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(By Public Information Office)

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Highlights

UN/ Agencies

UN rights chief raises pressure on Khartoum to probe Darfur rapes

(*SudanTribune.com, Alwan*) The UN human rights chief, Louise Arbour, on Tuesday stepped up the pressure on Sudan to investigate rapes and possible war crimes committed by Sudanese soldiers and militia in Darfur after earlier appeals went unheeded.

In a follow-up report on sexual assaults by Sudanese armed forces and allied militia in Deribat and nearby villages last December, Arbour warned that the attacks could merit a heavier charge of crimes against humanity and be prosecuted by the International Criminal Court.

The report updating one released in April was based on additional evidence from victims and witnesses in the eastern Jebel Marra area given to UN human rights monitors in Sudan.

They reported that about 50 women were abducted, taken to a government held area where they were "systematically raped", often several times, mistreated and held as sex slaves for about one month.

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights named at least three people who may share criminal responsibility "possibly including leading or authorising the attacks" and abuse.

They were identified as former Sudanese army sergeant who is now an allied Popular Defense Force (PDF) commander in Gardood near Nyala, a militia commander in the same town and a PDF coordinator who is believed to have known about the events.

The report also said that there were "consistent" reports that some of the attackers were part of a faction of the former rebel Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) which signed a peace deal with Khartoum last year.

The faction's commander, Abu Gasim, was appointed governor of West Darfur state in February, the UN said.

Arbour demanded protection for victims and witnesses of the attacks in Deribat and reiterated a call for suspects to be brought to justice.

She also called for the immediate suspension of any soldier suspected of committing or ordering rape, abductions or sexual violence, as well as full reparations for the victims.

A report by a UN Human Rights Council mission in February accused Sudan of orchestrating war crimes in Darfur. Khartoum said the report was biased.

Fighting between rebels and government forces or allied militia in the western Sudanese region since 2003 has led to some 200,000 deaths, while a further two million were forced to flee their homes, according to the United Nations.

UN allocates \$ 8 million for floods victims

(AlWifaq) The United Nations has allocated the sum of eight million and seven hundreds thousands dollars to support and relief floods and torrential rains victims which ravaged various areas through out Sudan.

An estimated 1,500,000 persons are expected to benefit from the donation until the end of the rainy season. Relief efforts will focus on the most seriously affected areas.

GoNU (CPA; Darfur Peace Agreement; ESPA)

Sudanese military delegation visits Viet Nam

(SudanTribune.com – 12 Aug. HANOI) Sen. Lieut. Gen. Nguyen Khac Nghien, Chief of the General Staff of the Viet Nam People's Army, received Gen. Haj Ahmed El Gaili, Chief of Joint Staff of the Sudan Armed Forces, in Ha Noi on August 21.

Nghien, who is also Deputy Minister of National Defence, said he hoped that the current visit by the Sudanese military delegation will contribute to promoting mutual understanding and the traditional friendship between the people and armies of Viet Nam and Sudan.

Host and guest exchanged views on the building of their armed forces as well as issues of mutual concern, reported the official Vietnam News Agency.

Later on the day, Gen. Haj Ahmed El Gaili and his entourage, who are in Viet Nam from August 18, paid courtesy visits to Deputy Prime Minister Truong Vinh Trong and Minister of National Defence Gen. Phung Quang Thanh.

Sudan confiscates 17,000 copies of opposition paper

(SudanTribune.com – 12 Aug. KHARTOUM) Sudanese authorities confiscated 17,000 copies of the opposition al-Rai al-Shaab daily on Tuesday for violating a ban on reporting about a thwarted plot to attack Western embassies in Khartoum.

Sudan found three arms caches in the capital last week and Foreign Ministry officials told the heads of the U.S., U.N., French and British missions in Sudan that they were the targets of plots involving "primitive" bombs.

Al-Rai al-Shaab's Ashraf Mohamed said security had called the editor in chief on Friday to say all reporting on the plots was banned because it would damage the investigation.

The paper is allied to the opposition Popular Congress Party, led by Islamist Hassan al-Turabi.

"On Sunday the paper printed comments by the interior minister on the explosives and they (security) went to the printing press and took the article out, even though all the other papers printed the same comments that day," Mohamed told Reuters.

He said on Tuesday the paper had an article explaining that it was the only publication banned from printing the interior minister's comments.

"They went to the printing press and took all 17,000 copies of the paper," he said, adding, "We are being targeted."

Security officials were not immediately available to comment.

Journalist Mujaheed Abdullah from al-Rai al-Shaab was released this week after almost two months imprisonment after covering protests in northern Sudan against a planned dam during which police killed four people and injured 13 others.

"Security is waging an economic war against us — they have ordered all institutions and companies not to give us advertisements," Mohamed said. Sudanese papers make most of their revenue from adverts.

GoSS

Kiir visits tour to probe security in Jonglei

(*AlAyam*) The Government of South Sudan (GoSS) has emphasized the stability of the security situation in Jonglei State which recently witnessed an armed robbery to the citizen cattle.

Vice President of GoSS Dr. Riak Machar told *AlAyam* that the First Vice President of the GoNU and President of GoSS Salva Kiir has returned last Tuesday from Jonglei after he got acquainted with the security stability there.

He said that Kiir visited the recent flood affected population in Fashala, Ukobo and Bor.

In the meantime, Dr. Machar noted that the joint committee of the ruling partners would proceed next week to Abyei area stressing that the meeting of the committee would start following the return of the committee members from Abyei.

AIDS surveillance in South Sudan to begin earlier next year

(*AlHayat, SMC*) Representatives from Federal Ministry of Health, South Sudan Ministry of Health, Central Bureau of Statistics, AIDS commission in the South and experts from the University of Khartoum and the US Epidemiological Centre meet Thursday in Juba to prepare for AIDS surveillance operations.

Director of Sudan National AIDS Program (SNAP), Dr. Mohamed Ahmed Abdul hafiz told SMC that the meeting would review means for preparation of the surveillance saying that another meeting would be convened soon to mobilize support for the surveillance which would take place earlier next year.

He stressed that intensive and comprehensive awareness campaigns on hazards of HIV/ AIDS would be carried out indicating the high prevalence rate of HIV/AIDS among the youth.

Lawyers ask court to freeze SAF bank account

(The Citizen) Lawyers for the families of those killed in explosives in Juba two years ago are today expected to ask the judge to order the freeze of the accounts of the Sudan Armed Forces, and attach the military equipments belonging to the ministry of Defence because of failure to pay 23.3 billion pounds in compensation.

Explosives went off in Juba in 2005, killing tens, possibly hundreds of unarmed people.

The lawyers for those families of the people killed in a bomb blast in the Southern Sudan capital are returning to court.

They want the judge to order a freeze of the bank accounts, local or foreign, of the ministry of Defense and the attachment of SAF tanks and artillery, the lawyer for the families Kiir Chol told the Citizen. No Defense Spokesperson could be reached by that time.

Darfur

Darfur rebel leader urges condemnation of attack against IDPs

(SudanTribune.com – 12 Aug. LONDON) In reaction to the attack carried by the Sudanese forces against Kalma camps, the leader of the rebel Sudan Liberation Movement has accused the Sudanese government of annihilating Darfur people. He further urged the international community to condemn "this barbaric attack". Abdelwahid al-Nur appealed on the international community to show solidarity with Darfur Internally Displaced People (IDPs). He said it is obvious that after regular attacks and killing of civilians in Darfur, Khartoum government wants now to achieve the "final solution" by eliminating those who succeeded to reach IDPs camps.

Sudanese forces surrounded and attacked Kalma camp in South Darfur on Tuesday to flush out rebels they say are behind recent attacks on police posts last Saturday. One policeman was killed and eight injured when unidentified armed men attacked police near al-Salam camp.

Police Maj-Gen Omar Mohamed Ali, the South Darfur police chief said the police would continue their pursuit of the "bandits" who were terrorizing the public and stealing their property, especially following their attack on the police posts at al-Salam camp.

Al-Nur told Sudan Tribune that police arrested about 25 people. He also denied that Kalama IDPs had taken part in any attack against the police.

The rebel leader said that "World should know when we request security for our people before talks, this demand is justified by the lack of credibility of this government." He further said Khartoum is not serious when it speaks about peace because they act every day to impose military solution for the conflict.

Former rebels orchestrate attack against police in Darfur – rebels

(*SudanTribune.com* – 12 Aug. NYALA) Troops from the former rebel group of Minni Minawi have attacked police posts near al-Salam camp and brought the looted arms to Kalma camps, a SLM said.

A member of the SLM leadership in Darfur told Sudan Tribune that an armed group belonging to Minni Minawi, the signatory of Abuja agreement, attacked last Saturday police posts near al-Salam camp in the capital of south Darfur, Nyala.

Armed raiders killed a policeman and wounded eight others.

The source said the purpose of the attackers was to loot police arms. "Two of the Minawi men took the looted arms and brought to Kalma camp;" he added.

According to the rebel source, Minawi orchestrated this operation in order to force the Sudanese government to attack the camp by providing the pretext. As the displaced become now a valuable asset in the conflict Minawi wants to dismantle the camps and to encourage Khartoum to relocate IDPs forcibly, the source pointed out.

Sudanese authorities tried several times in the past to dismantle the IDPs camps but the IDPs refusal and the international pressure led Khartoum to water down its plans.

Peace in Darfur is the major challenge - joint envoy

(*SudanTribune.com* – 12 Aug. Khartoum) The AU-UN Joint Special Representative for Darfur, said that the deployment of troops in western Sudan will poses some technical problems. However he reminded that "the major challenge is to realize peace."

The AU-UN Joint Special Representative for Darfur, Rodolphe Adada stated that the location of the Darfur region constitutes a challenge to troop deployment, because it is 2,000km away from the nearest port. "This has been reported by the section assigned with assessing the cost of the Hybrid Operation, which is estimated at \$2.5 billions per a year", he said. Adada further assured that the technical challenges could easily be overcome.

In an interview with Radio Sawa, Mr. said "the major challenge is to achieve peace. A comprehensive peace has to be reached, and then the United Nations, African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) will start to implement the agreement on the ground."

Darfur case biggest threat to national security, says Presidential Advisor

(*Sudan Vision*) President Advisor, Dr. Mustafa Osman Ismail, described the Darfur problem as the greatest threat to Sudanese national security, urging the political powers to refrain from exploiting the case for political ends.

In his address to a popular political gathering of GoNU and opposition parties in Medani, Dr. Ismail explained that the government has adopted three routes in resolving the Darfur problem: The political route where the government is seeking to engage all the parties in dialogue and security arrangements and humanitarian work routes.

Sudanese forces attack Kalma camp in South Darfur

(*SudanTribune.com, Khartoum Monitor*) Sudanese forces surrounded and attacked Darfur's most volatile camp on Tuesday to flush out rebels they say are behind recent attacks on police, an army source and camp residents said. "At 6 a.m. the government of Sudan moved 2,000 soldiers to surround the camp — army, police and border intelligence," said Abu Sharrad, a spokesman for Kalma camp. Sharrad, who called Reuters from inside the camp, said government forces had opened fire but it was unclear if anyone was killed or injured. An army source said those who attacked the police posts were believed to be in Kalma camp, where rebels have previously taken refuge. "This is an administrative, organisational operation to restore internal security," he said, adding the army was not involved, only police forces. The United Nations said it is continuing to monitor the situation. "We are indeed concerned to receive reports of armed activity in the area," said Murizio Giuliano, spokesman for the U.N. Office for Humanitarian Affairs.

AlAyam daily reported that the authorities have arrested 19 people, seized five pieces of weapons, drugs and other military items. Activists in Kalma camp told *AlAyam* that more than 30 people have been arrested following the government attacks on blocks 16, 17 and 18. UNMIS information official Ali Hamati said the attack was carried out by government forces.

SLM denies involvement of infiltration of Sudanese refugees into Israel

(*AlWihda*) Sudan Liberation Movement - AbdulWahid faction has categorically denied any connection of the movement with regarding the infiltration of Sudanese refugees into Israel.

SLM coordinator of humanitarian affairs Mohamed Abdulrahim attributed the phenomenon to the miserable conditions of the refugees in the countries from which they took asylum in Israel.

He added that the refugees in these countries were looking for the basic needs of health and education stressing that the UNHCR has suspended the file of the Sudanese migration since 2004.

He pointed out that Sudanese refugees in Israel were categorized into three groups "one group is employed in the various Israeli professions, the other one is settled in refugee camps and the third group is detained in Israeli prisons.

Justice and Equality Movement holds nomination of Dr. Nafie to assume Darfur file

(*AlHayat*) Financial and Economic Secretary at the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) Jamali Jalaleldin described the nomination of the president assistant Dr. Nafie Ali Nafie to assume responsibility of Darfur file as "gesture of seriousness".

Jalaleldin noted that the JEM was concerned with serious position and determination for peace saying that “ The nomination of Dr. Nafie, if it promotes peace it will be a positive indicator”

He added that Dr. Nafie could enhance the desire of peace expressing hope that he succeed in realizing lasting and durable peace in Darfur.

He stressed that the JEM would spare no effort in supporting him to attain peace which would protect the people of Darfur.

Jalaleldin denied dismissal of JEM president Dr. Khali Abu Ibrahim by the field military commanders saying that the JEMs executive and military leaderships were the sole side to decide on such issues.

He wants again ruled out firing of Dr. Ibrahim pointing out that he is currently in N'Djamena.

Salim in Khartoum to continue from where Eliasson ended

(Sudan Vision) The Special Envoy for Darfur, Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim was scheduled to have arrived in Khartoum yesterday, African Mission in Sudan Spokesperson Nouredine Mezni told Sudan Vision.

During his seven day visit, Dr. Salim will conduct intensified consultations with government officials, as well as he would meet with Darfurian intellectuals and women groups. He would then leave for Darfur States, representatives of IDPs, civil society organizations and tribal chieftains, in addition to those of NGOs and the international community.

Dr. Salim will also hold a series of meetings with the Joint Mediation Support Team, comprised of senior officials from AMIS and UNMIS to back up the work of the UN/African Union Special Envoy, Randolph added.

The visit of Dr. Salim comes days after that of the UN Special Envoy for Darfur, Jan Eliasson. The two envoys are currently engaged in coordinating the steps for the implementation of the AU/UN roadmap for resolving the Darfur issue. During his current visit to Sudan Salim will start from where Eliasson has ended his last mission in Sudan.

Rwanda defends Darfur general over rights abuses

(SudanTribune.com – 12 Aug. KIGALI) Rwanda on Tuesday defended a general in line to become deputy commander of a new peacekeeping force in Darfur who has come under scrutiny at the United Nations over accusations of human rights abuses.

A Brussels-based Rwandan exile group has accused General Karenzi Karake of supervising extra-judicial killings of civilians before and after Tutsi-led rebels took power in Rwanda following the country's 1994 genocide.

Karake's appointment was well-deserved and accusations he masterminded the assassination of numerous politicians were "a mere fabrication" that "should be treated with the contempt it deserves", the Foreign Ministry statement added.

The United Nations has asked international human rights groups to submit any information they have on Karake, 46, to discover whether there is any basis to the allegations.

The Rwandan statement lambasted the group accusing him as "an amalgamation of extremist fugitives known for their genocide ideology and hostility against the Government".

Another accusation against Karake, that he supervised mass killings of civilian refugees in neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), was "far-fetched", the ministry said.

Miscellaneous

Armed confrontation between police and the citizens reported in Hijleej.

(*Akhbar Alyaum*) Thousands of people launched Tuesday demonstrations in protest of arresting a number of persons following last week clashes between police and citizens of Meseria tribe around the oil fields in Hijleej, South Kordofan State.

The Commissioner of Abyie area , Ali Humeidan said that the police authorities adopted regulatory measures to take away some families from Mesiria tribe residing near the oil fields and transfer them to a pilot village.

He added that the issue escalated to confrontation between the citizens and police whereas one policeman was killed and a number of citizens were arrested. Humeidan noted that following police investigation a number of persons were released while eight persons are still in custody.

“ One of the released persons mobilized the area citizens against the police who sympathised with them , a matter which led to the interference of the central reserved police and fired bullets in the air” he said.

Humeidan pointed out that the situation was fully under control saying that the State security was conducting continuous meeting to assess the incident. Meanwhile, defence lawyer of the defendants Mohamed Ibrahim demanded the transfer of the defendant from Hijleej to Muglad but his request was turned down by the concerned authorities.

The Spokesperson of Western Sector Youth in South Kordofan AlSadig AlMamoun said the security committee paid a visit to Hijlig prior to shift the defendant to Muglad to stand fair trial.

AlMamoun held the authorities responsible of the incident saying the government would expose the country to crises if , he added , deals with security mentality.