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(By Public Information Office)

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HIGHLIGHTS :

UN/ Agencies

Gunmen kill African Union officer in Darfur

(*SudanTribune.com*) Gunmen killed an officer in the African Union peacekeeping force in Darfur, making April the deadliest month so far for African troops trying to bring stability to western Sudan, an AU spokesman said on Sunday.

Noureddine Mezni said the unidentified gunmen shot the major and seized his vehicle on Saturday night near the back entrance of the AU compound in El-Fasher, capital of north Darfur.

"He was the seventh soldier we lost in April. This is a real tragedy for us," said Mezni.

Saturday's attack was the third on AU troops in April, reinforcing fears violence could undermine the world's biggest humanitarian effort as the stalemate over a U.N. deployment drags on.

The Transition Debate

UN to host high-level meeting with AU on Darfur

(*SudanTribune.com*) UN chief Ban Ki-moon on Monday opens high-level talks here with the African Union (AU) on Darfur that could clear the way for deploying a sizable UN force in the strife-torn Sudanese region.

Ban was to hold two days of talks with Alpha Oumar Konare, the chairman of the AU Commission, to nail down a tentative deal reached with Khartoum to send about 2,300 UN troops to Darfur to bolster 7,000 under-equipped AU troops.

The two men were also to focus on the final phase of the United Nations plan expected to culminate in the deployment of a 20,000-strong joint UN-AU force in Darfur.

UN deputy spokeswoman Marie Okabe said Friday that Ban and Konare would brief the UN Security Council on their deliberations Monday afternoon.

Also Monday the UN special envoy for Darfur, Jan Eliasson, and his AU counterpart Selim Ahmad Salim, who are tasked with reviving and broadening the wobbly peace agreement reached between Khartoum and Darfur rebels last May, were to brief the Security Council on the political track of the UN settlement plan.

The upcoming UN consultations coincide with a flurry of international diplomatic activity to end the humanitarian crisis in Darfur with Libya announcing last Friday it would host an international conference on Darfur on April 28, with representatives of the United States, Britain,

Sudan, Chad, Eritrea, the AU and the European Union expected to attend. [Follow the link for the full text of this story [UN to host high-level meeting with AU on Darfur](#)].

US calls for African-led hybrid Darfur force

(*SudanTribune.com*; *BBC Monitoring*) The United States urged Sudan on Monday to accept U.N. troops as part of a hybrid peacekeeping force for Darfur as the world body awaited word from the African Union on reports Khartoum had agreed to a joint deployment.

The Saudi state news agency reported on Sunday that Sudan had signed a deal with the United Nations and the African Union on deployment of African and U.N. forces in Darfur, but gave few details. The United Nations said it had not yet received word.

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte told a news conference a hybrid force made up of African Union and United Nations troops was critical to the success of a Darfur peace deal signed by Khartoum and one rebel group in 2006.

But in apparent recognition of Khartoum's long-standing opposition to admitting Western troops to the war-ravaged western region, Negroponte told reporters a hybrid force would be predominantly African, and would be led by an African.

"We must move quickly to a larger hybrid United Nations-African Union peacekeeping force with a single unified chain of command that conforms to U.N. standards and practices," Negroponte said, speaking in the Sudanese capital.

"We also acknowledge and have agreed that the preponderance, the majority of these forces will be recruited from African countries and the commander of this United Nations-African Union force will also be from Africa," Negroponte said.

Negroponte also said Sudan's record on humanitarian access to Darfur was "not encouraging".

"When it comes to humanitarian access the government of Sudan's record is not encouraging. The denial of visas, the harassment of aid workers and other measures have created the impression that the government is engaged in a deliberate campaign of intimidation," he said.

[Follow the link for the full text of this story [US calls for African-led hybrid Darfur force](#)]

Sudan signs agreement with UN and AU on Darfur - report

(*SudanTribune.com*) Sudan has signed a joint agreement with the United Nations and the African Union that defines their respective roles in Darfur, the official Saudi news agency reported.

Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir phoned Saudi King Abdullah and told him the Sudanese government had signed the agreement, the SPA news agency reported Sunday.

It quoted the king as saying the agreement "will support Sudan's unity, security, stability and peace."

No additional details were provided.

Meanwhile and in a separate story, *foreign minister Lam Akol said Sunday that Sudan will take as many more African Union troops as needed in Darfur but will not bow to international pressure to accept a United Nations force in that region.* Lam Akol reiterated Khartoum's firm rejection of international troops in Darfur as visiting U.S. Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte pressed Sudanese officials to accept thousands of U.N. peacekeepers to support the world's biggest humanitarian effort there. Khartoum had agreed on a plan to deploy two more battalions — which usually number between 500 and 1,000 troops — of African forces but was now open to a much larger number to support 7,000 AU troops in Darfur, Akol said.

"Of course some members of the U.N. Security Council wanted a bigger number," he told Reuters in an interview.

"This is why we agreed to a technical group to go on the ground and be assisted by the Sudanese government to arrive at the figure they want. And that figure we will respect."

Asked if Sudan would accept up to 10,000 more troops, for instance, Akol said: "We don't have any problem if it is determined on a professional basis."

Khartoum is likely to accept aircraft, said Akol, adding, "we are looking at it favourably."

[Follow the links for the full text of the stories above [Sudan signs agreement with UN and AU on Darfur - report](#); [Sudan open to thousands more AU Darfur troops - FM](#)].

China FM, UN Chief discuss Darfur

(*SudanTribune.com*) China's Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing told U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon over a telephone conversation Sunday, that the international community should continue to emphasize both the political process and the deployment of peacekeepers in its efforts to resolve the Darfur conflict, a statement on the ministry's Web site said.

Ban expressed his appreciation to China for playing a "constructive role in seeking a solution" to the conflict in Darfur, the statement said.

CPA

SPLA condemns the arrest and detention of Mjr Gen. Elias Waya

(*AlSudani*) The SPLA has condemned the arrest by Police on Friday of the head of the technical committee of the Joint Defence Board, Mjr. Gen. Elias Waya.

The SPLA figure said following his release from the Omdurman prison the same evening that he was driving back home without guard along Street 61 in Amarat when he was blocked by a civilian vehicle and then two police vehicles and was asked to come out of the car. He said that he was beaten and taken to the Omdurman South Police cell despite having told them who he

was. He was released around 20:00 hours the same evening after two members of the Joint Integrated Units intervened. He also says he was robbed of about 500,000 Dinars, a wristwatch, prescription eyeglasses and a cell phone and was hurt on his left ear and eye. Waya said he reported the incident to a state minister at the Ministry of Defense, SPLA Headquarters in Juba and the SPLM office in Khartoum.

The Police had a different story to tell and reported that Mr. Waya was drunk and started shooting in the streets and then citizens notified the police that then intervened and later took him to the relevant authorities. He refuted Waya's claims that the police handcuffed him. The head of the CID says Waya will be brought before trial following preliminary investigations into the incident.

Waya denies the police report of his shooting and having been drunk.

Task force of Misseiriya and Dinka representatives to administer the economy in Abyei

(*AlSahafa*) The EU, the UNDP and the GoSS have completed preparations for the establishment of a commercial committee composed of about 80 representatives from the Dinka and Misseiriya of Abyei.

A press release issued by the UNDP said that the body will be concerned with the interest of traders and to coordinate with authorities on trade and development issues.

The European Commission is bankrolling the program and has earmarked 54 million Euros for the same while the UNDP will be administering the project on behalf of the Government of National Unity and the GoSS.

GoNU

President Bashir says RSA's Mbeki understood the Sudan position on the ICC

(*AlRai AlAam*) Briefing the Council of Ministers yesterday on the recent visit here by President Thambo Mbeki, President Bashir said that his Republic of South Africa counterpart had fully understood Sudan's decision not to hand over any Sudanese to the ICC>

he also said that Mr. Mbeki was fully appraised of the situation in Darfur and briefed on progress in the implementation of the peace agreements.

Head of the Darfur Lawyers' Union reveals names of Darfurians under government custody

(*Rai AlShaab*) The head of the Darfur Lawyers' Union has expressed concerns over the fate of 5 darfurians detained by the security officials for periods ranging from 2 years to three months and who have not had formal charges levied against them.

Mohamed el-Douma pointed out that this is in violation of the constitution and does not rhyme with the vows of the President of the Republic to empty the prisons of all political detainees.

The whereabouts of these people are not known, he said, and has demanded that authorities make known where they are being kept.

Southern Sudan/ GoSS/SPLM

Regional Director of the World Bank says ministers in Juba know nothing about administration

(*AllIntibaha*) The regional director of the World Bank in Sudan, said that donors are not optimistic about the future of rehabilitation and development in the south particularly in investment.

“Ministers in Juba know nothing about administration,” he said as reported to US News times.

GoSS regional cooperation minister says secession likely if CPA is not implemented

(*AllIntibaha*) The GoSS Minister of Regional Cooperation says that the votes may go for secession of southern Sudan if the Comprehensive Peace Agreement is not implemented.

“The implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between GoSS and the Khartoum government been slow and selective”, he said to the press.

He said the IGAD must exert more efforts to insure full implementation of the CPA.

Sudan’s E. Equatoria speaker ousted in civilian coup

(*SudanTribune.com*) The Chairman of Specialized Committee for Legislation and Legal Affairs of Eastern Equatoria State Assembly, Hon. Ohisa Lais said Governor Brigadier General Alosio Emor Ojetuk and his associates have overthrown the legitimate administration of parliament of the State in a civilian coup and illegally installed a new Speaker and the Deputy Speaker without due process of the Law.

He said the un-procedural motion moved by Hon. Paul Okot Bara and allies has failed to present their motion to the Speaker as stipulated under article 40 of the Conduct of Business 2006 and instate preferred to bring their motion under urgent and important matter.

He say the motion (nicknamed ten million) moved by Hon. Paul Okot Bara was rejected by the August House because it failed to follow the right procedures which the associates of Governor Ojetuk did not want it to be subjected to legal procedures. Besides, he says, it has never been investigated by the Assembly nor by any competent court, remarks Ohisa Lais.

Instead of listening to what should have been done to enhance the motion, Governor Ojetuk’s associates were shouting, hackling and name calling in the hall that prompted the legitimate Hon. Speaker to adjourn the session in order to pave ways for procedural matters to be sorted out as it

was clear that the very Speaker cannot chair the sitting because he is one of the accused, says Ohisa Lais.

Ugandan govt, LRA to resume peace talks

(*SudanTribune.com*) Following a 2-day meeting between a Ugandan government delegation and LRA at Ri-Kwangba, W. Equatoria, United Nations Special Envoy Joachim Chissano revealed that the two sides have agreed to resume peace talks Juba on April 26.

The Kampala delegation and the rebels also agreed to extend the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement, which had expired, to June 30 this year.

The two sides also agreed that five countries, including Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, South Africa, and the DRC, would act as observers during the peace negotiating process.

Chissano added that it had been agreed that Ri Kwangba acts as the LRA's assembly point. On the issue of the LRA peace delegation in Juba, the meeting agreed that their security remains the responsibility of the government of southern Sudan.

The UN would, however, help "where possible", he said. The talks are seen as a chance to end the 20-year-old LRA rebellion that has left tens of thousands of people dead and over 1.4 million people homeless in northern Uganda. [Follow the link for the full text of the story [Ugandan govt, LRA to resume peace talks](#)]

Darfur/ Darfur Peace Agreement

UK blames the armed factions of Darfur for the deterioration of the situation in Darfur

(*AllIntibaha*) The UK holds Darfur armed factions responsible for deteriorating of the situation there.

In a meeting with women activists, The head of the Sudan desk at the foreign ministry at the UK said that Darfur armed groups are the main cause of the problem due to their divisions, lack of maturity and abuse of the situation to achieve personal gains.

Negroponte holds talks on Darfur with Minnawi, Nafie, and Dr. Ghazi

(*Sudan Tribune; BBC Monitoring*) Presidential Advisor, Ghazi Salah Al-Din, held talks yesterday with the US Deputy Secretary of State, John Negroponte, and the accompanying delegation for probing means of appending the Abuja non-signatories to the peace process.

Ghazi informed reporters following the talks that the meeting aimed at briefing the delegation on conditions in the country, probing new venues for cooperation regarding the views proposed for solving the Darfur issue and conferring on the tasks of African Union peacekeepers in Darfur.

The talks, he said, had also discussed relations with Chad, which he affirmed, would inevitably be reduced to normalcy. He revealed that the US envoy will later visit Chad.

The visiting envoy also held talks with Senior Presidential aide and the head of the Darfur interim authority who briefed him on the situation in Darfur and progress on the political and peace processes as well as Sudan-Chad relations.

The envoy also had talks with Presidential Advisor Nafei Ali Nafei, also around the same issues.

Darfur SLM says committed only to 2004 ceasefire deal

(SudanTribune.com) The Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) announced that it is committed only to a ceasefire agreement signed in 2004. The holdout rebel group requests the African Union not to impose provisions of the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) ceasefire protocol on its representative.

In a letter addressed to the African Union's Peace and Security Council (AUPSC), SLM-AbdulWahid said that the mandate of its representative in the Ceasefire Commission "is restricted and limited only to the implementation of the ceasefire agreement signed in N'djamena on 8th April 2004 and the Protocols of the enhancement of the security and humanitarian situations signed in Abuja –Nigeria on 9th of November 2004."

The rebel group opposed to the DPA said it is not concerned with the Enhanced Humanitarian Ceasefire Agreement (EHCA) which is part and parcel of the 5 May 2006 peace deal between the Sudanese government and a SLM faction led by Minni Minawi.

The SLM asked the AU to suspend its participation in the ceasefire commission and to transport its representative to an area controlled by the group if they insist on the implementation of the provisions of enhanced ceasefire of Darfur peace deal.