



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN

UNMIS

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(By Public Information Office)

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United Nations and the Transition Debate

Human Rights Rapporteur holds talks with the government of North Darfur and agencies operating there

(*AlAyaam* - 15th Aug **Khrt**) Sima Samar, the Special Rapporteur for Human Rights in Sudan, held talks with representatives of the local and international civil society organizations,, local authorities in North Darfur State ,and UN staff .yesterday (*14th Aug*),

The meeting mainly discussed the human rights conditions in Darfur State.and the Abuja agreement.

The Special Rapporteur will be leaving for West Darfur later today (*15th Aug*).

Authorities bar United Nations delegation from visiting Amri

(*AlAdhwaa* – 15th Aug. **Amri**) Authorities have barred a United Nations delegation from entering the Amri area in northern Sudan part of which has been flooded as a result of ongoing construction of a hydro-electric dam on the Nile.

UNMIS was reserved in commenting on the issue but Spokesperson Radhia Achouri did admit that a delegation sent to the area to assess the humanitarian needs of the people there was turned back.

She said UNMIS was surprised its delegation was turned back despite the fact it only sought to assess the needs for humanitarian support.

Reporters have also been barred from entering the area and a tight security detail was noticed around the area.

AlAyaam further reports that four reporters of some daily newspapers were arrested and held for 4 hours by security forces in the area. They were later released.

President Bashir reiterates rejection to the deployment of United Nations forces

(*Most major dailies* – 15th Aug. **Khrt.**) “United Nations troops will never set foot in Darfur even if they were led by the US or the UK and even if they were deployed under a Security Council Chapter VI or VII mandate,” said the President of the Republic yesterday in Jebel Auliya, south of Khartoum, while addressing a ceremony to mark the 52nd Anniversary of the SAF.

He warned that United Nations troops, should they deploy to Darfur, will be heavily defeated the same way Hezbollah has defeated the Israeli army.

The President also hailed the Lebanese resistance “brought down Israel’s military might” and said in a message to the people of Lebanon that the Lebanese should consider the SAF as their reserve force which will heed their call whenever they may seek its assistance.

The President later addressed the closing session of a conference of the National Congress Party's Leadership Office where he reiterated the rejection for a deployment and support for Lebanon, reports *AlAyaam* daily.

Elsewhere, Mustafa Osman Ismail, a key figure in the National Congress Party, told the press yesterday following a meeting of the joint political committee of the National Congress Party and the SPLM, that the parties to the CPA have decided to refer the issue of the deployment of United Nations forces to Darfur to the political sub-committee [*the sub-committee is headed by Mr. Deng Alor*].

The political sub-committee will then have to come up with a joint position on the issue and report to the Political Committee [*jointly led by Dr. Nafei Ali Nafei and Mr. Pagan Amum*] by the 28th of this month.

United Nations requests clarification from Darfur lawyers over legal challenge on the DPA

(*AlAyaam* – 15th Aug. **Khrt.**) Informed sources say that an UNMIS official made a phone call to the Darfur Lawyers' Union seeking clarifications over reports that the union intends to challenge the Darfur Peace Agreement before the constitutional court.

The lawyers' union is said to have confirmed it intends to take legal action against the Darfur Peace Agreement and has indeed started preparing the legal grounds for its case.

GoNU

Sudan jails Slovene envoy to two years for “spying”

(*AlSahafa, ST* – 1th Aug. **Khrt., Lubljana**) A Sudanese court has sentenced Slovenian president's special envoy Tomo Kriznar to two years in prison on charges of spying and illegal entry into the country, the Sudanese minister of justice said.

The court sentenced the defendant to two years imprisonment and a fine of 500,000 dinars and confiscation of exhibits found with the defendant of photography equipment and films and says the defendant will be deported after serving his jail term.

Meanwhile the Slovenian president has sent a letter to his Sudanese counterpart pleading for a pardon for the envoy.

The office of the Slovenian President expect Mr. Kriznar will be released and describes the 2-year sentence as “too harsh for a consular offense”, reports Radio Slovenija.

The Slovenian Foreign Ministry has already announced its plan to appeal against the decision.

Southern Sudan/GoSS/SPLM

SSDF declares war on the SPLA

(*Allintibaha*- 15th Aug. **Khrt.**) Reports from the SSDF field command say that SPLA has launched attacks on the innocent civilian population around Gil, Door and Kurwai around Fangak in Central Nuer region.

The reports indicated that women, children and the elderly were killed and many others chased into the Bahr-el-Zaraf River feared either drowned or eaten by crocodiles.

Cattle, sheep, goats, and grains have been looted by the marauding SPLA forces who have also carried out rapes, the SSDF/SSUDA reports.

The SSDF Field Commander Brigadier-General Daniel Gatwich reported that the SPLA forces were repulsed by the SSDF and sustained heavy casualties. More SSDF reinforcements have arrived and clashes continue between the two sides.

The SSDF/SSUDA says it can not condone such unwarranted malicious attacks against the innocent civilian population in the region and has therefore declared war on the SPLA.

Ugandan rebels remain in peace talks

(AP – 15th Aug.) Rebels who have fought a brutal 19-year insurgency in northern Uganda remain committed to peace talks even though Ugandan soldiers killed a commander over the weekend, said Martin Ojul, the head of the rebels' negotiating team in the southern Sudan city of Juba.

"We remain committed to negotiating a solution to the war," Ojul told The Associated Press by telephone from Juba. "Whatever happens, it will not derail peace talks."

Negotiations between the government and the rebel group are under way, but Uganda says it is waiting for a comprehensive peace deal before it agrees to a cease-fire.

The Hague-based International Criminal Court has indicted Lukwiya, along with rebel leader Joseph Kony and three other commanders on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The court said in a statement Monday that Lukwiya was charged with enslavement, a crime against humanity, as well as cruel treatment of civilians, attacking civilians and pillaging -- all war crimes. The court said it could help the Ugandan government confirm the body is Lukwiya's.

Government officials said Lukwiya was shot after rebels killed a soldier and a motorcyclist. But Ojul said Lukwiya was observing a cease-fire that the rebels declared on Aug. 4.

During last month's negotiations, rebel representatives said that their group's aim was to draw attention to the government's neglect of northern and eastern Uganda, even though previously they had no clear political agenda.

Private firm supplies water to CES institutions in Juba

(Sudan Radio Service – 14th Aug. **Juba**) The Director of Water in Central Equatoria, Joseph Aмоса Ebere, told Sudan Radio Service that Spenco Water Company will supply water to government offices, official residences and public places in Juba. However, Ebere added that other residents of Juba will continue to face a shortage of treated water.

Speaking in Juba last week, the state official blamed the region's water shortage on network pipes — which he says— “are too old to supply water.”

“Juba population does not get safe water. This is definitely because the treatment plant capacity is small. Secondly, water networks do not cover the whole of Juba. Sometimes other areas in Juba do not get water because of the above issues” said Ebere.

Darfur/Darfur Peace Agreement

SLM- Minawi calls for a timetable for the implementation of the DPA

(*AlAyaam* - 15th Aug. **Khrt**) The SLM has called on the Government to set out a timetable for the implementation of the DPA.

The SLM spokesman, Mahjoub Hussein said that delaying of DPA implementation is unacceptable and only serves the National Congress Party.

He also assured that the Senior Presidential Aide Mini Minnawi has met representatives of the SLM to the preparatory committee of the donors’ conference for Darfur. Minnawi recalled the importance of attracting professional personnel to Darfur in order to contribute to the reconstruction of Darfur.

Arab tribes of Darfur slam the “the Consultative Council for the Arab Tribes of Darfur” and claim it does not represent them

(*Alayam* - 15th Aug. **Khrt.**) Arab Tribes of South Darfur State say they reject the endeavours the Consultative Council of the Arab Tribes of Darfur has embarked on and pointed out that the said Council does not represent them.

The Consultative Council of the Arab Tribes of Darfur have, on the other hand, claimed they are legitimate representatives of these tribes and pointed out that forthcoming elections of the Council’s High Committee will see the election of members of those tribes that claim to reject it.

Cholera on the rise in Sudan’s Darfur

(*IRIN* – 14th Aug. **Nai.**) The number of cases of acute watery diarrhoea has increased noticeably in the past four weeks, with outbreaks reported in camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the western Sudanese region of Darfur, as well as urban areas, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) said.

"We’re concerned because diarrhoeal diseases are a major killer of children," Edward Carwardine, UNICEF senior communications officer, said. "Forty percent of the collected stool specimens tested positive for cholera - all the more reason to accelerate our response.

"South Darfur has been a particular cause of concern, with five new suspected cases reported on 10 August and 13 on 11 August," he added. Since April, 701 cases had been reported in South Darfur alone.

According to the Sudanese Ministry of Health, the total cumulative number of acute watery diarrhoea cases for all northern Sudan since April is 5,953, with 196 fatalities. Besides Darfur, a high number of cases had also been reported in Khartoum State and Northern Kordofan.

Carwardine observed that during the rainy season, traditionally, a higher than average number of cases could be expected. "You can have chlorinated water sources, but if people are not using those safe sources, it doesn't have an effect - that's why there is a very big public information campaign under way."

The situation has been exacerbated by the limited access to IDP camps over the past weeks due to escalating violence in many of the camps and the killing of several Sudanese aid workers by angry mobs.

In total, an estimated 1.68 million people have benefited from a coordinated response to growing incidences of acute watery diarrhoea and cholera in the north of Sudan, as the Federal Ministry of Health, UNICEF, the World Health Organization (WHO), the state governments and NGOs stepped up their efforts to safeguard drinking water supplies, improve hygiene and food practices, and scale up case detection.

"By working together in this way, the overall situation with regard to cholera has started to improve and the disease has been brought under control in many areas," UNICEF Representative Ted Chaiban said. "New areas with the disease are, however, emerging and we remain determined to control the spread of diarrhoeal disease and prevent more deaths."

Eastern Sudan

Parties to Asmara talks agree on wealth sharing

(*Khartoum Monitor* - 15th Aug. **Khrt.**) The Chairman of the Democratic Unionist party, Mohammed Osman ElMirghani, said he would play a positive role in realizing peace between the government and the Eastern Front.

Chief negotiator of eastern front, Mohammed Almutasim, said talks on wealth were finally concluded and parties agreed to set up fund for supporting eastern states, with an emphasis on less developed areas, describing the agreement on wealth as a big gain to the region.

Miscellany

Somali talks resume in Khartoum today

(*AlSahafa* - 15th Aug. **Khart.**) Negotiations between the Somali Government and the Islamic Courts are to resumed today after a two months pause.

An official source said delegations of the two parties were expected to arrive in Khartoum yesterday evening in order to start a second round of negotiations.

COMMENTARIES

Sudan Tribune daily paper published in its editorial of the 15th Aug 2006 an article titled **GOSS Is Doing Fairly Well**

It revealed the transformation on the Sudanese polices after the signature of the CPA in Nairobi. Which is fellow by the departure of the leader in tragic helicopter crash, which is widely open the door for the observers expectations that Garang death might awaken the SPLM's position on the government of National Unity.

But, in contrary to their views (SPLM) has proved maturity pertaining to his death to its end. And that the CPA would fulfill the aspiration of northern and southern leaders from new generations, to manage the huge country and the interests of its people.

GOSS is doing enormous work in south in various domains to realize the course of people for development, stability and progress, and this reality is apparently in Juba which is now is getting back to its early ages of the late seventies and the early eighties.

Thus, the miraculous efforts by the GOSS should be commended by people of south, bearing in mind that GOSS is only a year ago. Conclusion of the editorial.

National TV: How National is it?

(*Khartoum Monitor* editorial piece) Up to now, not every Sudanese identifies positively with the Omdurman television within this period of test, which is known as Interim Period. This media is still bent on promoting Arab culture only and totally ignores the cultures of the other nationalities, which together with the Arab culture form one single culture, a Sudanese culture. Does this mean we still have to culturally isolate each other? The exclusion tendency is still very clear in the TV programmes, which do not portray Sudanese culture in its totality.

It is in this context that the programmes broadcast by Omdurman television are questionable. This could have been the best time to initiate an affirmative action process, the marginalized people were expecting radical changes but all they see is just the old tricks being polished by or given new dimension. These superficial changes do not impress them at all.

The suicidal nations

In his article, columnist Mohamed Hamid Juma of *AlSudani* daily says the United Nations has been much on the spotlight urging for protection of the civilian population in Darfur but has really done nothing in its history to substantiate its comments.

He highlights examples of the Rwanda genocide of 1994, the bombing by Israel of southern Lebanon in 1996, Bosnia and Serbia [*he notes here that SRSG Jan Pronk knows full well what befell the Muslim population of this area when United Nations Blue Helmets, including a Dutch contingent, left 8,000 Muslims to be massacred by Serbs*].

He winds up saying, “Those who were blind to the events in Bosnia, Lebanon and Sierra-Leone will remain blind to what is happening in Darfur. Before the United Nations should, before committing to the protection of the local civilian population in Darfur, protect its relief convoys and workers who are being killed on a daily basis in the IDP camps under the instructions of the holdout groups to whom the United Nations give much support (that he claims he does not want to mention).