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UNMIS

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(By Public Information Office)

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Highlights

UN/ Agencies

113 expelled workers from UNMIS threaten “open options”

(*Alwan*) Some 113 workers expelled by UNMIS say they will employ all available options to reach a just solution on full compensations from the organisation.

They said before the offices of the Khartoum Labour Courts yesterday that they were contracted to work for the UN and their contracts covered all their rights in case of expulsion or separation but have been “marginalised” by the organisation.

Hafith Kuri, one of those expelled, said that the organisation took the decision to expel them just because they had protested low wages. The workers then sought redress and have presented their case to the Labour Office, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and human rights body.

He further pointed out that they have had three sessions so far but the UN has not sent any representative to these sessions. This, he says, shows its *laissez-faire* attitude and that it is hiding behind its wall of immunity.

On its part, the Human Rights Committee has called on UNMIS not to use its immunity as a shield against the laws of the state. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said also that UNMIS has not responded to the notes it has sent on the issue.

The expelled workers have called on the government to intervene and put an end to the UN violations of national laws that safeguard the rights of Sudanese workers.

In the session of the labour court yesterday, the presiding judge said that UNMIS sees its immunity as a shield against any lawsuit and pays no heed to such sessions. The courts have set 8th September 2007 as date for the final hearing on the case.

Envoys Salim and Eliasson hold talks with envoys of Egypt, Libya, Eritrea and Chad

(*AlAyaam; AlKhartoum*) Envoys Eliasson and Salim held talks in Arusha last Sunday with representatives of Chad, Eritrea, Egypt and Libya to urge them use their influence on the respective rebel movements.

UNMIS Spokesperson Radhia Achouri said on her part that the Arusha meeting is a step towards resolving the conflict in Darfur. She said that overall success of the mission essentially depends on the political will of all the elements to the issue.

AMIS Spokesperson Nouredine Mezni noted that the two Special Envoys will present their proposals on the date and venue for the talks between the Sudan government and the rebels to the Secretary-General of the UN and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission.

Mezni said this was the largest gathering of these rebel movements since Abuja. He commended the role played by the field commanders whom, he said, carried a message of unity.

Following the Arusha meeting, Special Envoy Jan Eliasson is expected to travel to Khartoum and enter consultations with the government and the SLM in a bid to coordinate positions of the parties to the conflict before travelling to Darfur the day after tomorrow for talks with representatives of the government, IDPs and the other armed groups in Darfur in a bid to incorporate the views of all influential parties.

AlRai AlAam daily reports meanwhile that the Security Council will be discussing the outcome of the Arusha talks in its session on Thursday.

Sudan's Permanent Representative to the UN revealed also that he will be holding talks in New York with the General Martin Agwai, African Union Force Commander, on the commander's mission in Darfur and on coordination between all parties for the success of the hybrid operations.

Relatives of Suleiman Jamous express concern

(Rai AlShaab) Members of the family of Suleiman Jamous have expressed concern over his wellbeing and note that he is suffering from health complications and his condition has not yet been diagnosed. His daughters have refuted press reports yesterday that he has appeared in Arusha.

Sarah Jamous, one of his daughters, has called on UNMIS Spokesperson Radhia Achouri to expedite a response to a letter sent her since 25th June on the issue. Sarah says the family will resort to raise the issue to "higher parties" and hold a sit-in.

Sima Samar accusations of rights violations are baseless, says SLM-MM

(SMC) SLM-Minnawi says accusations by the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Sudan that the movement has committed human rights violation against civilians in Darfur are baseless.

The movement said these "nonsensical accusations" give wrong signals to some members to quit the movement and resort to unlawful acts.

SLM legal advisor Abdel Aziz Salim demanded the formation of an investigation committee composed of the UN and the African Union to probe Sima Samar's accusations.

Head of DDR Commission says commission faces difficulties with UN on implementation

(Sudan Vision) The head of the DDR Commission has revealed that the commission is facing difficulties and problems with the UN regarding the implementation of its programs.

Salaf-el-din Saleh said that the UN is yet to fulfil its pledges on the DDR program and has raised some reservations on the implementation of some projects in South Kordofan.

He pointed out that the commission reminded the UN just two days ago to adopt a clear and positive stand or else the commission would raise the case to the international community claiming that the UN is sabotaging peace in Sudan.

GoNU (CPA; Darfur Peace Agreement; ESPA)

Sudan urges countries to urge all Darfur rebels join political process Politics

(*KUNA*) The Sudanese government Sunday called on countries concerned with the Darfur conflict to intervene and urge rebel groups to disarm and join the political process.

"We call upon all countries concerned with the Darfur conflict to match words with deeds and to send a clear message to those who carry weapons in Darfur that they either respond to wishes of the international community and all Sudanese political parties to bring success to the political process ... or stage a peaceful political opposition following disarmament, rejection of violence and preparations for general elections," a foreign ministry statement said.

Khartoum wants Paris to convince France-based Abdulwahid Mohammad Nour, leader of the Sudan Liberation Movement in Darfur, to join the political process.

UNSC Resolution 1769 a success to Sudanese diplomacy

(*Sudan Vision; Khartoum Monitor et al*) Cabinet sitting yesterday under the Chairmanship of Vice-President Ali Osman Mohammed Taha has praised China, Russia, Indonesia, Qatar and AU Commission for supporting Sudan during a recent session of the UN Security Council. The Vice-President described the Security Council Resolution 1769 issued following that session as a success to Sudanese Diplomacy. [[Read More...](#)].

Sudan frees women, children who sold alcohol

(*Reuters*) Sudan has freed over 1,000 women and children from the south who had been jailed in Khartoum for brewing and selling alcohol, a crime under north Sudan's Islamic Sharia Law, an official said on Sunday.

Sudan is working to soften the impact of the law for southerners living in the capital under a 2005 peace deal to end decades of war between the government in the Muslim north and rebels from the largely Christian and animist south.

Joshua Dau Dew, chairman of the commission set up to protect the rights of non-Muslims in Khartoum, told Reuters that 847 women and 158 children had been released following the commission's request to the judiciary and chief justice.

Dew said the chief justice had ordered the establishment of courts for non-Muslims in Khartoum, where he expected judges to be more lenient in the cases of brewing alcohol.

Dew also said he had travelled to Southern Sudan to discuss with the semi-autonomous government there how to stop the women being rearrested.

"There are two options. Either to transport them back to the south voluntarily or to make some intermediary arrangements to meet their immediate needs," he said. [[Sudan frees women, children who sold alcohol](#)].

Qatari relief goods reach flood-hit Sudan

(The Peninsula) Qatar has started its relief operations in the flood-hit Sudan. The first shipment of food stuffs and other urgent relief materials reached Sudan last Thursday, a release from Ministry of Interior said.

The relief materials were distributed to the affected people in coordination with local and international organisations working in Sudan. People in Sudan have been facing the travails of flash flood for the last few weeks. Khartoum, Kassala and North Kordofan are the worst-hit areas.

The first shipment included of 42 tons of food stuff, tents, blankets, sanitary items and medicines, dress and milk for children in addition to other basic materials required by the flood hit people.

Amum says NCP blocking implementation of the Abyei protocol

(Khartoum Monitor) Secretary-General Pagan Amum of the SPLM says the National Congress Party is blocking implementation of the Abyei Protocol. He added that political talks as a means to settle the Abyei problem have reached a deadlock.

Amum called on the National Congress Party to remove obstacles it has put in the way of the implementation of the Abyei Protocol, to agree with the SPLM on the implementation of the Protocol and the demarcation of the boundaries.

The two parties have agreed that talks of their joint political committee resume to address this and other outstanding issues but Amum says that failure of the political committee this time round may lead to a US arbitration on the Abyei question.

GoSS

GoSS suspends voluntary returns to Upper Nile and Jonglei states

(Rai AlShaab) The GoSS has suspended voluntary repatriation operations through the Nile barges for returnees to Upper Nile and Jonglei states.

The program coordinator at the GoSS says the over 1,000 returnees registered to travel could now not do so because of the heavy rains and the flash floods in the areas in addition to the declaration of these areas as disaster areas. He said that they hope to resume returns operations by the 10th of October.

The coordinator says meanwhile that returns by air to Western Equatoria continue.

Southern Sudan MPs demand removal of E. Equatoria governor

(SudanTribune.com) A group of Lawmakers from the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly (SSLA) have, yesterday, demanded for the immediate removal of Governor of Eastern Equatoria State, Aloisio Emor Ojetuk, for having misled President Salva Kiir Mayardit on relieving Henry Odwar of his membership in SSLA and also of failing to respect the 25% representation of women in his cabinet and ordering unwarranted killing of hundreds of innocent people in the state.

Speaking at assembly specialized committee room, a group of women MPs said Governor Ojetuk has failed in his administering of the state, hence prompting the historical people of EES regrouping along their ethnic line to create insecurity in the entire state. [[Read more ...](#)].

South Sudan's ex-finance minister charged with graft reportedly missing

(Alwan via BBC Monitoring, 5 Aug.) The former minister for finance in the Government of Southern Sudan, Arthur Athian Akuen, has disappeared in unclear circumstances.

Sources told Alwan that Minister Akuen has disappeared from the city, and he is not to be found in his house which was heavily guarded to prevent him from escaping.

The sources said that an unknown group might have entered the house of the minister, and helped him escape to unknown place. Other sources say he has probably escaped from the country and is settled in a neighboring country.

GoSS got 153 cars for \$76 million

(The Citizen) According to new information released, the botched car deal between the GoSS and the AlCardinal Company was that the company would supply 450 vehicles to the government but only 153 cars reached Juba.

Some 297 cars could not be found, according to MPs of the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly interviewed yesterday.

Each had been priced at \$97,000 while the market value stood at \$45,000. Money spent on these cars was \$76 million according to official documents, which meant that each vehicle cost about US\$0.5 million. At the center of the heated debate in the Assembly was what lawmakers called the illegal dismissal of Police Chief Investigator Lt. Col. Francis Chol Lang.

Upper Nile State accuses oil companies of wiping out 172 villages

(*AlAyaam*) The Commissioner for Mellit in Upper Nile State says they will be instituting legal proceedings against a number of oil companies operating in the county for compensations for 172 villages evicted from the area and the bad environmental effects caused by the oil operations.

The commissioner further noted that the SAF still maintains a 3,500-strong force in the area.

Darfur

African Union Claims Intimidation by Rebels in Darfur

(*VoA*) African Union peacekeepers in Darfur have complained that 20 heavily armed soldiers from a rebel group intimidated staff members at AU headquarters.

In a statement issued Friday, officials said rebels from the Sudan Liberation Movement showed up at AU headquarters in the regional capital, El Fasher, earlier this week. The statement said the rebels threatened AU staff and interfered with the work of the peacekeepers, but it was not specific as to what happened.

Under a peace agreement signed in 2006, the AU has been paying salaries to some rebel groups working with the peacekeepers. But it recently cut the payments because it ran out of money.

The intimidation is just the latest in a series of threatening incidents by the SLM rebels.

The talks in Arusha:

'Progress' in Darfur unity talks

(*BBC*) Talks involving the Sudanese rebel factions from Darfur and international mediators are expected to be concluded later in the Tanzanian town of Arusha.

The negotiations had been due to end on Sunday, but a spokesman for one of the rebel groups, Jem, told the BBC that real progress had been achieved.

Ahmed Hussein said the rebel factions had reached a united position.

A breakthrough could open the way for talks with the Sudanese government on the civil war which started in 2003.

Mr. Hussein said real progress had been achieved at talks attended by rebel leaders and international mediators, even though one of the main factions was absent.

"We have a collective and joint negotiating position, which I believe is very fruitful and very constructive, and positive.", he said.

"And I think it's going to pave the way for a meaningful and positive new political process to solve the root causes of the conflict in Darfur".

"The rebel representatives have presented a joint position paper for the forthcoming peace talks with the Sudanese government." Ahmed Hussein Adam the spokesperson of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) told Sudan Tribune.

According to Ahmed, the rebel groups participating in Arusha consultations have included in their paper a major point related to the resettlement of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and the refugees. He added that including this point become highly crucial for successful talks with Khartoum.

He further underscored of the deterioration of the IDPs and refugees situation in the camps. Adding, that Khartoum encourages settlement of alien nomads in the villages and area belonging to the IDPs and refugees who are suffering in the camps. Ahmed said that the rebel delegations request that the individual compensations should be among the agenda of the talks; besides the question of land 'hawakeer'.

In the wealth sharing, the issue of the communal compensations should be included in the talks emphasizing that "both the individual and the communal compensations are to be considered according to the international law standards. This means the compensation would not be limited to direct damage but includes moral prejudice." He said.

Regarding the power sharing, the rebel groups reiterated their demand of fair representation on the federal level and this to in accordance with the number of Darfur population. "Also we still want Darfur to be recognized as one regional entity for all the three current states."

On the date of the peace talks with Khartoum, "we suggest that the peace process can start within a period between two to three months. While the venue can be chosen by the mediators but of course we exclude countries which have security protocol with Khartoum."

Ahmed said the talks between the rebel groups or with the Darfur envoys were fruitful. "All the groups want to send a message of unity". He said.

In a very strong message of solidarity the JEM spokesperson told Sudan Tribune that the rebel delegates informed Darfur envoys that peace talks with Sudanese government would be compromised if Khartoum continues to ignore demands for the release of Suleiman Jamous.

He disclosed that Jamous was in constant contact with the rebel delegations in Arusha. "He urged us to pursue the consultations in spite of Khartoum negative attitude related to his release. He also recommended us to work together and to be united." Ahmed said.

"He reminded the delegations that our unity is necessary to ease the suffering of Darfur civilians."

One of the key rebel leaders, Abdul Wahid Mohammad Ahmed al-Nur, of the major faction of the Sudan Liberation Movement, boycotted the talks.

The African Union special envoy to Darfur, Salim Ahmed Salim, told the BBC that Mr Nur should take the current opportunity to put aside its differences and join the peace process.

AbdulWahid says he convinced France on his justification for not attending Arusha meet

(AlAyaam; AlHayat) Commenting on recent reports, AbdulWahid Mohamed Nur says it seems the government is annoyed that France and the UK had sponsored the UNSC resolution on the hybrid operation in Darfur.

He said that the French government had urged him to attend the talks in Arusha but he had won them over by his justification.

AbdulWahid also said the African Union has deceived some of his commanders and flown them to Arusha on the grounds that he, AbdulWahid, would soon be joining them. He said the presence of Special Envoy Salim Ahmed Salim in the efforts for peace in Darfur would only cause problems within the movements. “He had contributed to the disintegration of the movements and is still practicing that hobby,” added the rebel leader.

AbdulWahid further called on the African Union to relieve Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim from his position on the grounds that he is a hindrance to the peace process and the major cause of their disintegration. He also urged the rebel movements to leave the struggle for power and come back to the folds of the SLM mainstream.

On the other hand, AbdulWahid criticized the appointment of Abu-el-Gassim Ahmed Abu-el-Gassim to head the Darfur Rehabilitation Fund. He wondered how would he go about in rehabilitation while most people of Darfur are in IDP camps.

Jamous says he is still confined to the United Nations hospital in Kadugli

(Alwan) Suleiman Jamous says he is still confined to the United Nations Mission in Sudan hospital in Kadugli and has not received note from the African Union or the United Nations to join the talks in Arusha.

He recalled that Undersecretary for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Muttrif Sidiq, had earlier said that the government was willing to consider allowing Jamous to leave Kadugli and join the talks as a gesture of goodwill following requests by the field commanders.

Jamous said the Arusha meeting may not make headway with the absence of AbdulWahid and others. He also called for an end to the plight of the IDPs and refugees in Darfur and said that the interests of the people of Darfur have to transcend all other interests.

Humanitarian:

OIC-IDB Mission to Visit Darfur

(ArabNews – Jeddah, Arusha) A joint mission by the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) is heading to Darfur, Sudan, on Aug. 10 to provide emergency humanitarian relief at a cost of \$1 million.

According to sources, the president of the IDB, Dr. Ahmed Mohammed Ali, met with OIC Assistant Secretary-General for International and Humanitarian Affairs, Ambassador Atta El-Manan Bakhit, and the ambassador of Sudan in Saudi Arabia at the OIC General Secretariat headquarters in Jeddah to discuss the goals of the mission.

The ten-day mission will travel to Khartoum first and then to Darfur to provide needed medicine, food and other items for the refugees and people of Darfur. While in Khartoum, the mission will discuss with Sudanese authorities organizing an OIC international donors' conference in aid of Darfur.

Following the outstanding success of the first international donors' conference organized by the OIC that was held in Qatar on June 12-13, for Promoting Food Self-Sufficiency in Niger and which raised \$370 million, Sudan approached the OIC to organize a similar conference for helping relief the refugee crisis in Darfur.

Mia Farrow offers her freedom for Jamous

(Reuters) US actress Mia Farrow has offered her freedom in exchange for that of a respected Darfur rebel figure, virtually imprisoned for more than 13 months, in a letter to Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir.

Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) Humanitarian Coordinator Suleiman Jamous has been confined to a U.N. hospital in Kordofan, neighboring Darfur, since the United Nations moved him there without permission last year.

He needs a stomach biopsy which cannot be performed there.

Khartoum said if he left he would be arrested, but has said it is open to talks on his release.

"Before his seizure, Mr. Jamous played a crucial role in bringing the SLA to the negotiating table and in seeking reconciliation between its divided rival factions," Farrow said in the letter dated August 5.

"I am therefore offering to take Mr. Jamous's place, to exchange my freedom for his in the knowledge of his importance to the civilians of Darfur and in the conviction that he will apply his energies toward creating the just and lasting peace that the Sudanese people deserve and hope for."

Security:

9 SLA-MM killed and injured in attack by unidentified gunmen

(AlAyaam; Rai AlShaab) Four SLA-MM field commanders were killed and 5 others injured in an ambush by unidentified gunmen around the Kaura Mountains while on their way to el-Fasher from Abu-Gamra.

The spokesperson for the SLA-MM says the SLA soldiers were on three trucks when they fell into the ambush with RPG shells being rained on them. He did not identify the attackers but noted that elements of the SLA-AbdulWahid, SLA-AbdulShafei and a Fur militia group headed by a Mr. AbdelSalam roam those areas. The spokesperson added that the SLA-MM has sent a team in pursuit of the attackers. He said the SLA intends to comb those areas.

New wave of displacement in West Darfur and SLA-AbdulWahid seizes agency vehicles

(Rai AlShaab) SLA-AbdulWahid forces attacked in the last two days a relief convoy in West Darfur and seized some trucks. The SAF came to the rescue and the resultant clash left a few people dead.

Sources meanwhile report that insecurity is rampant in the area north of el-Geneina with attacks from different groups from time to time. The source adds that this has caused a new wave of displacement into the town of el-Geneina.