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(By Public Information Office)

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Highlights

UN/ Agencies

UN chief shows concern over delays in Sudan's CPA implementation

(*SudanTribune.com* – 22 Aug. NEW YORK) "The important deadline of 9 July 2007, intended to mark the full redeployment of the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) to the north of the 1956 boundary line, was not met," Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said at the Security Council report published Wednesday.

"I call upon SAF immediately to remove all remaining regular elements from Southern Sudan, with the exception of those earmarked for Joint Integrated Unit."

Ban also called on both sides to speed up the formation of the JIUs as called for in the accord, Ban saying this move had "central importance" to the entire peace process.

"The formation of these units is a prerequisite for full redeployment of SPLA forces from Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States," Ban said in the report.

"The joint integration units are also mandated to protect the Sudan's oil fields, while oil installations themselves are to be demilitarized under the agreement... I strongly urge the parties to complete the assignment of troops in the joint integration units, which is already some nine months overdue."

Potential troop contributing states for the hybrid operations to tender in their contributions end August

(*AlSudani* – 23 Aug. KHARTOUM) African states that have expressed willingness to contribute troops to the hybrid operations in Darfur will formally tender in details of their contributions to the force by the end of this month.

The Deputy Head of the Sudan Permanent Mission to the AU says these states will detail their proposed contributions and will formally notify the AU Commission on their commitments to UNSCR 1769.

PDF accuses the UN of lying

(*AlSahafa* – 23 Aug. KHARTOUM) Kamal-el-deen Ibrahim, the Coordinator-general for the PDF, describes as unfounded lies those UN accusations that the PDF has committed mass abductions and mass rape.

He says the Popular Defence Forces have no presence in the Jebel Mara area and its environs that have been cited in the UN human rights report. He further added that the PDF does not operate independently but under the command of the Sudan Armed Forces and pursuant to the SAF laws.

The Coordinator-general of the PDF said that the rebel forces are to blame for those crimes.

GoNU (CPA; Darfur Peace Agreement; ESPA)

Sudan censors papers after thwarted bomb plot

(*SudanTribune.com* – 22 Aug. KHARTOUM) Four newspapers in Sudan are being blocked by the government from reporting on a thwarted plot to attack U.S., U.N., British and French targets in Khartoum, journalists said on Wednesday.

The opposition al-Rai al-Shaab did not print for the second straight day after security forces intervened at the printing press on Wednesday.

The independent al-Sudani paper said it and two other independent papers were also being targeted, while other papers deemed as pro-government had been allowed to print the same comments made by government officials on the thwarted plot to bomb Western interests in Khartoum.

The independent al-Sahafa and al-Ayyam were also censored.

A national security force official said the censorship followed a ban on all reporting on the plot until investigations were complete.

State news agency SUNA quoted Foreign Ministry spokesman Ali al-Sadig as saying late on Sunday that authorities had arrested all but two of a group plotting to attack Western interests.

Health ministry warns of diarrhea

(*Sudan Vision*) The federal ministry of health stated that malaria cases have reached 8144 in which 13 death cases have been reported. The ministry expressed fear of the spread of acute watery diarrhea as the 2 million SDG budget for water chlorine is not ready yet.

In a press statement, the spokesperson of the health emergency committee at the ministry of health, Dr. Al Fatih Malik speculated that people in areas which draw their drinking water from outside the network are threatened by acute watery diarrhea due to non-existence of chlorine.

GoS Demands all Parties to Commit to Ceasefire

(*Sudan Vision*) In response to the proposal made to the government by the AU Envoy Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim, for cessation of hostilities, the Foreign Minister Dr. Lam Akol said that Sudan is committed to the ceasefire provided that it includes all parties. He added that Sudan fears repetition of the incidents that followed the ceasefire of 2004 when some rebel factions took advantage of the opportunity to launch attacks on several areas in Darfur.

The Salim-Akol talks focused on three main points relating to avenue of the negotiations and pending issues. Akol stated that Sudan was ready to sit with the factions in any African capital though he considered the 2-3 month period decided by the Arusha meeting for beginning negotiations as unjustifiably long and conflicting with the road map drawn up by the two envoys.

Akol stressed that Sudan will stick to the Abuja agreement as a basis for the negotiations as

confirmed by all the terms of reference, including the Security Council Resolution No. 1769, adding that the government will be ready to discuss with the rebel movements the problems and the way of bringing them on board of peace process.

GoSS

Oil shortfall hits rebuilding in Southern Sudan

(SudanTribune.com – 22 Aug. JUBA, SUDAN) Lower than expected oil exports this year have left the government of Southern Sudan struggling to find cash for urgently needed infrastructure development following years of conflict, officials said.

More than 95 percent of the semi-autonomous region's income comes from oil revenues, which finance ministry figures showed; fell from \$76 million in January to \$28.9 million in March. Revenues are now rising, with \$125 million expected in July.

"The problem is that the oil revenues we were expecting (this year) have not arrived as expected, based on the budget line," the south's Finance Minister Kuol Athian told Reuters.

"There was a drop but now it is rising," he added.

Athian told Reuters the south was seeking other income sources to temper its reliance on oil, with the government establishing an account to collect 50 percent of cash generated from customs, immigration and taxes in the south.

Southern Sudan inaugurates modern river port in Juba

(SudanTribune.com – 22 Aug. JUBA) The Vice President of the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) has inaugurated the first River Port in Juba on the western bank of the River Nile. He officially declared the River Port open with effect from Tuesday, August 21.

The Port was constructed by the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) as part of the Japanese government's projects offered towards the development of Southern Sudan. JICA is responsible for implementing technical cooperation programs of Japan's official development assistance.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony of the River Port, GoSS Vice-President, Riek Machar Teny, said the Port would benefit not only the GoSS capital, Juba, and Central Equatoria state but also Western and Eastern Equatoria states. He pointed out that the use of the first River Port in the Greater Equatoria region would contribute to the change of lives for the better.

The Ceremony was also attended by the Japanese Ambassador to Sudan, Yuichi Ishii who re-affirmed his government's commitment to support the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) through development.

E. Equatoria to recruit IDPs teachers

(*SudanTribune.com* – 22 Aug. JUBA) The IDPs teachers will not be reintegrated but they will be recruited as new employees, the state minister of education, Science and Technology of Central Equatoria, Mr. Lokulenge Lole has said.

The state minister said reintegrating the IDPs teachers would amount to offering them senior positions as the ministry will be compelled to equate them with their colleagues most of whom are holding senior positions ranging from grade one to three, explains Lokulenge.

Darfur

Darfur peacekeepers should enhance civilian protection capabilities

(*SudanTribune.com* – 22 Aug. NEW YORK) International peacekeepers in Darfur should provide civilian protection and use rapid-response capabilities to protect women from widespread rape and other sexual violence, Human Rights Watch said today.

A report from the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on August 21 described how government forces and affiliated armed groups in December 2006 captured and systematically raped dozens of women during a large attack in South Darfur. The report is just the latest evidence of widespread sexual violence in Darfur, which has also been documented by Human Rights Watch and others.

“The mounting evidence of widespread rape in Darfur underscores why the newly approved AU-UN mission will need to be prepared to protect civilians,” said Peter Takirambudde, Africa director at Human Rights Watch. “Peacekeepers in Darfur need the capacity to respond rapidly to threats against civilians.”

Women in Darfur are also at risk of sexual violence outside the context of large attacks. Women risk being raped if they leave their camp for internally displaced people to search for firewood. In some areas, the current African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS) has provided “firewood patrols” to accompany groups of women once or twice a week as they gather firewood. But these patrols have often been ineffective due to poor organization, lack of resources, and lack of communication with the people who benefit from the patrols.

If such patrols were better organized and carried out, they could make a major contribution to the protection of civilians, as could the appointment and wide dispersal of more human rights monitors on the ground.

Human Rights Watch welcomed the recent agreement on a proposed AU-UN hybrid force for Darfur. However, that force will not be on the ground until next year.

“Civilians under attack today can’t wait for the hybrid force,” said Takirambudde. “Better patrols to protect women and more human rights monitors are needed now.”

AU envoy urges rebel leader to join Darfur peace process

(*SudanTribune.com* – 22 Aug. KHARTOUM) The African Union's special envoy for Darfur Salim Ahmed Salim urged on Wednesday a Darfur rebel leader to take part in the next peace negotiations.

Salim told reporters after a meeting with Sudanese Foreign Minister Lam Akol that the participation of Abdelwahid Mohamed al-Nur, leader of rebel Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM), in the coming negotiations would make the Darfur peace process a comprehensive one.

Al-Nur demands that Sudanese government stops violence in Darfur against civilians before to start peace talks.

The AU envoy also called on the international community to continue its efforts to press all the rebel groups in Darfur to participate in the peace process.

Spokesman of the Sudanese Foreign Ministry Ali al-Sadig affirmed his government's readiness to tackle the issues which would be raised by the non-signatory parties of Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA).

He reiterated the Sudanese government's position that the DPA should be the basis for the next negotiations.

Al-Sadig said that the government was ready to get engaged in negotiations with the rebel movements at any place that the movements agree upon.

As head of the SLM, Nur has most supporters in the biggest tribe of Fur in Darfur. Currently living in France, Nur rejected to attend the Arusha meeting, which was sponsored by the African Union and United Nations.

Salim is scheduled to meet with Women's groups in Khartoum before leaving for El Fasher on Sunday 26 August, where he will meet with senior AMIS officials, Also he will travel to Zallingei to discuss the peace process with Darfurian leaders and civil society representatives.

On Monday, 27 August, Salim will travel to the capital of West Darfur State, El Geneina, where he will meet with the Wali, representatives of Internally Displaced Darfurians, leaders of Civil Society organisations and traditional authorities. He will return to Khartoum on Tuesday, 28 August 2007, and brief the international community, including International Non-governmental Organisations (INGOs), on his consultations in Darfur. He is expected to leave Sudan the same day.

Darfur rebel faction reconsiders talks after Kalma camp attack

(*SudanTribune.com* – 22 Aug. NAIROBI) A leading Darfur rebel faction said Wednesday it was "reassessing" its commitment to an internationally-sponsored peace initiative in the light of recent raids by Sudanese government forces.

"Our commitment in Arusha was that we endorsed the AU-UN roadmap to jumpstart the political process. Given what the government of Sudan is doing on the ground, we are re-assessing it," Abdalla said.

"On Monday night, government of Sudan forces attacked Kalma camp (in South Darfur) with some 35 Land Cruisers and 1,500 troops," said Nouri Abdalla, a spokesman for the Sudan Liberation Movement faction of Ahmed Abdel Shafi.

"Five people were killed in the raid, two of them were children and around 40 rebels were arrested," he told AFP by phone from Kampala. The casualties could not immediately be independently verified.

Abdalla charged that Khartoum was flushing out rebels from Darfur's camps for internally displaced people "in order to block the deployment of the hybrid force."

Khartoum has said that the sweep in Kalma camp was in reaction to an attack by suspected rebels on police posts, an allegation denied by Darfur rebel groups.

Article II. *AlRai AlAam* reports today that big numbers of IDPs in Kalma camp organized yesterday demonstrations in protest against police attack on the camp. The government affirmed that it will continue inspecting the camps in order to ensure security and stop crimes.

Article III. The protestors were demanding the release of the detained IDPs.

Article IV. The UN OCHA warned of deterioration of the humanitarian situation in the camp as a result of the tensions resulting from the demonstrations.

Darfur peace talks may open in October - AU envoy

(*SudanTribune.com* – 22 Aug. KHARTOUM) Talks between the Sudanese government and rebel factions to try to end the four-year conflict in Darfur could start in October, the African Union's special envoy for Sudan said on Wednesday.

"We are working on the basis that the talks will take place in early October," Salim Ahmed Salim told reporters after a meeting with Sudanese Foreign Minister Lam Akol.

He said the exact date would be set by UN chief Ban Ki-moon, who is due to visit Sudan next month, and the head of the African Union Commission Alpha Omar Konare.

Representatives of Darfur's many rebel groups gathered earlier this month in the Tanzanian town of Arusha for UN- and AU-sponsored talks aimed at unifying their stance ahead of final peace negotiations with Khartoum.

According to UN estimates, at least 200,000 people have been killed and more than two million displaced by the combined effect of war and famine since the civil conflict erupted in Darfur four-and-a-half years ago.

A peace deal was signed once with the Sudanese government in Abuja in May 2006, but only one out of three negotiating factions endorsed the agreement, sparking deep divisions among rebels and a new surge in violence.

Sudanese government spokesman Ali al-Sadek said Khartoum was ready to start negotiations at any time.

"We don't have any problems in discussing the concerns of rebel groups as long as the Abuja accord is the reference point for negotiations," he added.

However, a leading rebel faction said earlier Wednesday it was reassessing its commitment to the latest peace initiative because of recent raids by Sudanese government forces.

"Our commitment in Arusha was that we endorsed the AU-UN roadmap to jumpstart the political process. Given what the government of Sudan is doing on the ground, we are reassessing it," said Nouri Abdalla, a spokesman for the Sudan Liberation Movement.

"If the government of Sudan does not stop its policy of terrorising civilians, there can be no political process," he added.

IDPs lead protest over police raid on fragile camp

(*SudanTribune.com* – 22 Aug. KHARTOUM) Internally displaced persons (IDPs) staged a demonstration on 22 August after Sudanese forces raided one of Darfur's largest camps to arrest suspects believed to be behind a series of attacks on police stations.

"We will continue the demonstrations until United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon comes," IDP spokesman Abu Sharad told IRIN from Kalma camp in South Darfur.

He said 2,800 police, army and border intelligence officers surrounded the camp, which hosts an estimated 90,000 people. "They arrested 30 IDPs, burnt down 12 shelters and looted 175 others," he added.

"We will continue to pursue outlaws who terrorise the people and loot their belongings, especially after their attack on a police station in Al Salam IDP camp," South Darfur police chief Omar Mohamed Ali was quoted as saying.

African Union troops monitoring a fragile truce in the region responded after about eight hours and the UN arrived the next morning, according to Sharad.

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) spokesman Murizio Giuliano said: "We do not have reports about civilians being killed or injured [during the raid]."

Kalma is one of Darfur's most unstable camps. Two years ago, IDPs set fire to government offices, forcing officials to abandon the camp. IDPs also killed an AU translator in the camp.

The AU has been unable to end the violence in the region and has met resistance in trying to promote a May 2006 peace deal that was signed by only one of three negotiating rebel groups.

Most IDPs in Kalma support Abdelwahid Mohamed al-Nur, leader of the Sudan Liberation Movement, who rejected the peace agreement.

"The government continues to practise brutal killings and displacement of our people in camps after forcing them to flee their villages," Nour's group said in a statement on the incident in Kalma.

South Darfur intervenes to contain conflict between Habbania and Salamat tribe

(*AlSahafa* – 23 Aug. NYALA, KHARTOUM) Sources from the Salamat tribe have confirmed that 22 of their tribesmen were killed and injured in more than ten days of clashes with the Habbania in Burram locality, South Darfur.

They blamed the regional government of keeping mum on the issue and not trying to calm the situation.

The Deputy Governor says however that the authorities did rush to the scene of the clashes in a bid to calm the situation and indeed managed to stop the violence between the two sides.

Miscellaneous

Floods may affect oil output in Sudan - China

(*SudanTribune.com* – 22 Aug. BEIJING) Output at oilfields operated by China National Petroleum Corp (CNPC) in Sudan have been little affected so far but could see production fall further if heavy floods continue, Chinese traders said on Wednesday.

The Chinese firm's key 1/2/4 block, which normally produces 275,000 barrels a day of low-sulphur Nile Blend crude, has so far been little affected by floods, traders said, but declined to give an estimate for production loss.

CNPC's in-house newspaper China Petroleum News reported on Tuesday that the field, as well as block 3/7 were hit by floods, which Sudanese officials call the worst in living memory, having claimed 89 lives and destroyed more than 70,000 homes.

"If the production cut is severe, we should have been informed. So my understanding is the impact so far has been minor," said one trader close to CNPC's crude sales from Sudan.

Sudan floods death toll reaches 89

(*SudanTribune.com* – 22 Aug. KHARTOUM) Some 89 people have died in flooding in Sudan as heavy rains that washed away homes and spread water-borne disease continue to batter the country, a government official said on Wednesday.

Sudanese officials have described this year's floods as the worst in living memory with unexpectedly early rains destroying more than 70,000 homes.

"Eighty-nine people passed away," Hamadallah Adam Ali, head of the government Civil Defence Authority, told Reuters on Wednesday.

"Some drowned, some had their houses collapse," he said, adding some people were electrocuted.

A U.N. statement said the world body was giving Sudan a grant of \$8.7 million for flood relief.

"Amid continued devastation caused by floods in the Sudan ... (the United Nations) has approved a grant of US\$8.7 million to support the ongoing humanitarian response," said the statement by the U.N.'s humanitarian aid agency, OCHA.

OCHA said the floods had affected hundreds of thousands of people across a dozen states in Africa's largest country and many do not have adequate access to food aid.

Heavy flooding in some states has destroyed latrines and polluted water supplies, spreading deadly water-borne diseases like cholera and malaria.

A WHO official said the number of cholera cases in east Sudan had risen to 808, including 53 deaths.

Cholera causes severe diarrhoea and can lead to death within hours if not treated.

"Eight hundred and eight cases and 53 deaths, but since the last three days there have not been any new cases," Ahmed al-Ganainy, a WHO official told Reuters.

He added the outbreak could not be considered contained until several weeks had passed without new cases.