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UNMIS

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**(By Public Information Office)**

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## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

### **UN/ AU-UN Transition**

#### **On the Security Council resolution 1679**

#### **Security Council unanimously adopts resolution paving way for UN force in Darfur**

(*UN website* – 16<sup>th</sup> May. UNSC) – The Security Council took a major step forward today towards establishing a robust United Nations peacekeeping force in Sudan’s war-torn Darfur region by unanimously adopting a resolution calling for the deployment on the ground of a joint UN-Africa Union (AU) team to pave the way for the operation, which would take over from the AU mission (AMIS) now monitoring the vast region.

Immediately welcoming the resolution’s adoption in a statement issued by his spokesman, the Secretary-General said the UN “hopes to dispatch, as quickly as possible, a joint UN/AU Technical Assessment Team to Darfur, and towards that end, is in continuous consultation with the Government of National Unity” of Sudan.

The Secretary-General also hailed the AU Peace and Security Commission’s decision to take “concrete steps” to bring about the transition from AMIS to a UN peacekeeping operation. “The United Nations is continuing to prepare for that operation so that it can begin as early as possible,” the spokesman said.

Mr. Annan pledged continued support for AMIS, including through efforts to mobilize the international community to strengthen the AU Mission in the interim period before a UN operation.

The Council resolution called on all parties to the Darfur Peace Agreement signed earlier this month by the Sudanese Government and the largest rebel force in the region to “work with the African Union, the United Nations, regional and international organizations and Member States to accelerate the transition to a United Nations operation.”

The resolution also called on those rebel groups that have not yet signed the Agreement to do so without delay.

Adopted under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, which allows for enforcement measures, the resolution expressed the Council’s intention to consider a travel ban and assets freeze against any individual or group that violates or blocks implementation of the Agreement, which aims to end fighting in a region that has seen the deaths of scores of thousands of people and the displacement of 2 million more.

Under the resolution, the Secretary-General would submit recommendations to the Council within one week of the assessment team’s return on all relevant issues, including force requirements and cost estimates, for a UN operation.

Meanwhile, Mr. Annan’s Special Representative for Sudan, Jan Pronk, today returned to Khartoum from Addis Ababa, where he took part the AU’s Peace and Security Council meeting on Sudan, telling participants that while the Darfur Peace Agreement was a major

achievement, implementing it and improving the situation on the ground for the people of the region may prove to be even harder.

Mr. Pronk will leave tomorrow for Darfur to continue his efforts to widen the circle of support for the pact, according to the UN mission in Sudan (UNMIS), deployed to monitor a peace agreement that ended over two decades of fighting in the south.

During his three-day visit, Mr. Pronk will meet AMIS commanders, as well as the Wali, or governor, of West Darfur and local representatives of civil society and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Local press reports (*AAyaam*, *AlRai AlAam*, *AlSahafa*, *Akhbar Alyaum*) quote the above story from the same source but *AlAyaam* adds that the resolution opens the way for the deployment of 14,000 foreign soldiers to Darfur in addition to 7,000 plus troops already on the ground in Darfur and for international logistics assistance and greater military capability.

Kofi Annan, adds that paper, is expected to brief the Security Council on the requirements for such a force after he receives the report of the technical team that will be sent to the region. then will the Security Council issues another resolution mandating such a deployment and outlining the date of deployment.

#### First Reactions:

(*AlAyaam*) The first official reaction to the Security Council resolution came from state minister for foreign affairs el-Sammani el-Waseela who reiterated government rejection to the deployment of foreign troops to Darfur and pointed out that the Arab League summit meeting held in Khartoum early this year had pledged financial support to the African Union forces to enable them carry out their work.

El-Waseela added that the Sudan government is committed to assisting the African Union improve its capabilities and pointed out that the funds to be spent on the deployment of United Nations troops to Darfur could have been used in supporting the African Union or for the people themselves in Darfur.

*AlSahafa* reports that the US representative to the Security Council, Ambassador John Bolton, said following the resolution that the Sudan government will find itself in a “very difficult” situation if it does not cooperate on the issue of the deployment of international forces to Darfur.

Commenting on Bolton’s remarks, Dr. Majzoub el-Khalifa who led the Sudan government delegation to the Abuja talks said that there is nothing to fear of the resolution which comes in line with the recent resolution of African Union Peace & Security Council and bases on the same standards of consultation between the Sudan government and the United Nations over the issue.

*AlRai AlAam* and *Sudan Tribune* reports the following: Sudan is ready to discuss the deployment of UN peacekeepers in the strife-torn region of Darfur, Information Minister Zahawi Ibrahim Malek said.

He welcomed the visit to Sudan scheduled for next month by a delegation from the UN Security Council, which has been pressing for UN peacekeepers to take over from an embattled contingent of African Union troops.

"The delegation is coming to Sudan to negotiate with the government following the signing of the peace agreement" between Khartoum and the largest Darfur rebel faction on May 5, the minister said Tuesday.

"We are ready to negotiate with the United Nations" on its peacekeeping project, he added.

Khartoum long remained vehemently opposed to such an option but has recently shown signs of flexibility. Yet the regime has stopped short of unequivocally accepting the plan and stressed it could only go forward at its own request.

"We will not accept the arrival of any force without a prior agreement with the government on this force's mandate, its duration and its mission," Malek said.

"If Sudan deems that the situation requires such a deployment, we have no objection because we are part of the United Nations," he added.

A UN Security Council fact-finding mission will set off for a trip to several African countries next month, including Sudan.

The delegation, which will be led by Britain's UN envoy Emyr Jones Parry in his capacity as chairman of the Darfur Group of Friends, will hold talks with officials in Khartoum, visit the southern capital Juba as well as Darfur.

### **Pronk to hold talks with the AU on UN support to the regional body**

(*AlAyaam/AlWatan* – 17<sup>th</sup> May. **Khartoum**) SRSG Jan Pronk heads from Khartoum to West Darfur today.

While in West Darfur, the SRSG will hold talks with the *Wali* and representatives of armed groups, NGOs and tribal leaders in a bid to explain the DPA.

UNMIS Spokesperson Bahaa El-Koussy says the SRSG will also explore with AMIS officials UN support to the regional body with the view that AMIS has a major role to play in the implementation of the DPA. Pronk, he adds, will explain to them the benefits of the DPA to all parties concerned.

The Spokesperson also said that Mr. Pronk will visit one of the IDP camps in the area.

This is Mr. Pronk's 3<sup>rd</sup> visit to the region in one month.

### **Rebels recruit Darfur refugees in Chad as Soldiers - UN**

(*AP/ST* – 16<sup>th</sup> May. **Nairobi**) Sudanese rebels are recruiting thousands of men and boys from refugee camps in neighbouring Chad, where more than 200,000 Sudanese have fled to escape the Darfur conflict, the U.N. refugee agency said Tuesday.

Some 4,700 men and boys were recruited or forced to join the rebels from the Breidjing and Treguine camps in March, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees said citing reports from refugees. Recruitment has also been reported at the Goz Amir camp in April, the agency said.

"Refugee camps are meant to be safe havens where refugees can at least find protection and safety. Militarization of camps can make them a target of one side or another, endangering all of the refugees," the U.N. agency said in a statement.

### **Sudan militias violating ceasefire pact in Darfur - UN, AU**

(AP/ST – 16<sup>th</sup> May. Cairo) Armed militias have repeatedly broken a cease-fire in Darfur since a Sudanese peace agreement was signed a week and a half ago, the African Union and the United Nations said Tuesday.

Arab militias known as the Janjaweed on Monday attacked at least two villages in the north of western Sudan, the A.U. said. An unidentified armed group launched a separate attack Sunday in southern Darfur, the U.N. said. And refugees staged riots in camps across the region, where at least three people were killed in clashes with police, it said.

Renewed violence came as the U.N. and A.U. pushed splinter rebel groups to endorse the peace deal and pushed Khartoum follow through on its pledge to disarm Arab militias.

New raids occurred Monday near the northern Darfur town of Kutum, the A.U. said.

He said the A.U., which operates a 7,300-strong peacekeeping force in Darfur, hadn't yet fully investigated the incidents. Local media reports that several people had been killed couldn't be independently verified.

A separate raid by an unidentified armed militia occurred Sunday in a village southwest of Gereida in southern Darfur, according to a U.N. statement Tuesday.

Demonstrations and riots have also broken out in some of Darfur's sprawling refugee camps - killing at least three people, including a Sudanese military intelligence officer, the U.N. said, though there were unverified reports that as many as six people died.

In one protest Saturday, about 1,000 refugees clashed with police in a camp in Kass, near the southern Darfur town of Nyala, the U.N. said.

"The demonstrators were intersected by the Central Reserve Police, which fired at the crowd. As a result, a civilian died," the U.N. said. Sudanese authorities also arrested an unspecified number of refugees, it said.

Rioters reacted by lynching a Sudanese military officer, it added.

In west Darfur, two vehicles from an international aid organization were ambushed by unidentified men in uniform who robbed the five passengers, including a foreign aid worker, the U.N. also said.

**GoNU / CPA**

## **Parliament warns of the implications of delayed payment of the salaries of the JIUs**

(*AlAyaam* – 17<sup>th</sup> May. **Khartoum**) Parliament has warned that the over 6 months delay in payment of the salaries of the SPLA component in the JIUs deployed to Western Bahr-el-Ghazal State may cause adverse complications on the ground.

On the other hand, the parliamentary committee on peace and national reconciliation has tabled a report before parliament requesting, among other things, participation in all issues concerning peace and national reconciliation in order that parliament may be represented on such issues. The committee has also called for the establishment of a national council for demining and said that demining should not be left to be carried out by foreign organisations alone. It also called for the acceleration of troop redeployment from the areas cited in the CPA, for resolving of the issue of the Other Armed Groups and concern for improving infrastructure in the areas affected by war.

The parliamentary committee on humanitarian affairs has also warned of an imminent famine in southern Sudan during the rainy season as a result of the delay in the flow of food items and to intervention by local authorities in determining market prices.

The committee on humanitarian affairs pointed out that some returnees have gone back to where they were before due to lack of services and appropriate housing, etc.

## **DPA / Darfur**

### **Darfur IDP camps protest against the DPA**

(*AlSahafa* 17<sup>th</sup> May. **Darfur**) Some IDP camps in the Darfur region continue to demonstrate in protest against the DPA.

Protesters in an IDP camp yesterday chased out the AU force there and called for international troops to protect them.

The protesters also called for individual compensations for what they described as “the destruction” they suffered as a result of the war.

### **Sudan says aid groups can move without restriction in Darfur**

(*ST* – 16<sup>th</sup> May. **Khartoum**) The Government has granted all charity organizations and all media organs the right to access to all areas inside the three states of Darfur for a period of three months that would be evaluated and assessed, the Minister for Humanitarian Affairs, Costa Manyebi, said in the meeting yesterday with the foreign organizations operating in the Sudan.

The minister, in the meeting he held with representatives of INGOs to exchange views on issues of interest, pointed out that under the present changes brought by the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) the government would open a new page for rallying efforts and assistance needed for forwarding assistance to the needy and also to improve the provision of services and bolster peace in the region.

He said against this government permission for access to the Darfur areas without restrictions, the NGOs have to take into consideration the government concerns regarding

the supervisory role and the respect of the local administrations where the organizations would be operating.

The minister proposed the formation of a joint work team that would include the local national parties as well as the relevant voluntary organizations to set up mechanism and plans for the reactivation of humanitarian action in the region and for the implementation of the DPA.

He said this mechanism would work to make the peace durable, sell the DPA to all concerned sectors of the Darfur society, contain the effects of war in the region and convince the movements that have not yet signed the peace agreement to join the peace process. The minister confirmed that the government pays attention to the criticism levelled against the voluntary work law that has been recently passed by the National Assembly.

Manyebi said this law has now become a reality but that it has to be implemented through a number of regulations and bills and that at that stage that criticism could be taken into account.

### **Government moves to fill the food deficit in Darfur**

(*AlAyaam* – 17<sup>th</sup> May. **Khartoum**) Vice-President Taha has announced that government has set aside 20,000 metric tonnes of food for the WFP to enable cover the food deficit in Darfur.

The VP called on all concerned parties to carry out an emergency plan within a specified timeline to eliminate the effects of the war.

### **Other Developments**

#### **Dr. Turabi calls on youths to stage an uprising against the government**

(*AlRai AlAam* – 17<sup>th</sup> May. **Khartoum**) Speaking to reporters yesterday, Dr. Turabi has called on youths in the country to revolt against the government and safeguard their interests.

Dr. Turabi says the DPA was signed under pressure and does not bring a radical solution to the problems of Darfur and will only serve to further divide the country and cause more tension.