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**UNMIS**  
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**(By Public Information Office)**

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## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

### **United Nations and the AMIS-United Nations transition debate**

#### **Sudan leader asks Security Council for more time**

In an apparent response to the invitation by the President of the Security Council to the Sudanese president and other key players in Darfur to a meeting on Monday to discuss the UK draft resolution, Sudan's president has asked the U.N. Security Council to give him time to bring peace to conflict-wracked Darfur and urged it to delay action on transferring peacekeeping duties to a U.N. force, according to a letter circulated Wednesday, reports *AP Online* reported yesterday.

Omar al-Bashir said there was strong opposition from residents and leaders in Darfur to the U.N. force and warned that deployment would lead "to acts of violence and unmanageable confrontations among all parties in Darfur, including the United Nations forces."

Al-Bashir's letter seeking more time to restore peace appeared to be a response to an invitation from the current Security Council president to the Sudanese government and other key players in Darfur to a meeting Monday to discuss the draft resolution.

In the letter, Al-Bashir said he wants to concentrate on implementing the peace agreement under a six-month plan he already submitted to Secretary-General Kofi Annan. He said it calls for the government, in cooperation with the African Union and U.N. agencies, to "return the security and humanitarian situation in Darfur to normal."

*The story has not been reported in the local press in Sudan.*

#### **Meeting of the National Congress' Leadership Office yesterday**

Appearing on *AP Online* edition and widely reported in the local press is the story picked from the state-owned *Sudan News Agency* [SUNA] and national radio on yesterday's meeting of the National Congress Party's Leadership office and parliamentary committee that was presided over by President Bashir and culminated, among other things, in the reiteration of the party's rejection of the deployment of international forces to Darfur [under Chapter VI or VII mandates according to *AlSahafa*] saying it would violate national sovereignty, official media reported Thursday.

"The draft resolution is worse than the previous ones because it constitutes an attempt to impose complete guardianship on the Sudan," lawmaker Ghazi Salah Eldin Atabani said after the meeting. He also said that the draft does not pay consideration to the institutions set up for the implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement and has not been presented to the authorities in Sudan.

Participants in the meeting also considered any state that would support the UK draft resolution on deployment of United Nations forces into Darfur as "hostile" and instead called on the international community to pressure the holdout rebel groups and urge them to join the peace process.

#### **Children still drawn into war in Sudan - UN**

Children are still being abducted, killed, raped and pressed into warfare as soldiers by armed groups in Sudan — including the country's army — despite peace deals in the south and west, the United Nations reported on Tuesday [Source: *Reuters*, also quoted in *AlHayat*].

Other groups abducting and recruiting children for war in the country's western Darfur region included the government-backed Janjaweed militias and the rebel Sudan Liberation Army, Secretary-General Kofi Annan said in the report to the Security Council.

In southern Sudan, the report accuses the former rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army, or SPLA — now the region's official army — of killing and recruiting children as soldiers, along with the national army — the Sudanese Armed Forces.

There were no reports of armed groups sexually abusing children in southern or eastern Sudan from the May-July period covered by the report, Annan said.

His report was based on confirmed incidents but gave no numbers.

"The numerous armed forces and groups that are parties to the conflict in the Sudan have a long history of using children for military purposes," the report said, calling on all such groups to end the abuse of children in war.

"The current peace processes in Darfur and southern Sudan offer a real opportunity for the leaders of the Sudan to end the practice of recruitment and use of children once and for all," Annan said.

There is no peace agreement in eastern Sudan and access to that region is difficult, "which has translated into a critical lack of information on child rights violations in the east for this report," Annan said.

### ***Government reaction to the report***

*AllIntibaha* meanwhile reports that the Sudan government strongly rejects the United Nations report and described it as sheer fabrication and dismissed the report as mainly aimed at putting pressure on the Government of Sudan to justify the deployment of international forces to Darfur..

Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson, Jamal Mohamed, said [according to *AllIntibaha*] that the Sudan remains committed to relevant international conventions and the Interim Constitution and stressed that the government of Sudan is more concerned than any other party of the fate of its children.

The paper further says that the government official does not deny however that some outlaw armed groups may still be forcing children into recruitment.

### **Sudan government receives formal invitation for Security Council session**

Foreign minister Dr. Lam Akol has downplayed the US criticism of the Sudan government plan to send troops to Darfur, reports *AlSudani* and *AllIntibaha*.

Dr. Akol says Sudan received formal invitation to participate in next Monday's session of the Security Council to brief the Security Council on the Sudan plan and on its rejection to a deployment.

The Security Council has called for an emergency session and has invited the Sudan government, the Arab League, the African Union and the OIC.

## GoNU

### **Price hike on combustibles blessed by the ruling party**

Yesterday's meeting of the National Congress Party's Leadership Council and parliamentary group also discussed the recent increase in price of combustibles, reports most papers.

The party is said to have backed the finance ministry's decisions to the increase.

On the other hand, *AlAyaam* reports that opposition political parties held a meeting yesterday to discuss and coordinate to stage a procession and present a memorandum to the President of the Republic calling for an immediate intervention to scrap the recent rise in price of combustibles.

## Southern Sudan

### **GoSS establishes DDR committee on child soldiers**

(*The Citizen* – 24<sup>th</sup> Aug. **Juba**) The Minister of Communication, Television and Radio at the GoSS told reporters yesterday following a meeting of the GoSS Council of Ministers that the meeting also discussed issues related to human rights in southern Sudan in particular and the Sudan in general.

On southern Sudan, the discussions focused on the need to reintegrate child soldiers into society and to make sure they are not enlisted in the SPLA.

The GoSS, he says, has formed a a DDR committee on disarming child soldiers.

### **Armed attacks on the SPLA**

7 SPLA soldiers were subjected to a rocket attack last Tuesday in the Fam-el-Zeraf area near Malakal, reports *AlAyaam*.

*AlAyaam* goes on to say that the head of the technical committee of the JDB's, Mjr. Gen. Elias Waya, said however that the group that launched the attack was led by a Mjr. Gen. Teng Majang was flown by an aircraft [*he did not identify*] to Malakal yesterday.

The SAF claims it had no hand on the issue but said that the armed group that attacked the SPLA was not aligned to any of the two forces recognized by the CPA.

A statement by the SAF spokesperson pointed out that the JIUs are camped in the area.

Meanwhile in Khartoum, the commander of the Signal Corps of the Joint Integrated Units, SPLA Mjr. Mabior Bol, was reportedly found dead at his house in Jabal Awlia near Khartoum military area yesterday morning, reports the *Khartoum Monitor* [*sourced from the Sudan Tribune website*] quoting the SPLM political office in Khartoum.

It also said a post mortem report showed the deceased was shot in the head.

The wife of the deceased was also reported to have attempted suicide after she was accused of having shot her husband. She is now in custody and waiting further investigation.

### **LRA's Kony seeks asylum in Central African Republic**

The rebel Lord's Resistance Army leader, Joseph Kony, sometime last week formally approached the Central African Republic (CAR) government pleading for asylum, Kampala-based *Daily Monitor* [sourced from the Sudan Tribune website] has reliably established.

President Bozize on receiving the request, *Daily Monitor* has learnt, dispatched his chief of staff, over the weekend, to meet President Yoweri Museveni over the matter.

Dr E. Jebbari arrived in the country on Saturday 19 August and met Mr Museveni on Monday 21 August, before flying back to Bangui, the CAR capital, the same day. State House officials yesterday claimed ignorance about Dr Jebbari's visit and maintained that the visit "certainly was not on the president's official programme".

"He said that his country could not grant Kony asylum without consulting President Museveni," the CAR president's envoy is reported to have said.

It also emerged yesterday that the LRA has written to South African Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu asking for help to establish a truth and reconciliation commission on northern Uganda.

### **Darfur/DPA**

#### **Rapes on rise at Sudan's Darfur refugee camp - IRC**

More than 200 women have been raped in one of Darfur's refugee camps over the past five weeks alone, a sign of the worsening humanitarian crisis in the violence-wracked Sudanese region, an aid group said Wednesday, warns the *AP* [sourced from the Sudan Tribune website].

The number of rapes in Kalma camp was one measure of the increased violence throughout the region, as was a rising number of people fleeing their homes and of attacks on aid workers, said International Rescue Committee, which collected the information.

The group did not specify who committed the rapes. Refugees in the past have accused the pro-government Janjaweed militias of harassing them.

The aid group's statement echoed a report issued by U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan a day earlier that said there were thousands of documented cases of women and children abducted for forced labour or forced sex.

"Grave violence against women in Darfur continues to worsen," Annan said. "Girls have been targeted in interethnic conflicts as a deliberate form of humiliation of a group, and as a means of ethnic cleansing."

The New York-based IRC statement said more than 50,000 people have been made refugees in recent weeks, joining some 2 million people previously displaced by the conflict.

## **Chad detains leaders of Darfur rebel JEM**

Chad said on Wednesday it had detained and would expel seven leaders of a Darfur rebel group as part of its efforts to improve relations with neighbouring Sudan, reports the *Sudan Tribune*, *Reuters* and several other Sudanese local dailies.

The JEM Secretary General Bahar Idriss Abu Garda, the chief JEM negotiator, Ahmed Tugod Lissan, and the leading member Omar Bakheit are among the arrested leaders of the rebel movement.

Chad's Foreign Minister Ahmat Allam-mi told Reuters the leaders of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) would be handed to the African Union.

"We have normalised our relations with Sudan and each party has to live up to its commitments," Allam-mi said.

JEM leader Khalil Ibrahim said the detained leaders had done nothing wrong and called on Chad's President Idriss Deby to order their release.

## **Other developments**

### **Japan grants Sudan \$4.5m for immunisation programmes**

The *Sudan Tribune* website reports that Japan decided Wednesday to offer \$4.5 million in grants to expanding a range of health services, including essential immunization, malaria prevention and training of health workers, said a press release by the Embassy of Japan in Khartoum.

This grant aid will be directed through the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

The Embassy said the contribution comes as part of the Japan's assistance towards reconstruction and rehabilitation in Sudan announced on the occasion of Oslo donor's conference in last April.

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- *The floods continue to command heavy coverage in local newspapers with some illustrating its devastating impact with a plethora of statistics*
  - *The price hike is being shelved as a front-liner and is being replaced by the story on the National Congress Party leadership office that, among other things, backed increase in price of combustibles and has "ordered" a 20% increase in transport allowance for government employees to cover*

## **Commentaries:**

### **Alwan article on the "American spy"**

Alwan daily publishes an interview with the Governor of North Darfur state on the trial of a USA national charged of spying.

The American is said to have been arrested by authorities in Oum Baro alongside an officer in the Chadian army and a Chadian interpreter.

The trio were then sent ahead to el-Fasher where charges were filed against them.

The US national is said to run a website through which he conducts a hostile campaign against the Sudan government in which he accuses the Sudanese president of committing genocide on the non-Arab tribes of Darfur.

He also claims that Sudan has been using its oil for waging war and buying arms and that the people of Sudan have never benefited from the oil revenue.

A trial of the trio will start on Saturday.

### **Will the Security Council issue a resolution on Darfur like that on Lebanon**

Following the heavy media focus on Lebanon, it may seem that Darfur is bound to bounce back to the spotlights again, comments Abu-Zayid Sabi Kulu in *AlSahafa*.

He points out that there seems to be a lot of activity within the ranks of the holdout rebel groups and splits are likely to happen.

The government, he argues, does not seem to be in a position better than that of the holdout groups that may soon face international sanctions. He illustrates this by pointing out that ASG Annabi had said before the Security Council that the Sudan government seems to be amassing troops in Darfur to prepare a major offensive in the region while relief agencies operating in the Darfur region are withdrawing from their areas of operation as a result of increased insecurity and attacks targeting them.

The writer presumes that the United Nations Security Council is on the way to issuing a resolution on Darfur like resolution 1701 on Lebanon allowing for a Chapter VI deployment with elements of Chapter VII.

He further points out that the Security Council has invited the Sudan government alongside other relevant parties like the African Union, the League of Arab States and the OIC to a session of the Security Council to discuss the issue.

He expressed optimism that the Sudan may strike out a compromise deal that will eventually allow in United Nations forces despite its current strong rejection to the issue.

### **On the capacity-building initiative involving the UNDP**

Muzdalifa Mohamed of *AlSahafa* comments on the cooperation between the UNDP, the World Bank and the Ministry of Finance on capacity building for an independent judiciary council in Sudan and the benefits of that project.

### **On the UNDP-organised workshop at the Supreme Court**

Geer Tor of the *AlSudani* daily comments on a recent workshop organised by the UNDP at the Supreme Court.

He complains that having found himself in a front-seat at the hall, he and some others were asked to sit behind because the front seats were reserved for distinguished guests.

Instead of doing so, the reporter says, he walks out in protest.

He concludes by wondering who was it in charge of differentiating the guests – was it the UNDP or the Supreme Court?