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(By Public Information Office)

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United Nations and the Transition Debate

UN force would risk Hezbollah-like resistance - Sudan's Bashir

(*AP/ST* – 15th Aug. **Khrt.**) Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir said Sudan has taken inspiration from Hezbollah and would battle a proposed international peacekeeping force in the Darfur region, the state news agency reported Tuesday.

The statements by al-Bashir appeared to strengthen Sudan's resolve to resist a possible U.N.-backed force to end the bloodshed and ongoing refugee crisis.

"We are determined to defeat any forces entering the country just as Hezbollah has defeated the Israeli forces," the official Sudanese News Agency quoted al-Bashir as telling an armed forces gathering Monday.

"We are opposed to the deployment (in Darfur) of American, British or other forces imposed by the Security Council," al-Bashir said.

Vice President Taha says Sudan is not in need of a foreign intervention

(*AlSahafa* – 16th Aug. **Khrt.**) Addressing a mass rally yesterday in Wadi Halfa, northern Sudan, Vice-President Taha called for unity among the people of Sudan in order to face the challenges posed by hostile parties.

He said that the time is now ripe to be self-dependent and stop begging for assistance and thus consolidate national sovereignty.

The Vice-President highlighted the ongoing development projects in the area and added that the Sudan is not in need of a foreign intervention.

GoNU

Deputy Speaker urges solutions to the problem of Amri

(*AlYaam* – 16th Aug. **Khrt.**) Atim Garang, the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, has called upon the Government of National Unity to "strip out the totalitarian garb of the old regimes" and be more like a Government of National Unity.

He said he does not understand what hinders the government from sitting down with the people of Amri or forming a national committee to review the issue of the compensations that the people of Amri are opposed to.

He said a neutral committee of experts could be formed with representatives from political groups and the civil society to look into the issue. He pointed out that the problem of Amri is simpler problem than others.

The compensation process has been stalled as the compensation committee failed to get accurate figures on the damage costs. Journalists and UN human rights personnel have been banned from entering the area. According to security officer Mr. Adel Awad.

Meanwhile *The Citizen* daily reports that an army town in an area near Amri has suffered devastating damage from floods, with 700 houses washed away, leaving 2,700 persons homeless .

The irrigation canals of 6 farms were also destroyed.

Southern Sudan/GoSS/SPLM

SPLM fails in bringing the SSDF to its ranks

(*Allintibaha* - 6th Aug. **Khrt**) A second meeting between the SSDF and SPLA has failed to convince the first to join the SPLA and to take part in the GoSS.

SSDF second in command, Lieutenant Altom Alnoor Daldoum told the Sudan Media Center that their talks with the SPLA focused on obstacles to SSDF participation in the GoSS.

Daldoum said the SPLM offered them the governorship of Western Bahr-el-Ghazal but they turned down the offer.

Egypt to build Hydro-Electric Station in South Sudan

(*Sudan Tribune* -16th Aug. **Khrt**) Joseph Duter Jacob, minister of Water Resources and Irrigation in the Government of South Sudan stated after his return to Juba from Egypt that the visit was in fulfillment of an invitation extended by his Egyptian counterpart Mohammed Abu Zaid.

He explained that he signed a memorandum of understanding between his ministry and its Egyptian counterpart and the Egyptian Ministry of Electricity on a number of issues pertaining to the development of administration of some joint projects .

He said Egypt's Minister of Electricity agreed to build two hydro-electric power stations in South Sudan.

Uganda-LRA rebel talks adjourned to Friday

(*Reuters/ST* – 15th Aug. **Juba**) Talks between Ugandan negotiators and Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) representatives were adjourned on Tuesday after the rebels said they were mourning a guerrilla commander killed by Ugandan troops.

LRA representatives wore black armbands and said news of his death had shaken them, but that they would resume negotiations in southern Sudan's capital Juba on Friday.

"We have presented our position paper on cessation of hostilities and we are now going to mourn the death of our commander," the LRA's head of delegation, Martin Ojul, told Reuters at the talks' venue. "We will be back here on Friday."

Uganda's team in Juba accused the rebels of time-wasting.

In a statement issued in The Hague on Monday, the ICC said Lukwiya had served as the rebels' army commander in early 2004, "a period during which the LRA was perpetrating its most deadly attacks upon the civilian population of Northern Uganda".

Ugandan Parliament urges GoSS tom speed up peace talks

(*Sudan Tribune*, 16th Aug. **Khrt.**) Riak Machar Teny, Vice-President of South Sudan and Chief mediators in the LRA and the Ugandan government peace talks being hosting in Juba held talks yesterday with a delegation of parliamentarians from northern Uganda.

The visiting delegation conveyed at the talks a message from the Speaker of the Uganda parliament to the GoSS urging it to exert more efforts to bring about a successful outcome to the negotiations going on in Juba, so that a comprehensive peace agreement may be reached.

Darfur/Darfur Peace Agreement

Jailed Slovene envoy to appeal against verdict

(*ST* – 15th Aug. **Khrt.**) The defence lawyer of Slovene presidential envoy Tomo Kriznar intends to appeal on Wednesday against the verdict which sentenced Kriznar to two years in prison in Sudan.

Speaking for TV Slovenija by telephone, the lawyer said that the prison sentence was too high given that the Sudanese prosecution had no evidence of Kriznar spying.

According to Madjub, Kriznar, who has been detained since 20 July, could soon be transferred from a prison in Al Fasher. He believes that stepping up international pressure on the Sudanese authorities could help him get released.

Rights watchdog, Aegis Trust, has called “for all those concerned at Kriznar’s plight, and at the continued lack of international protection for the people of Darfur, to apply to the Sudanese embassies in their countries for visas, stating purpose of visit as ‘to visit Tomo Kriznar in prison and go to Darfur.’”

When he appeared in court on 1 August, Kriznar admitted to have entered Sudan without a visa because he was denied it, but denied the spying charges. He explained he was one of Drnovsek’s three envoys to monitor the peace process in Darfur.

The Slovenian Foreign Ministry has meanwhile announced its plan to send a Slovene diplomat based in Cairo to Al Fasher as soon as he gets a visa.

Parties to Abuja talks meet in Addis to discuss Darfur; holdout groups dismissed from the ceasefire committee

(*AlAyaam* - 16th Aug. **Khrt.**) The African Union has delivered a notification to the representatives of the holdout groups terminating all the signed ceasefire agreements between them .

The representative of Justice and Equality Movement of the African Union considered the notification as a declaration of war.

He also accused the government and the Minnawi faction of stepping up pressure on the African Union in order to take that decision.

Eastern Sudan

Parties to the talks on eastern Sudan to start direct talks next Monday

(*AlSahafa*, 16th Aug. **Khrt.**) A new round of direct negotiations will commence between the GoS and the Eastern Front in Asmara next Monday.

Eritrean mediators are working hard to bridge the rift and make reconciliation between the two parties in the Technical Committee concerned with the construction and development of the east.

Miscellany

Sudan's Health minister call for anti-AIDS mass media campaigns

(*ST*- 15th Aug. **Khrt.**) The Sudanese minister of Health called the mass media to organize anti-AIDS campaigns saying the media had a key role to play in halting the disease's spread in the country.

Federal Minister of Health and Chairperson of the National AIDS Council, Dr Tabitha Boutros Shokaya today warned that the young people between 19 -49 years are mostly targeted by the diseases, calling on the mass media to intensify the awareness campaigns in order to contain the disease and make success the national anti-AIDS strategy.

Some 600,000 Sudanese males and females live with HIV/AIDS, half of whom are men aged under 25. HIV/AIDS, which has claimed the lives of 23,000 Sudanese and is jeopardizing dividends from a January peace deal that ended this country's 21-year civil war.

Dr Tabitha Sokaya (SPLM), has provoked a political storm by publicly advocating condom use to stem the country's HIV crisis.

COMMENTARIES

- *AlAyaam* Editorial: In its editorial titled ***The deteriorating health situation***, the paper highlights two newspaper reports published yesterday focusing on the health situation in the country. The editorial points out that one paper warned that bilharzia may reach endemic proportions around Khartoum State. The other story warned that cases of cholera are on the increase in northern Sudan.

The editorial goes on to say that these are all diseases that illustrate the deteriorating situation of environmental health in the country.

The paper concludes by saying that there is a high need to raise awareness within the local population on the causes of such diseases but points out that nothing is being done on the issue at the moment.

- ***The Citizen daily paper*** in its editorial of the 16th Aug 2006 an article titled Bank of Southern Sudan; please expel Islamic banks from Southern Sudan

The paper highlighted public complaints over the presence of banks operating in southern Sudan under the Islamic banking system. This, the paper adds, is a violation of the CPA.

They urged the GoSS to take measures to force these banks to operate according to conventional banking principles. Otherwise their presence is illegal and they should leave the South.

- *Sudan Tribune daily* paper in its editorial for the 16th Aug published an article titled Political Will is Vital.

Now, after the CPA is taking hold of by all the parties ,concerned the need to further promote political will in both south and north Sudan become vital in the light of current political rapid development.

Considering Southern Sudan, nowadays as most region undergoing political, economic, and socio-cultural, development .other regions with exception of north remain vulnerable.

Leaders in Darfur and East Sudan should carefully think of what would their regions look like in the few years to come? South Sudan has already identified its course of struggle, thus its interest will go unhindered.

But with absence of a united vision and will on what people want life becomes difficult to other especially the grass.

- **EDITORIAL: Dallying on Darfur** The Blade, Toledo, Ohio

Aug. 15--AN END to the killing in the Darfur region of Sudan is just not a foreign policy priority of the United States. It's well down the list, after the Israeli war in Lebanon, U.S. problems in Iraq, and the difficult situation in Afghanistan.

Bad enough? The senior U.S. official who was dealing with the Darfur conflict, Deputy Secretary of State Robert B. Zoellick, resigned in July to take a job on Wall Street. He has not yet been replaced.

- *AlAyaam and The Citizen dailies* have continued, for the third day running, to publish the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on Darfur.