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By Public Information Office

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Highlights

Main News

Delegation from Partners visit Southern Kordofan, Messeriya urges FVP to withdraw SPLA troops south of 1.1.56

(Al-Rai Al-Aam/ Akhbar Al Yom) The Governors of Southern Kordofan and Unity States at the direction of the GNU and GoSS yesterday signed an agreement designed to end border tension which had led to clashes between the Messeriya and SPLA in the Kharsana and Kailik areas during the week. The pact, which came into effect yesterday, calls for withdrawal by SPLA soldiers and their heavy weapons to Unity State over the next fortnight. According to the SPLM, the situation in the area was returning to normal. The following are the main provisions of the agreement:

1. As from Monday 28.4.2008, water shall be provided to SPLA barracks in Kailik and Kharsana. Civilians, households and the wounded persons shall be evacuated and that will be carried out by SAF.
2. SPLA shall begin withdrawing from Kharsana as from 28.4.2008.
3. The two parties shall be committed to pay blood money for those killed on both sides.
4. The Southern Kordofan Security committee and the command of Muglad military zone shall set up a force tasked with securing Umadara-Higlig road to ensure free movement of people, goods and commodities.
5. The Government of Southern Kordofan shall be committed to sensitize residents in the area about the need that the road should not be blocked and if there are any grievances that should be addressed to competent authorities.

The pact was signed by Governor of Unity State Taban Deng, Governor of Southern Kordofan State Omer Sulaiman Adam and witnessed by Ahmed Haroun (Ministerial Committee for Resolution of Border issues)

GoSS orders 170 census observers to return to Khartoum, only 25 of them are recognized

(Al-Sudani) 12 census observers were detained in Bahr el Ghazal yesterday while seven others were released in Equatoria State. Chairman of the National Monitoring and Evaluation Committee Dr. Abdul Bagi Al Jailani confirmed the detention of the observers by GoSS. Reportedly, GoSS ordered that 170 census monitors return to Khartoum. GoSS Vice President Dr. Riak Machar said those being expelled were not census observers and that they had not been appointed by the Presidency. Their names were not on the list of census monitors, he said, describing them as “intruders”.

Reportedly, many census monitors arrived in southern Sudan to deploy on their own, something GoSS rejected. According to senior census official, Azaya Chol, GoSS recognized the 25 census observers sent to the south by the Presidency and told the rest to return to Khartoum.

UN/Agencies

UNAMID spokesperson: 80% of hybrid troops will deploy in Darfur by the end of the year

(Al-Khartoum) UNAMID spokesperson, N. Mezni, said 80% of hybrid troops would deploy by the end of this year in Darfur if things moved according to the schedule and the International Community honoured its financial obligations.

He said the Mission was facing challenges in the form of logistical and technical difficulties.

Mr. Mezni said the JSR discussion in NY focused on pushing deployment of hybrid troops. He expected Egyptian and Ethiopian troops to join by June.

GoNU

Edward Lino: census in Abyei is proceeding

(Al-Rai Alam) SPLM's Political Supervisor in Abyei, Edward Lino, said census was proceeding in the area despite the objections of the Central Bureau of Statistics.

Speaking to Miraya FM Mr. Lino strongly denounced the statements made by the Director of the Central Bureau of Statistics in which he claimed SPLA's disruption of work of enumerators.

He explained that SPLA objected to the census being conducted by the team of enumerators from Muglad Locality. "Enumerators from Muglad are not qualified for this job," he added.

UN-AU joint mediation team comes under fierce criticism from Sudan

(ST) April 28, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — The Sudanese government today lashed out at the joint United Nations (UN) - African Union (AU) mediation team led by Jan Eliasson and Salem Ahmed Salem.

Omar Rahma the Sudanese representative at the AU told the government sponsored Sudanese Media Center (SMC) that the "the UN-AU envoys are unable to create a constructive environment for resumption of peace talks".

Sudan as well as many western diplomats have grown frustrated with the mediation team for lack of progress on the political track but have refrained from making public criticisms of Salem and Eliasson.

Some reports have indicated that there are plans to bring on a single mediator to lead the UN-AU team. Among the names that were believed to be candidates is the veteran Algerian diplomat Mohamed Sahnoun.

Rahma said that there are “fundamental” prerequisites for negotiations including stopping divisions with the rebel groups and bringing the latter under a unified negotiating position.

He added that Abdel-Wahid Al-Nur, leader of Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) “is in the same position” while Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) insist on being the only Darfur group present at the peace talks.

However, Rahma stressed that the government is prepared to negotiate “anytime the factors leading to a successful negotiations are available”.

Last October, UN-and AU-mediated talks on Darfur in the Libyan city of Sirte aimed at convincing key rebel leaders to join the peace talks quickly collapsed after JEM and SLM main groups led by Dr. Khalil Ibrahim and Al-Nur boycotted the event.

UN and AU mediators have so far failed to bring the rival sides back to the negotiating table.

At least 200,000 people have died from the combined effects of war, famine and diseases and more than two million have fled their homes in Darfur since the ethnic minority rebels took up arms against Sudan’s Arab-dominated regime in February 2003.

US Charge d’Affaires: release of US Embassy’s containers is not enough; the two countries should make additional concessions to improve relations

(Al-Sudani) US Charge d’Affaires in Khartoum, Alberto Fernandez, said his country and Sudan were in need of making additional concessions to improve relations between the two countries.

In statements to the newspaper said releasing US Embassy’s containers was not enough.

Mr. Fernandez said dialogue between the two countries was the best way to resolve pending differences and emphasized the need for confidence building.

Foreign Minister and Presidential advisor visit London for discussion on Darfur negotiations

(Al-Sahafa) Sudan Government delegation engaged in discussion in London on British offer to host Darfur negotiations.

The delegation comprised Foreign Minister Deng Alor and Presidential Advisor Mustafa Osman Ismail. Presidential Assistant Nafe Ali Nafe reportedly joined the delegation.

The delegation met with British Foreign Minister and Minister of International Cooperation and they discussed Britain's offer to host negotiations between Khartoum and Darfur rebels.

Sudan Ambassador to Britain Omer Siddiq has affirmed Sudan agreement in principle to the British initiative to resolve the problem.

The Ambassador said the delegation would meet today with British Foreign Secretary M. Brown and Prime Minister Gordon Brown for discussion on details of the initiative.

He added that Britain was seeking to secure agreement of Sudan, UN, AU, European Partners and Darfur Armed Movements to the initiative.

[GoSS](#)

Shortage of census questionnaires in southern Sudan, FVP directs provision of more vehicles for census

(Al-Ayyam) The First Vice President Salva Kiir has directed all levels of GoSS to provide vehicles to enumerators.

Chairman of the Southern Sudan Census Commission Azaya Chol revealed shortage of questionnaires in some areas in Southern Sudan. He said the First Vice President and President of the Government of Southern Sudan had directed States and Localities to provide vehicles to enumerators.

Mr. Chol said more questionnaires would be requested to redress the gap.

[Darfur](#)

Darfur IDPs are not counted in Sudan census – official

(ST) April 28, 2008 (EL-GENEINA) – A Sudanese official stated that IDPs could not be counted during the ongoing census operations due to their opposition to the fifth national census.

Darfur IDP's in the three states of the troubled Darfur staged protests during the last week to show their opposition to the census operations and the next year general elections. They demand the adjournment of the process till the signing of a peace agreement in Darfur.

Speaking to the USAID sponsored Sudan Radio Service last Friday, the census director in West Darfur, Ms Wafaa Hassan Mansour said the census will not be conducted in IDP camps because they are "not accessible."

She further said that IDPs have protested the census inside the camps and have threatened to attack census enumerators, the Central Bureau of Statistics has decided to estimate the number of people in the camps and other "unsafe" areas based on information from humanitarian agencies working in Darfur.

She disclosed they would collect data from humanitarian organizations which hold lists of all the displaced in order to distribute food and medical care.

"The Central Bureau of Statistics estimates the Sudan population annually without carrying out a census exercise and that is a scientific and legal method. This is known. Regarding the IDP's camps, our people will get the data from the humanitarian agencies to do their estimations." Wafa said.

Last week, Hussein Abusharati, the spokesperson of Darfur displaced and refugees told Sudan Tribune that enumerators didn't succeed to enter to the IDPs camps due to the opposition of the displaced.

"The census takers failed to conduct the counting in the camps even in Otash camp which is nearby the capital of southern Darfur Nyala they came with 20 vehicles but the IDPs prevented them." He said.

The Sudanese TV turned different reports from the west Darfur to show that the census takers are working in good conditions and visiting the IPDs contrary to what "foreign media" fabricates.

International observers have raised concerns that significant parts of Darfur and not just three percent as claimed by Khartoum will be excluded from the count owing to opposition from rebels.