.

Eastern Sudan

Eritrean delegation led by Abdalla Jabir visits Khartoum

(*AlRai AlAam* – 6th Feb. **Khartoum, Asmara**) Informed sources report that talks between representatives of the Sudan government and the Eastern Front due to start in Libya tomorrow have been suspended due to differences between Libyan and Eritrean mediators. The latter have requested a role in the Libya-sponsored talks.

Sources also say the representatives of the Eastern Front are facing pressures not to go for the talks. The Front is expected to issue a statement later today to make her position known.

On the other hand, an Eritrean delegation led by a high ranking official of the country's ruling party and the country's deputy foreign minister is expected in the country later today for talks on bilateral relations.

Humanitarian

Cabinet holds special session on Voluntary Works Act*

(*Sudan Vision, AlRai AlAam* – 6th Feb. **Khartoum**) The Humanitarian Voluntary Work Act (HVWA) was submitted to the Council of Ministers yesterday by the Ministers of Justice and Humanitarian Affairs.

The Council of Ministers holds an emergency session tomorrow to debate the draft act.

Justice minister Mohamed Ali el-Murdi discloses that the draft incorporates all the developments to the law issued in 1995. He assures that the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs are totally in agreement over the new law following a joint study of the observations raised by the Sudan Council of Voluntary Agencies (SCOVA).

Rules and regulations governing the work of INGOs in Sudan

(*AlRai AlAam* – 4th Feb. **Khartoum**) The Sudan Government is in the process of implementing a new plan of action for controlling and overseeing the work of the INGOs in Sudan.2006.

The government has also hinted that the licences of 10 INGOs that have not started operations in the country despite having completed the registration process two years ago will be revoked.

The envisaged plan of action, according to *AlRai Alam* sources, entails that INGOs nationalise some of the international posts held by foreign counterparts, in addition to seeking appropriate ways and means for training the local employees at large and obligates the need for a local partner for these organisations as a manifestation of the principles of participation and twinning between local and foreign NGOs. The Act, once approved, will also allow for the extension of licence for the foreign organisations depending on the organisation's plans and activities. On completion winding up, ownership of the assets of these INGOs will be transferred to their national partners.

Sources say that all concerned organisations have been briefed on this act.

Other developments

Joint committee of National Congress, opposition alliance resume meetings

(*SUNA* – 5th Feb. **Khartoum**) Meetings between the National Congress and the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) were resumed on Sunday [5 February] at the headquarters of the National Congress, in the context of the implementation of the Cairo Agreement, which was earlier signed by the two parties.

In a press statement, the spokesman of the NDA, Ali Al-Sayid, said that the two parties agreed on holding weekly meetings between them.

He described the meeting as successful and said it contributed to the removal of misunderstanding between the two parties, explaining that they agreed on the continuity of the coordination between the NDA and the National Congress.