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UNMIS

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(By Public Information Office)

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UN/ Agencies/ Partners

UN spokesperson says DPA did not succeed in bringing about the required security situation

(*AlKhartoum; Sudan Vision*) The UN has said it will not fund AMIS peacekeeping operations in Darfur but that her funding will only be confined to the 3 phases of the support package to the AMIS and that AMIS peacekeeping operations will still have to depend on donations. Spokesperson Radhia Achouri said that the peacekeeping operation in Darfur can only be funded through the UN should there be agreement on the envisaged scenario of a “hybrid force”.

She pointed out that funding is an easy issue because the budget is covered through contributions from member states of the UN. The more difficult issue in this second phase of the support package, she adds, is the issue of the deployment of 6,000 personnel because this requires cooperation from the contributing states.

On the Darfur Peace Agreement, Achouri said the agreement did not bring about the required security situation because it has been rejected by a number of influential parties. She pointed out that armed robbery and conflict continue.

Achouri also denied there being any contradictions on statements by UN personnel over the issue of Darfur. She pointed out that no UN official has talked of genocide and rape taking place in Darfur. She said that the UN reports speak of “serious witnesses and evidence” that rape and genocide had taken place. [*The paper promises readers it will print the full text of this interview with Ms. Radhia Achouri, UNMIS Spokesperson, in later issues*].

In a separate story, the *Sudan Vision* daily says the UNMIS spokesperson stated that the LSP has not been completely covered in terms of personnel deployment. She pointed out that there are only 38 military experts out of the agreed number of 105 and 33 CivPol out of 48.

She also says that there is progress in terms of equipment with 168 night vision equipment provided but added that medical equipment and some material related to African Union information is yet to be provided.

Three WFP vehicles hijacked south of el-Fasher

(*AlHayat*) Informed sources report that an armed group of the NRF hijacked last Tuesday from the Zam-Zam Camp south of el-Fasher.

Reports say the hijackers took off towards Korma town west of el-Fasher and have probably crossed over to Chad through the border town of el-Teina.

The Transition Debate

Government directs mission in Addis to issue entry visas to African Union personnel

(*Sudan Vision*) The Sudan government has directed its mission in Addis Ababa to issue entry visas to African Union staff traveling to Sudan.

African Union Mission in Sudan Spokesperson Nouredin el-Mezni said after the tenth meeting of the tripartite mechanism that the visa procedures would facilitate the movement of African Union personnel in Sudan.

El-Mezni complained of the weak donor response for accommodation and office space for the African troops, experts and police personnel despite they are already in Khartoum as part of the HSP.

African forces will have a mandate to protect civilians, says the United Nations

(*AlSahafa*) The United Nations says most of the troops coming in as part of the HSP will be from African countries.

The United Nations points out however that once agreement is reached on the hybrid operations, the mandate of these forces will have to be reviewed to include protecting of civilians and opening routes for humanitarian operations. The United Nations says the deployment of these forces may require up to 6 months.

President Bashir meets US media delegation

(*Akhbar Alyaum et al*) Speaking yesterday to a visiting US media delegation at his hometown of Hosh Bannaga, President Bashir said most of the ills that have befallen Sudan are of the making of western intelligence, western organizations and the US administration.

He explained that all rebel movements around the world are dubbed “terrorist organizations” by the west with the exception of the rebel movements in Sudan. These, he said, receive backing from the west. He further pointed out that Sudan is mainly targeted because of its strategic location and its refusal to bow to the wishes of the west.

He pointed out that the US Administration deceived the world when it went on the campaign trail to oust Iraq’s Saddam Hussein on the grounds of possession of weapons of mass destruction. He expressed hopes that the US delegation will put things in the right perspective once they go back home.

Answering a question on Sudan’s acceptance of the HSP, the president said that Sudan has accepted the HSP but the forces on the ground will be African and the United Nations will only provide technical and logistics support and not combat troops.

President Bashir rebuffed reports of government support to the Janjaweed and described them as outlaws who have to be brought to book.

Asked on the elections, the president assured the visiting delegation that the elections will be held on schedule next year.

Darfur force needs cash not blue helmets - Sudan FM

(SudanTribune.com) Sudan has called on the United States and Britain on Wednesday to help secure funds to beef up peacekeeping arrangements in Darfur instead of pushing Khartoum to accept a larger U.N. peacekeeping force.

"We only want them to comply with the agreement ... to talk about the forces agreed upon and not the international forces," Foreign Minister Lam Akol told Reuters in an interview.

"They should play their role as members of the United Nations (Security Council) in this respect," he said, when asked if he wanted the United States and Britain to help pay for the force.

Akol said African nations were willing to contribute more soldiers to the operation once the world body approved funding. He accused unspecified powers of hindering United Nations funding for African peacekeepers so that an international force could be installed.

Akol said Sudan had kept its part of the deal and denied rebel accusations that Khartoum was turning a blind eye to genocide in Darfur by the Janjaweed militia.

"There is no ethnic cleansing operation or annihilation in Darfur," he said.

VP Taha held a meeting earlier yesterday with the US media delegation. He gave them a detailed briefing on the implementation of the CPA and DPA and the developments in Darfur, reports *BBC Monitoring*.

Sudan's defense minister warns UN against interfering in Darfur

(BBC Monitoring) The minister of defense said that Sudan agreeing to the [UN] heavy support package does not mean that the international forces should interfere in Darfur. He said their work was restricted to providing logistic, technical, administrative and financial support to the AU.

In a statement to SUNA, he said the package included three components: the first being a civil one for elements working to push the dialogue so as to complete the peace [process] in Darfur as well as those working in the humanitarian fields; the second component is connected to the activities of the police which includes unit supporting the AU and Sudanese police in refugee camps and weapon free areas.

The minister said the third component touched on the military aspect which included surveillance, transportation and engineering units to maintain runways and airports as well as water and medical facilities.

The minister of defense said the military component allowed light helicopters ran by African pilots to protect the AU mission. He said Sudan agreeing to the heavy support package was based on the Abuja agreement and the three-party meeting between the UN, AU and the Sudanese government which was held in Addis Ababa in April, as well as the five-party meeting

which was held in Riyadh with an initiative from the custodian of the two Holy Mosques, King Abdallah Bin-Abd-al-Aziz, in March.

Sudanese opposition parties say government bargaining over UN troops to Darfur

(BBC Monitoring) Opposition parties have expressed their surprise at the government's latest position, according to which it has accepted the second (heavy) UN support package, and said the government is bargaining politically over the issue of UN troops in Darfur.

Deputy leader of the Democratic Unionist Party Ali Mahmud Hasanayn told Al-Watan that the government position on international troops involved political bargaining. "I told parliament that the government would, at the end of the day, accept UN troops," he said and further added that the government had agreed to the joint forces since the Addis Ababa meeting when Kofi Anan announced that the government had agreed to the troops. He said that by agreeing to the second package the government had lost its credibility in front of its people and itself. He said the government should have determined its position at the outset before resolution 1706 was issued and should have studied the nationality, duties and length of stay of these troops rather than stirring up public opinion and threatening to enter into war with the UN.

Hasanayn further said the government should have taken the example of United Nations Interim Forces in Lebanon to set out a specific role for UN troops limited to peace keeping not combat with no interference in internal Sudanese affairs. Hasanayn said he had previously informed the Security Council, during its visit to Khartoum, that the solution would be to deploy UN troops from countries that did not have agendas against Sudan like African and Latin American countries. "We are in dire need of a government that is truthful with itself and is closer to Darfur instead of forces coming from abroad to protect the people of Darfur from their own government," he said.

In this regard, the assistant leader of the Ummah Party, Maj-Gen Fadlallah Burmah Nasir, said the government's step was an admittance of the truth. He said if the government cared about Darfur then it should take into consideration the general good because there were no winners in the issue of Darfur. He said the main aim was to find solutions to the tragedies of the people of Darfur and said he considered the government's rejection of the UN troops was political outbidding.

Further in this regard, the official spokesperson for the Sudanese Communist Party Sulayman Husayn said the government had falsified the facts concerning its statements on the second UN package. He said the fact Sudan was not given the chairmanship of the AU at two summits confirmed the government's implication in the tragedy in Darfur. He further said joint forces had become an international demand as well as a demand for the people of Darfur.

Bush to impose new sanctions if Sudan Bashir not stop Darfur bloodshed

(SudanTribune.com) President George W. Bush, ramping up pressure on Sudan, addressed on Wednesday for the first time a tough and direct message to the Sudanese president. He said the

United States will tighten economic sanctions and impose new ones if President Omar al-Bashir does not take quick, concrete steps to stop the bloodshed in Darfur.

Bush said the Sudanese government must allow U.N. support forces, facilitate deployment of a full U.N.-African Union peacekeeping force, stop supporting violent militias and let humanitarian aid reach the people of Darfur.

"The world needs to act," Bush said. "If President al-Bashir does not meet his obligations, the United States of America will act."

Bush said the United States would tighten economic sanctions on Sudan, barring certain companies from taking part in the U.S. financial system; target sanctions on individuals responsible for violence; and apply new sanctions against the government of Sudan.

"It is evil we're now seeing in Sudan and we're not going to back down," Bush said.

Sen. Russ Feingold, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on African Affairs, said Congress has already called for many of the steps Bush outlined.

"What is needed now is their quick and effective implementation and enforcement," said Feingold, a Democrat.

"We are long past the point of warnings," he said, "especially since so many have been ignored while hundreds of thousands have died and millions have been displaced."

David C. Rubenstein, director of the Save Darfur Coalition, is skeptical.

"His regime makes promises, signs agreements and makes pledges _ only to hedge, qualify and renege on their commitments," Rubenstein said. "President Bashir has been one broken promise after another, and we fear this concession may be an extension of that trend."

Bush said he wants to give U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon more time to pursue diplomatic efforts, but that if al-Bashir does not act quickly, the U.S. will take action. He did not say how long he would wait before levying harsher punishments.

Bush said he will direct the secretary of state to prepare a U.N. Security Council resolution to apply new sanctions against the government of Sudan and people found to be violating human rights or obstructing peace. The resolution would also impose an expanded embargo on arms sales to Sudan, prohibit Sudan's government from conducting offensive military flights over Darfur and strengthen the U.S. ability to monitor and report any violations, Bush said.

Bush spoke at the U.S. Holocaust Museum to a crowd that included survivors of the Holocaust, atrocities in which Nazi Germany and its collaborators killed an estimated 6 million Jews.

CPA

Constitution review Commission holds discussions with the GoSS over the electoral law

(Rai AlShaab) The National Constitution Review Commission and the GoSS held talks in Juba yesterday on preparations to conduct a workshop by the end of this month in Juba on the electoral laws.

The Secretary-General of the commission who held talks with GoSS VP Riek Machar yesterday on the issue told the press that the views of the regional states on these laws have also to be heard.

NCP, SPLM form committee to investigate recent arrest, beating of JDB's Elias Waya

(Rai AlShaab) The SPLM and the NCP have formed a fact-finding committee to investigate the recent incident in which the head of the Technical Committee of the Joint Defense Board, Mjr. Gen. Elias Waya, was beaten up and arrested by police on the grounds he was drunk and was shooting around.

Waya is currently said to be in Juba to brief VP Kiir on the incident.

The SPLM meanwhile maintains that the incident was planned and warned that repeats of such incidents will jeopardize the CPA.

A prominent member of the SPLM said Mjr. Gen. Waya was hijacked by police and beaten up and was injected with an unknown element before being taken to the police cells.

Girl dies in grenade explosion in S. Kordofan

(Alwan) A girl was killed and two boys seriously injured as a grenade exploded in their home in S. Kordofan.

The police have launched investigations into how the grenade found its way in their house.

GoNU

Ministry of interior says it has succeeded in its plans to rid of militias

(AlSahafa et al) The Minister of Interior has requested parliament to approve his request that it recommend that government avail additional funds to employ 40,000 extra police personnel to enhance security in Darfur and all other parts of the country. He also called on parliament to expedite endorsement of the Police Act and follow up on the implementation of the security arrangements of the peace agreements.

On security in Khartoum, the minister who was presenting his report before parliament yesterday said that the incidents of insecurity witnessed in Khartoum was as a result of the illegal and unregulated supply of arms to some militia factions signatories to the peace deals and also

because these factions do not abide by the laws. He said that the plan the police has laid to rid the capital of such incidents is succeeding.

The interior minister also told parliament that information received point out that there is a new colonialist plot being concocted that targets the water sources and oil in Darfur in a bid to revive the deteriorating economy in the west. He said his ministry has been monitoring studies that show that Darfur has the third largest oil reserves in Africa.

He also pointed out that a report of the international network to stop the proliferation of small arms confirms that some US arms manufacturers are among 96 western companies that produced the 6 million pieces of small arms that are to blame for the 500,000 deaths a year around the world. Some US companies, he said, have found markets in Darfur for their wares.

The minister also blamed western countries for obstructing the bid to bring the Darfur Peace Agreement non-signatory factions on board through their support to these movements.

Southern Sudan

GoSS Council of Ministers rejects Islamic banking in southern Sudan

(The Citizen) In its session yesterday, the GoSS Council of Ministers rejected a request to permit the establishment of Islamic banks in southern Sudan.

Speaking to the press, information minister Samson Kwajje pointed out that the rejection was on the grounds that the CPA stipulates the Islamic banks should work only in the north while the south should follow the conventional banking system.

The minister also said that a decision was taken at the meeting to alleviate the losses suffered by the public servants as a result of the fluctuations in exchange and drop of the US dollar against the New Sudanese Pound. The losses amount to about 20% of their pay accruing from the fact that the salaries were originally calculated at US dollars but paid in local currency. Agreement was reached that the salaries be calculated at the fixed rate of January 2007.

Southern Sudan gunmen beat Juba dockers over food

(SudanTribune.com) Gunmen from the SSDF beat river port workers in Juba in an attempt to seize a food shipment, officials said on Wednesday.

The 60 armed members of the South Sudan Defense Forces militia also chased away foreign contractors in the incident on Tuesday, officials said.

The gunmen were trying to seize a food shipment at the Nile river port that the southern government — dominated by the former rebel Sudan Peoples' Liberation Army — had ordered confiscated pending a corruption investigation.

Another group, of 15 gunmen, later marched to SPLA headquarters, prompting the United Nations to issue a security alert. Southern President Salva Kiir later decided to hand the food to the militia members to calm the situation.

The officials said the government had not authorized spending on the three barge loads of food and a separate shipment of uniforms for the militia members, who are due to be integrated into the southern army.

The official who ordered them had been arrested, they said.

Southern Sudan taking the lead in observing human rights

(The Citizen) The Secretary-General of the Southern Sudan Human Rights Commission says the region is taking the lead in observing human rights following 50 years of civil war.

He said that the GoSS president and his staff are taking the work of the commission seriously.

He said that the commission has conducted a number of in-house workshops on the fundamentals of human rights and its staff have toured neighboring and friendly countries to learn from their counterparts abroad.

Asked on the slow progress, he said that this is mainly due to budgetary constraints and lack of a legal framework that still seeks the parliamentary nod.

He said that most of the complaints received by the commission are land wrangles between the GoSS and citizens.

He said that the commission plans to recruit 18 human rights monitors in future and to create a civil society forum as well as send an assessment to the ten southern states.

Lakes State governor urges local agriculture development

(SudanTribune.com) Lakes State Governor Lt. General Daniel Awet Akot paid a visit on Monday to Pacong, 12 miles away from Rumbek.” He urged the population to cultivate the land and promote local development.

The Governor was accompanied by his state advisors, member of Legislative Assembly Makur Buoc, and SPLA representative brigadier Bol Akot.

The team was received by the commissioner of Rumbek East county, Daniel Gumweil Nhomabur, and executive director of East County. On their arrival, the meeting was officially opened by east county commissioner. There was a great attendance sharing at the meeting place in Pacong Payam.

The aim of the visit was to discuss the issue of security and to promote the Agricultural cultivations in the county.

The Governor concluded that SPLM State secretary will visit all the counties of Lakes State to explain basic aim of the party. “Daniel Awet say that provisional appointment of chief will be done soon in the Lakes State Legislative Assembly.

Eastern Equatoria parliament appoints new business panel

(*SudanTribune.com*) The newly elected Speaker of Eastern Equatoria State Interim Legislative Assembly, Ms Sabina Dario has, today, dissolved the Assembly Business Committee (ABC) and appointed a new team.

Soon after appointment, the state Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, Mr. George Muras Lomoro presented to the August House the state budget for fiscal year 2007 and it was subjected for first reading.

Darfur/ Darfur Peace Agreement

Umma Party to seek backing for a document challenging the DPA

(*AllIntibaha; Alwan*) The National Umma Party has announced it intends to muster popular, political and diplomatic support behind a paper challenging the DPA.

Umma leader Sadiq el-Mahdi said they will also seek to form a national plan to review the CPA with the intention of widening participation of the other parties and seek to establish a reconciliation and accord mechanism that will replace criminal summonses. He also said that they will also look into organizing a constitutional conference with United Nations supervision.

He said Sudan can only be brought out of the collision path with the international community if the NCP steps down from power.

Another opposition figure, Dr. Turabi of the Popular Congress Party, travels to Nyala today to attend the general conference of the S. Darfur chapter of his party, reports *Alwan* daily.

Reports say Dr. Turabi travels to Nyala despite advice from key party members for him not to go.

Other Developments

Beja Congress vows secession

(*The Citizen*) The Eastern Front has finished naming its representatives to the GoNU and declared April 29 as deadline for its 5,000 soldiers to surrender as per the ESPA.

But the Beja Congress declared yesterday that those who signed the ESPA do not represent the entire east and that the National Congress Party and the ruling party in Eritrea are scheming to divide the tribes of eastern Sudan.

Ali Bawin, the Secretary-General of the Beja Congress, said that the Asmara agreement neglected the most important demand of the people of the east that is the right to self-determination.

He vowed his party will work hard for independence of its territories which he maps as from Al-Khaiary, west of Gedharif, to Halayeb, north of Port Sudan. He said that his party has reached the conviction to secede after being assured that both southern Sudan and Darfur may break away.