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UN/ AU-UN Transition

Coverage on the SRSG press conference of 8th May compiled from local press reports of 9th May

On the DPA: The SRSG is quoted in some of the local papers as having expressed his dissatisfaction over the DPA due to the fact that it was not signed by all the parties.

“This is not a partial agreement between the government and some movements but is a result of a series of talks” he said.

He said that opposition to the DPA would have been justified if the talks were held separately.

The SRSG said that the JEM and SLM-AbdulWahid have put themselves aside by not signing the peace agreement. He said that those people who did not sign the agreement were mistaken when they claimed that the agreement does not meet the demands of their people.

He said the negotiators have committed a mistake by promising the IDPs that they will be paid compensations.

“Not a single comma will be change from the DPA,” says Mr. Pronk. He adds however that he will make contacts with the field commanders of SLM-AbdulWahid to convince them to join the agreement.

Pronk made mention of UNSC Resolution 1591 that recommends sanctions on people who impede the peace process.

The SRSG defended the government which, he said, held talks with all the parties without exception. He said he did note that the government was willing to add another supplement to the DPA should the AbdulWahid faction and the JEM have signed the agreement.

He described Mini Minnawi as “brave” and those leaders who did not sign the agreement as “cowards”.

On a possible AU-UN transition in Darfur: Asked about the transition debate, the SRSG pointed out that the UN is still waiting for a clear position from the government on the issue.

He said that the African Union Peace & Security Council will meet shortly to discuss the developments and the Security Council of the UN will then meet to discuss what has been discussed by the African Union Peace & Security Council in Addis.

On the situation on the ground in Darfur: SRSG Jan Pronk asserts there is a disconnect between the talks in Abuja and the situation on the ground in Darfur and adds, “There will be fighting in Darfur in the next weeks as there are some militias that are out of control”.

He said the *Walis* have to instruct some of these militias to stop the fighting.

He pointed out that the government had used some militias, including the Janjaweed, instead of the army to fight the armed groups in Darfur and that the army had supported the PDF and the Janjaweed with weapons.

He also said that the government can stop some of the fighting and should do so but there are some groups that are out of control.

On pledges of UN support for the peace in Darfur: SRSR Pronk has promised UN political and field support to the parties in order to keep the peace. He said UN will allow them use of its instruments.

On the Security Council and a possible UN role: The SRSR said that the Security Council will be briefed by AU chief mediator Salim Ahmed Salim next Monday on the outcome of the Abuja talks.

Jan Pronk says the Security Council is the one to decide what to do on the issue of the other militias that have not signed the agreement but said his advice is that they be given some time to reflect.

On the AU: The papers report that the SRSR said that the AU mandate will be extended and expanded because the issue has become more complex [*than can be addressed by the current mandate*]. The AU, he says, has to rearrange itself if it is to monitor the peace in Darfur since the N'Djamena Agreement [*by virtue of which the AU gets its current mandate*] is “dead”.

He said he will be visiting el-Fasher on Wednesday for talks with the AU but will travel to Nyala today to hold talks with the *Wali*.

Sudan open to talks on UN peacekeeping force - FM

(AP/ST – 8th May. Vienna/AP) Sudanese Foreign Minister Lam Akol Ajawin said Monday his country is open for talks on a possible U.N. peacekeeping force for the Darfur region and he sought to counter perceptions such troops were unwanted in the area.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan wants Sudan to grant visas to a U.N. assessment team so it can visit Darfur and start planning for a U.N. force to take over from overstretched African Union troops.

Sudan's government said Saturday that a peace accord signed Friday between the government and Darfur's largest rebel group could open the way to a U.N. force, a step the government had previously resisted.

But Sudan has refused to allow the team to visit, potentially jeopardizing the end of a conflict that has killed at least 180,000 people in three years and displaced some 2 million

Ajawin spoke after meeting with Foreign Minister Ursula Plasnik of Austria, which presently holds the rotating EU presidency. Also participating in the talks was Foreign Minister Rodolphe Adada of Congo, representing the chairman of the African Union.

UN Egeland retreats from a camp, after Fur protest against Abuja deal; AU interpreter killed in the melee

(Reuters/ST – 8th May. Kalma Camp, Darfur) Angry demonstrators killed a Sudanese interpreter working with African Union forces in Darfur on Monday in riots that broke out during a senior UN official's visit to a camp for displaced Sudanese.

Jan Egeland, the UN under-secretary for humanitarian affairs, said the man was killed in an African Union police station after Egeland and his entourage beat a hasty retreat from the Kalma camp in the face of violent protests.

"It turned out to be a lynching mob who entered the building the wrecked everything and they killed a Sudanese employee of the AU, an interpreter," he told reporters traveling with him.

Egeland and aid workers had cut short their visit to the camp in South Darfur State after a demonstration by Darfuris demanding the deployment of international troops spun out of control and an aid worker was attacked.

Tensions have increased among frustrated refugees who learned details of the peace pact signed on Friday in Nigeria between the Sudanese government and the main Darfur rebel group, but rejected by two other rebel factions.

They had hoped a deal would mean an end to three years of fighting that has driven 2 million people from their homes and into squalid camps in Darfur and into Chad.

But many said they were disappointed with the deal, which they feared did not go far enough to protect them.

"This peace is not reality," said Mohammed Jaama Sineen from Darfur's largest tribe, the Fur.

"We are asking for international forces. We want to ask Jan Egeland to send the UN to protect us," added the refugee who fled his home when rebels rose against the government in 2003 accusing officials in Khartoum of neglect.

President Bush, announcing he had directed five U.S. ships to be loaded with emergency food for Sudan, said Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice would ask the UN Security Council on Tuesday for a resolution speeding up deployment of UN peacekeepers to Darfur.

European Union and African Union foreign ministers, meeting in Vienna, said the peace deal should pave the way for an early agreement between the United Nations and Sudan on the UN role in Darfur.

The Kalma camp melee began when a female refugee shouted that an aid worker was a member of the Janjaweed militia blamed for atrocities in Darfur.

Women wearing brightly colored robes and men in white jalabiyyas gathered around shouting "Janjaweed, Janjaweed" then attacked a UN vehicle with axes, stones and sticks, shattering its windows.

One man tried to stab a Sudanese aid worker for the British charity Oxfam, who was beaten as he scrambled into the car while others tried to hold off the angry crowd.

Oxfam country director Caroline Nursey said the man was a trusted long-term worker for the organization and the crowd had misunderstood something he said.

Egeland said violence targeting the AU was repeated in other camps in West Darfur on Monday. He urged calm saying people had to realize the 7,000-strong AU force was there to help.

"The African Union is really doing an heroic effort to help provide security ... but it's very clear that they're not well-enough resourced nor do they have a mandate or presence that can avoid such terrible things from happening," he said.

"An aid worker being attacked ... also shows how much this is now a powder keg."

"They (the government) want us to go home but we will not go back until Abdel Wahed himself comes to Kalma to tell us there is peace," said another Fur tribesman, Abdul Shafie Arba Hassan, who fled his home for the camp three years ago.

Authorities blame Egeland for igniting the events in Kalma

(*AlRai AlAam* – 9th May. **Nyala, Khartoum**) USG Jan Egeland was compelled to cut short his visit to Kalma Camp in Darfur following protests by camp residents over a shortage of food aid [Note: *this story has a different angle from Reuters version above*]. An AU interpreter accompanying Mr. Egeland was killed during the melee.

Meanwhile authorities of South Darfur State point out that he had been warned not to visit the area at the moment but had not heeded the warning. The sources claim that the very reasons the government had earlier requested he defer his visit to a later date are still valid.

The local authorities have blamed Egeland for igniting the fracas in Kalma by saying that food aid was being slashed down. This, they claim, was the major reason that made the demonstration run out of control.

The sources also accuse Egeland of trying to derail the DPA.

Meanwhile in Khartoum, justice minister Mohamed Ali el-Mardi has criticised Mr. Egeland's recent statements on the security situation in Darfur and described those statements as devoid of the truth.

US urges to integrate Darfur AU troops into UN peacekeepers

(*ST* – 8th May. **Washington**) President George W. Bush said Washington would ask the UN Security Council on Tuesday to transform a beleaguered African Union contingent in Darfur into a larger UN force to enforce last week's landmark peace deal.

"The vulnerable people of Darfur deserve more than sympathy. They deserve the active protection that UN peacekeepers can provide," Bush said, flanked by US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and her deputy Robert Zoellick.

Bush also urged Congress to speed approval of 225 million dollars already requested for food aid for Sudan and announced efforts to immediately dispatch some 41.3 million dollars worth of emergency food assistance.

US officials, who have branded the bloodshed in Darfur as genocide, said their aim was to transform the beleaguered 7,000-strong AU contingent in Darfur into a UN force with double the manpower and increased NATO logistical support.

A US draft resolution circulated Monday at the United Nations urged that UN peacekeepers already in southern Sudan be shifted to Darfur. Bush said Rice would present the text at a ministerial meeting Tuesday of the Security Council.

"We're now working with the UN to identify countries that contribute those troops, so the peacekeeping effort will be robust," the president told reporters.

But Khartoum has resisted the deployment of UN troops in Darfur and US officials acknowledged that two phone calls by Bush to Sudanese President Omar al-Beshir produced no immediate sign he had changed his mind.

Cindy Courville, White House aide for African affairs, said Bush urged quick action on the peacekeeping proposal in calls last week and Monday morning but so far "we've had conflicting messages" from Khartoum.

"President Bashir said that he would soon give us a response ... to the transition and welcoming a UN mission but he did not in the conversation this morning give an exact time," she told reporters in a conference call.

Bush said the peace deal, which Zoellick helped ram through in Abuja, Nigeria, gave Sudan a chance at a new start after the conflict that left some 2.4 million people homeless. But he added that much work remained.

"We're still far away from our ultimate goal, which is the return of millions of displaced people to their homes so they can have a life without fear," the president said.

"America will not turn away from this tragedy. We will call genocide by its rightful name."

The US draft resolution circulating Monday would expand the mandate of the 10,100-strong UN mission (UNMIS) currently deployed in south Sudan to include support for the Abuja accord.

The text also would ask UN chief Kofi Annan to report to the Security Council within 30 days of adoption of the resolution on recommendations for "additional force requirements, modifications to the UNMIS structure."

Bush, meanwhile, urged Congress to speed approval of 150 million dollars in food aid for Darfur and 75 million dollars for the rest of Sudan that was submitted in a supplementary budget request earlier this year.

He also announced the immediate shipment to Sudan of 2,850 metric tonnes of food worth 5.1 million dollars and said he was diverting five ships with 40,000 metric tonnes worth 36.2 million dollars.

CPA

SPLM formally declares boycott on discussions over constitution of Khartoum State

(*AlAyaam* – 9th May. **Khartoum**) The SPLM has formally declared a boycott of the discussions at the Khartoum Legislative Assembly over the constitution of Khartoum State.

Vice-President Salva Kiir has called for commitment to the implementation of the CPA.

An SPLM source that preferred anonymity has revealed that the SPLM is contemplating taking a decisive stand on the issue of the constitution of Khartoum State and that these measures will be announced today.

Meanwhile, the Khartoum State Legislative Assembly has gone on to review the draft constitution in the absence of the SPLM representatives.

Darfur/ Abuja talks/ Chad

President Bashir calls for the formation of a committee to follow up on implementation of the DPA

(*AlSahafa* – 9th May. Nyala, **Khartoum**) The head of the government delegation to the just-concluded talks in Abuja says the President of the Republic has issued instructions for the formation of a committee to follow up on the implementation of the DPA in a transparent manner and to tour the states of Darfur to brief the people on the agreement.

He said that the President has also earmarked for development in Darfur the amount of 300 million dollars out of a total of 480 million dollars from this year's budget for the northern states.

Advance party of SLM-Minnawi expected in Khartoum after one week

(*AlAyaam* – 9th May. **Khartoum**) Following his return from Abuja, Dr. Majzoub el-Khalifa told the press yesterday that advance parties of SLM-Minnawi will arrive in Khartoum and el-Fasher one week after the African Union Peace & Security Council reports to the UN Security Council on the progress in the peace process.

Dr. Khalifa who led the Sudan government delegation to the talks in Abuja said that the government will go out in pursuit of the Janjaweed before the arrival of these advance parties with the view of disarming the Janjaweed and in a bid to prove good intentions and commitment to the implementation of the DPA.

He further pointed out that the AU will present a report on their position on the other groups that did not join in the agreement.

He said the advance teams will be holding discussions to coordinate with the government, the UN and the AU on the return of IDPs to their villages and return routes and tribal reconciliation.

He also pointed out that the agreement provided for setting up of a commission for compensating those affected by the war in Darfur.

Darfur main rebel faction may reject the signed accord

(*ST* – 9th May. **London**) The main Sudan Liberation Movement faction of Mini Minnawi urged the Secretary General of the UN to intervene to stop the implementation of the accord signed with the Sudanese government and to investigate the circumstances of the signing.

In an Arabic language letter addressed to the UN Secretary General Kofi Annan by the political advisor and Foreign Secretary of the rebel group, Ibrahim Ahmed Ibrahim, the SLM said today that the signing of its leader on the document of Darfur Peace agreement was done under unusual conditions.

In the letter, the rebel group demands to stop the implementation of the agreement, to revise it, to investigate the conditions of the signing to its leader, and to separate the humanitarian side of the deal from the political one.

Ibrahim said Mini Minnawi was subjected to abnormal pressure and was isolated from his delegation for three days during which he didn't sleep at all. He further said that Minnawi before the ceremony of Friday 5 May asked to see some of his people but his request was rejected.

Sources from the SLM said the Nigerian president had put huge pressure on Minnawi before the signing.

Ibrahim told Sudan Tribune the signed deal is incomplete because there are many demands that are not answered. "Such a deal could not lead to a true peace" he said.

In a telephone interview Ibrahim said the SLM/A leadership will discuss the 85 pages document during the coming days inside the Sudan, and after a collegial decision will be taken by the movement.

A faction led by his rival, AbdulWahid al-Nur, and the smaller Justice and Equality Movement rejected the AU brokered accord, expressing concerns security and compensation for war victims had not been guaranteed and because it called for a top presidential adviser from Darfur instead of a vice president.

Nur met with Obasanjo for hours Friday 5 May, delaying the signing ceremony, and then briefly went into the hall where the accord was to be signed.

He left, telling reporters the proposed accord was "a big disaster" because he believed it did not go far enough to guarantee disarmament of the Janjaweed militia linked to the atrocities. Nigerian security forces tried to stop Nur from speaking to reporters, then barred reporters who had followed him out from returning to witness the signing.

This about-face confirms the apprehensions of Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick when he said Friday 5 May Darfur "is going to remain a dangerous place. There is still a lot of distrust and fear."

Netherlands to organise donors Conference for Darfur reconstruction

(*ST* – 8th May. **Abuja**) Dutch Development Cooperation Minister, Agnes van Ardenne, announced in Abuja today that she is prepared to organise a donor conference for the reconstruction of Darfur, to take place in The Hague later this year.

According to a press statement by the Foreign Ministry, she made the announcement in response to a request from the Sudanese parties, who are meeting today on the invitation of the Netherlands to discuss last Friday's peace accord.

The Netherlands has agreed to help by organising a workshop in The Hague in early June.

Van Ardenne had already agreed to take a lead in the reconstruction of Darfur. The international donor community, which was also represented at the talks, has announced that it is prepared to support the reconstruction process. The Netherlands has also agreed to chair the Core Coordination Group.

Priorities in implementing the peace accord include: information for the population of Darfur on its implications; unhindered access for humanitarian organisations to provide relief for people in need; disarming the Janjaweed and other militias; building administrative capacity; establishing an interim government for Darfur's three states, and training a technical team to identify in the very short term what is needed for reconstruction.

Van Ardenne also had talks with Nigeria's President Obasanjo, who has played an important mediating role in the peace process, and with the African Union's Chief Mediator, Dr Salim Ahmed Salim. In an effort to get all parties to sign up to the peace accord, they agreed on the strategy they will adopt towards Abdul Wahid, leader of one of the two rebel factions still refusing.

China calls Darfur peace accord a 'major step'

(AP/ST – 8th May. **Beijing**) China welcomed the signing of a peace accord between Sudan's government and rebels, and said Monday it was willing to work with Khartoum to bring further peace to the country.

The accord signed Friday was a "major step in resolving the Darfur issue by political means," Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said in a statement posted to the ministry Web site.

Energy-hungry China has been criticized for doing business with oil-rich Sudan while turning a blind eye to human rights violations there. Beijing denies this and says it maintains a policy of not interfering in the domestic affairs of other countries.

"China welcomes the agreement," Liu said. "China would like to work with the international community for the peace of the Darfur region at an early date."

The Sudanese government pact with the Sudan Liberation Army of Minni Menawi follows two years of sporadic negotiations. It could help end a conflict that has killed at least 180,000 people in three years and left some 2 million displaced

The U.N. Security Council last month voted to sanction four Sudanese accused of human rights violations. China initially opposed and then abstained from the U.S.-backed resolution to impose the sanctions.

The Sudanese government provides 6 percent of China's oil.