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(By Public Information Office)

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UN/ Agencies

Darfur security worsening - UN

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 30 Nov. EL-NEEM CAMP, Sudan) A decline in security and bureaucratic obstacles are hindering the world's largest aid operation in Sudan's Darfur region, the U.N. humanitarian chief said on Friday.

Darfuris who tried to answer John Holmes's questions were intimidated by Sudanese officials as he toured the El-Neem camp, which houses some 50,000 Darfuris driven from their villages by tribal clashes and fighting between army and rebels.

It was Holmes's second visit to Darfur. "I think the security situation is probably worse now than it was eight months ago," Holmes said. "Carjacking at gunpoint — this is almost a daily occurrence." He also said aid workers continued to face problems gaining exit visas and travel permits.

Read more <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article24976>

UN's Ban disappointed by Sudan delaying peacekeepers

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 29 Nov. UNITED NATIONS) U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said on Thursday he was disappointed about obstacles holding up preparations for a peacekeeping force in Darfur and delays in Sudan meeting its commitments.

Earlier this week, the head of U.N. peacekeeping, Jean-Marie Guehenno, told the Security Council that a series of logistic and other obstacles raised by Sudan was putting in doubt the deployment of the hybrid African Union-U.N. force.

Problems detailed by Guehenno included Sudan's objections to some non-African units, failure to provide land, curbs on helicopter flights and quest for a status of forces pact that he said "would make it impossible for the mission to operate."

Ban echoed those concerns and said he had spoken on Thursday with "some important member states who can really work on this problem."

"It's true that we've not yet been able to resolve all technical problems because of the delay (in) the response from the Sudanese government," Ban told reporters. "I'm disappointed by all what is happening now." "There were firm commitments between myself and President (Omar Hassan al-) Bashir, and still we've not yet been able to resolve all these administrative things," Ban said, adding that he hoped to speak to Bashir about the matter.

UN Resumes Repatriation of Sudanese Refugees from Kenya

(Sudan Vision) The UN High Commission for refugees (UNHCR) said the UN refugees' agency has resumed the repatriation of the Sudanese refugees from Kakuma Camp in North-West Kenya after the poor weather and roads conditions besides insecurity in their return areas have halted the operation for three months.

The UNHCR said some 200 refugees were transported to the town of Bor in South Sudan's Jonglei state on Wednesday and Thursday last week and many more are keen to follow them. More than 8,000 of the 50,000 Sudanese refugees in Kakuma have registered to return from Kenya. UNHCR hopes to help some 3,000 more to return home by air and land by the end of the year. The agency had brought back more than 4,000 before the operations were suspended in August.

Brig. Tior Niatti: UN provides Dinka Bor with arms, ammunitions to attack and kill civilians from Murle tribe

(Akhbar Alyaum) Brig. Zawagin Niatti has warned the SPLM of the danger of continuing attacks targeting the civilians of the Murle tribe in Juba. He accused the UN of providing arms and ammunitions to the SPLM Dinka Bor so as to attack and kill the unarmed civilians from the Murle tribe. He said four patients from the Murle tribe have been killed in Bor hospital. He has also accused the SPLM Dinka Bor of killing al Fadil Nasho and Antony from the Murle tribe.

The Brig. said the armed Dinka started moving from Bor to Bibor, the area of the Murle, on 20 November and they have now reached Khor Ayen area. He explained that the conflict between Dinka Bor and the Murle tribes has been complicated when the SPLM assumed control over all South Sudan.

GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

Bashir, Kiir to hold talks Monday over Sudan's peace

(Sudan Tribune.com — December 1. JUBA), 2007 Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir will hold talks with southern leader Salva Kiir next week on implementing a north-south peace deal now in crisis, a southern official said on Saturday.

"We expect the next meeting on Monday will be focusing on key practical issues on how to overcome the crisis," southern Presidential Affairs Minister Luka Biong said. A six-person team of high-level officials may also be brought back in, he said.

Minister of Defence: Sudan is not hosting Chadian opposition

(*AlKhartoum*) The Sudanese Minister of Defence, General Abdelrahim Mohamed Hussein, said Sudan will never accept hosting Chadian opposition elements. Commenting on the Chadian allegations on Sudan providing arms to the Chadian opposition, the Minister said Sudan will not allow armed groups to cross its borders and will disarm those who do so and will deal with them as refugees.

Sudan 2008 budget to be tabled at Parliament Wednesday

(*AlRai AlAam*) Minister of Finance and National Economy, al Zaubair Ahmed al Hassan, will table tomorrow the Sudan 2008 budget at the National Assembly this Wednesday. The new budget has been prepared according to the (GFS) system.

AU Peace and Security Council demands CPA partners to provide reports every three months

(*AlRai AlAam*) The AU Peace and Security Council have yesterday resolved to appoint a special envoy for the Sudan CPA. The Council demanded that the CPA provide a report every three months on the progress of implementing the agreement. The Council urged the IGAD member states to organize soon a conference on peace in Sudan.

NCP rejects US initiative for overcoming CPA partners' crisis

(*AlSahafa*)The Presidential Adviser and the NCP Political Relations Officer, Dr. Mustafa Osman Ismail, has rejected the US initiative on improving relations between the CPA partners saying that the CPA mechanisms are capable of addressing any problem between the two partners.

Mustafa Osman Ismail says SPLM conspires against NCP in Darfur issue

(*AlSahafa*)The Presidential Adviser and the NCP Political Relations Officer, Dr. Mustafa Osman Ismail, accused the SPLM of conspiring against the NCP on the issue of Darfur. He said under the pretext of unifying the rebel movements, the SPLM is actually blackmailing is NCP on the Darfur dossier.

MPs to launch campaign on public freedoms

(*AlSudani*) Three Parliamentary groups in the National Assembly announced the setting up of "The Parliamentary Coalition for Public Freedoms". The Coalition is planning to submit a memo to the Speaker of the Assembly calling for cancellation of laws limiting public freedoms. The representatives of the three parliamentary groups held a meeting yesterday at the offices of AlSudani newspaper. The three groups comprising the coalition for public freedoms are the SPLM, Southern Political Parties and the National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

Attorney General withdraws sabotage case from court

(*AlSudani*) Sources revealed to AlSudani that the Attorney General withdrew yesterday the sabotage case from the court. The accused in this case include Umma Party leader Mubarak al Fadil, DUP leader Ali Mahmoud Hassanain and retired army and police officers.

Africa's peace body to appoint special envoy for CPA implementation

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 30 Nov. ADDIS ABABA) The African Union peace and security body decided to appoint a special envoy to follow up the implementation of a peace deal that put an end of two decades of civil war in southern Sudan.

In a meeting held on 29 November, the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, requested the AU Commission to accelerate ongoing efforts aimed at providing more effective support to the implementation of the CPA, including through the appointment of a new Special Envoy and the opening of an appropriately staffed African Union Liaison Office in Khartoum, with an office in Juba.

Read more <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article24985>

Deputy of Uganda's rebel LRA executed - deserters

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 30 Nov. KAMPALA) Deserters from Uganda's notorious Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) said on Friday the rebels' leader Joseph Kony had executed his deputy Vincent Otti due to Otti's enthusiasm for peace talks.

"Kony ordered Otti's execution on the 2nd of October," former LRA commander Sunday Otto told reporters, speaking on behalf of seven rebels flown to Kampala after handing themselves in to U.N. peacekeepers. "Otti's killing sent a chill in LRA, and that's why we left and there are very many others who are following."

Otti, regarded as the brains behind the group in contrast to the volatile Kony, was a prime mover behind the LRA joining peace talks that began last year in Juba, South Sudan, aimed at ending its 20-year insurgency.

Rumors of his death had been circulating for weeks in Uganda, with various rebel and mediator sources saying he had been arrested by Kony. But until Friday, no credible source had offered confirmation of the speculation that Otti was dead.

Read more <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article24981>

US Secretary of State to pay a visit to Ethiopia

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 30 Nov. ADDIS ABABA) US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice will pay a visit to Ethiopia next week. In her tour to the continent, she will hold talks with leaders and officials from the African Great Lakes region, Sudan, Somalia, Congo, Rwanda and Uganda. Ways of maintaining regional peace and security is the prior agenda of her visit to Africa which includes the issue of Darfur crises and ways of deploying peace keepers accessing humanitarian aid in the fragile Sudanese region.

Sudanese protesters demand death for teddy teacher

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 30 Nov. KHARTOUM) Hundreds of Sudanese Muslims, waving green Islamic flags, took to the streets of Khartoum on Friday demanding death for the British teacher convicted of insulting Islam after her class named a teddy bear Mohammad.

Gibbons was charged on Wednesday with insulting Islam, inciting hatred and showing contempt for religious beliefs because the class toy had been given the same name as the Muslim Prophet Mohammad.

Under Sudan's penal code, she could have faced 40 lashes, a fine or up to a year in jail. But Gibbons was convicted only of insulting religion. Teachers at her school say that calling the teddy bear Mohammad was not Gibbons's idea and that no parents objected when she sent circulars about a reading project that included the bear, introduced in September, as a fictional participant.

Read more <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article24972>

Sudan presidential assistant voices support to ICC role in Darfur

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 29 Nov. KHARTOUM) The leader of the only Darfur rebel faction to sign the Darfur peace agreement (DPA) last year, said that he supports the work of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in the war ravaged region.

Minni Arcua Minawi, leader of Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) and senior assistant to Sudanese president told Sudan Tribune by phone from Khartoum that the position of his movement never changed on the ICC. "Any one who commits a crime should be prosecuted. It is a matter of justice" he said.

Minawi said that despite being a member of the Sudanese government and an aide to Sudanese president Omar Hassan Al-Bashir, he is "on the opposite end of the spectrum" with regards of the issue of Darfur war crimes.

Sudan releases journalists imprisoned for defaming government

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 29 Nov. KHARTOUM) Sudan on Thursday released two journalists who spent almost two weeks in jail for refusing to pay a fine of \$5,000 for defaming the security forces.

Editor-in-Chief Mahjoub Erwa of the popular independent al-Sudani paper and his deputy Nouredine Medani were convicted of defamation and ordered to pay \$5000 each in fines, a huge amount for Sudan's papers who struggle to make ends meet.

"We decided not to pay it to send a message to the government that imprisonment for your views is not right," Erwa told Reuters from the jail ahead of his release.

Al-Sudani appealed and the fine was brought down to \$3,500 in total which they agreed to pay.

NCP Sticks to CPA Mechanisms for Crisis Solving

(Sudan Vision) The National Congress Party has underlined the importance of sticking to the mechanisms of the peace agreement and national efforts for overcoming differences between two partners, letting on that it has not as yet received any invitation to the meeting to be held in Addis Ababa under the sponsorship of US Secretary of the States.

Human rights activist says Sudan media laws draconian

(BBC Mon, Sudan Radio Service) A Sudanese journalist and human rights activist says media laws in northern Sudan are draconian and affect the freedom of the media which is enshrined in the Interim National Constitution.

Mr Faysal al-Baghir, who was detained by state security in Khartoum early this month for a critical article he wrote in the communist newspaper al-Maidan, told Sudan Radio Service in Nairobi that the National Congress Party has, in his words, "no political will" towards democratic transformation and media freedom in the country.

[Faysal al-Baghir]: "Media and the journalists' situation in Sudan is not promising, I am expecting that there will be a crackdown and attack from the National Security Service on the journalists and the human rights defenders. Five journalists already are in prison, sentenced, something like imprisonment of two months some of them of one month failing to pay the fine. This is a very high and expensive fine. This means that the national security they have started changing their strategy, instead of detaining you, putting you in detention according to the security act, now they are shifting to detain people and to harass the media society and the journalists by the bad law." Al-Baghir said that unless the draconian media laws in the north are changed, the state security will continue to harass and detain journalists.

"Tangible" progress achieved in Sudan peace process - monitoring panel chief

(BBC Mon, Sudanese radio) The chairman of the Assessment and Evaluation Commission [of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement], Tom Vraalsen, has confirmed that CPA partners have achieved tangible progress since the signing of the accord in 2005. Vraalsen added that the CPA was enjoying widespread international support, and that the responsibility for its implementation was on the shoulders of the two parties.

Sudan denies Chad charge that it is aiding rebels: report

(Agence France-Presse) Sudan's armed forces have denied a charge by Chad that they are helping rebels fighting the government in their neighbor to the west, the independent Al-Sudani newspaper reported on Saturday. "The army spokesman completely rejects the allegations by Chad, and says that what is happening in that country is an internal affair," the daily said.

It quoted the spokesman as saying Khartoum wanted a stable Chad because of its influence on Darfur in western Sudan. Civil war there has left more than 200,000 people dead from fighting, famine and disease since 2003. Another 2.2 million have been displaced by the conflict.

N'Djamena has protested to Sudan twice recently about what it considers being aggression by Khartoum in the form of Chadian rebels battling government forces in the east of the country.

The Chad government summoned the Sudanese ambassador on Thursday -- the second time in as many days -- to protest at help it said Khartoum had given the rebels, a Chadian foreign ministry official said.

GoSS

MSF guard among dead in south Sudan tribal violence

(Sudan Tribune.com — 30 Nov. JUBA, Sudan) A Sudanese employee of medical group Medecins Sans Frontieres and his father were among those killed while trying to escape tribal violence that erupted inside an MSF hospital in south Sudan, the group said on Friday.

James Agut, an MSF guard who had been in hospital in the southern town of Bor seeking medical treatment when the violence occurred, was among four people attacked while in a car inside the MSF compound and killed, MSF said in a statement.

A senior Sudanese official said three other Sudanese had also been beaten to death outside the MSF compound, bringing the total death toll in Thursday's violence to seven.

"The mob broke into the MSF compound, saw the people were locked up in the car, broke the windows and then beat them to death. Four were killed. Another three were killed outside," said Philip Thon Leek, governor of Jonglei state where the violence occurred. He said he had seen all seven bodies.

MSF, which made no mention of any deaths outside of its compound, said Agut was among eight Sudanese patients and family members, including a baby, who were evacuated from the hospital after tribal fighting broke out inside.

The group fled to an MSF vehicle that was outside the hospital but within the MSF compound and was attacked while they were in the car. Of those in the car, four were killed, one injured and three including the baby escaped unharmed because they hid under the car's benches, MSF said.

MSF called the killings an "outrageous act" that would affect its ability to provide medical care in Bor hospital.

Fighting corruption in South Sudan is extremely difficult - lawmaker

(Sudan Tribune.com — 28 Nov. JUBA, Sudan) The head of anti-corruption panel within the southern Sudan parliament stated that it is difficult to fight corruption. He further said that tribal and familial affiliations are behind this opacity.

Prof. Barri Wanji, chairman of Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly (SSLA) specialized committee on corruption said "In southern Sudan today people are stealing in millions Sudanese pound and they get away without being caught or made

accountable as the concern authorities play down corruption involving their relatives and friends.”

Wanji, who is also the chairman of specialized committee of Economic, Development and Finance, said that ethnicity is the core issues involved in looting public funds as the looters are ready to rally support of their relatives to fight back by execrating looters from corruption accusation.

He went on saying that fighting corruption in Southern Sudan government during that last two and half years has proven extremely difficult because some top authorities are protective of their relatives who are alleged to have involvement in malpractices including swindling of public funds.

Read more <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article24963>

IDPs return to south in trucks, buses

(The Citizen) The first overland IOM convoy assisting South Sudanese to returns home since the end of this year rainy season was due to depart yesterday from Omdurman El Salam Departure Centre on the outskirts of Khartoum. Buses and trucks will carry returnees and their belongings back home to Renk County in Upper Nile State. All adults and children traveling in the convoy have been medically screened prior to departure.

Sudan: Military panel urged to expand scoop in discussing north-south feud

(BBC Mon, SMC website) The Ceasefire Political Commission held a meeting today [29 Nov.] in Khartoum and expressed its happiness for the amendment made on the report of the military committee assigned to monitor the ceasefire on the north and south border areas.

The commission's co-chairman and minister of security and interior in the government of southern Sudan, Bol Mayum, said that the commission pointed out to the military committee to not confine its activities to the disputed issues only. He urged the committee to propose ideas to be included as agendas for implementation by the political commission. He assured that the commission is ready to deliberate on any difficulties to solve them so that the parties could reach a tangible resolution on the ceasefire and cool down tension on border areas.

Kiir calls for aggressive awareness campaign on HIV/AIDS in South Sudan

(ST) The president of the Government of Southern Sudan, Salva Kiir Mayardit, yesterday appealed to all southern Sudanese to seriously take the fight against HIV/AIDS which he described as the greatest killer in Southern Sudan and the world at large.

Speaking at occasion commemorating World AIDS 20th Day of 2007 organized by Southern Sudan AIDS Commission at Juba Football Stadium under the theme “Take the Lead, Fight HIV/AIDS in Southern Sudan” Kiir say he was saddened to learn that the highest level of understanding about HIV/AIDS in Southern Sudan only stood at

6.1 percent and its from one state of Western Equatoria-Yambio; while the lowest is 1.1 percent in the state of Warrap.

Darfur

South Darfur governor criticizes UN relief chief over security

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 1 Dec. NYALA, Sudan) South Darfur's governor criticized U.N. humanitarian chief John Holmes on Saturday for saying security had worsened in the region, and said aid workers could enter any area they wanted.

After a "frank" meeting, the two men agreed greater confidence needed to be built between the world's largest aid operation and local authorities. "We have the opposite view of the U.N. envoy," Governor Ali Mahmoud told reporters. "The security situation is peaceful.

"(Holmes) arrived yesterday from Khartoum and there's no way he can know in one day about the security situation."

Non-governmental organizations (NGO) told Holmes of a series of serious incidents in the four months since a U.N. resolution was passed authorizing 26,000 U.N.-AU peacekeepers to deploy to Darfur.

Read more <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article24999>

Norway decides to contribute to the hybrid, GoS rejects

(*AlKhartoum*) The GoS insisted on what has been agreed in the meeting of the tripartite mechanism (GoS, UN, AU) that the rare specializations which cannot be provided by the African countries should be sought from China and Pakistan. The Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ali al Sadiq, said the tripartite mechanism has not agreed on bringing troops or experts from Sweden and Norway.

The Norwegian Minister of Defence announced yesterday that his country will contribute to the hybrid force in Darfur.

Sudan: Security Council not proper venue to discuss composition of hybrid force

(*BBC Mon, Sudanese TV*) [Presenter] Sudanese Minister of State at the Foreign Ministry, Al-Sammani al-Wasilah al-Sheikh, affirmed that Sudan has honored its pledges and commitments towards the hybrid operation. He stressed that the Government rejects any attempts to overstep the stipulations made in Resolution 1769 on the composition of the hybrid force. *Find attached the full text*

Insecurity prevents Darfur displaced from returning home

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 1 Dec. NYALA) UN humanitarian chief, who visited Darfur camps, said displaced people are willing to leave the camps but security conditions are not yet suitable for return to their villages, the UN humanitarian office said yesterday.

John Holmes, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, travelled to south Darfur Friday and met with internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ed Daein camp, home to some 50,000 people.

“Clearly after living in camps, in some cases, for over three years they are frustrated. While they expressed a strong desire to return to their home areas, all the people I spoke with were unequivocal that they would only be able to do so when security conditions were right and services were in place,” said Holmes.

Holmes also had a short meeting with the governor in Nyala, where concerns of mutual interest were expressed, and will follow up with further substantive discussions. *Read more* <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article24997>

Chad president sacks defence minister after week of clashes

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 1 Dec. N'DJAMENA) Chadian President Idriss Deby sacked his defence minister on Saturday after doubts emerged about his ability to control former rebels as the government faced a renewed insurgency in the east.

Mahamat Nour Abdelkerim, a former anti-Deby rebel chief who became defence minister in March after making peace with the government, was relieved of his post after he sought refuge in the Libyan embassy in N'Djamena, officials said.

Foreign Minister Ahmat Allam-Mi told reporters there had been doubts about whether former insurgents whom Nour had once led were really loyal to Deby at a time when the government army was battling rebels in the east of the landlocked country.

"We could not understand why he went to take refuge in an embassy of a friendly country," he said. No replacement for Nour was immediately announced.

Peacekeepers delay may lead to violence resurgence in Darfur

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 1 Dec. EL-FASHER) Failure to deploy a joint U.N.-African Union peacekeeping mission could push Sudan's Darfur region back into a spiral of violence, the military head of the mission said on Saturday.

U.N. peacekeeping chief Jean-Marie Guehenno said last week Khartoum had demanded such stringent restrictions on the 26,000-strong force that its deployment was in doubt. "If people are disappointed this could be expressed in many ways and one of them could be in a violent way and then ... we will go back to square one," force commander Martin Luther Agwai said.

On the possibility the force would not deploy, he said: "As the man on the receiving end I'm disturbed and concerned."

Read more <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article24990>

Darfur rebels refute UN accusation over attack against AU force

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 30 Nov. LONDON) The rebel Justice and Equality Movement denied recent accusation in a UN report on its responsibility over the last September attack against African Union peacekeepers position in northern Darfur.

The UN Secretary General on November 5 said in a report to the Security Council that "Preliminary results of an investigation initiated by the AMIS Force Commander immediately after the attack on the AMIS military group site in Haskanita on 29 and 30 September suggest that the attack was conducted by rebels entering the camp in vehicles bearing the inscription "JEM".

At least 10 AU soldiers died in the assault. More than 20 were still missing last night, some 48 hours after the attack. Originally 50 had been unaccounted for.

JEM spokesperson Ahmed Hussein Adam, told Sudan Tribune in an interview conducted on 27 November that the African Union peacekeeping force and its commander, General Martin Luther Agwai, know very well who is behind this attack.

Ahmed disclosed that Gen. Agwai condemned these allegations and pledged to probe its source. The commander of the hybrid force, in a telephone conversation with the rebel official, hailed the good collaboration between JEM and AU force.

EU force for Darfur refugees is delayed - Ireland

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 30 Nov. DUBLIN) The European Union peacekeeping force supposed to protect refugees from the Darfur conflict could be delayed for two more months because it still lacks helicopters and hospital facilities, the Irish government and army announced Friday.

The approximately 4,300-member force, under Irish command but drawn largely from France, was supposed to begin deploying next week in Chad and the Central African Republic along their borders with Sudan.

But the Irish defense minister, Willie O’Dea - who has been critical of EU colleagues’ unwillingness to contribute air support - said the first EU troops would not arrive until January at the earliest. They would go only if other EU nations contributed approximately 15 helicopters, fixed-wing aircraft and field-hospital support, he said. "It would be foolhardy and reckless in the extreme to go in without proper logistical and air support," O’Dea said in an interview.

Darfur rebel groups form two movements in Juba

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 29 Nov. JUBA, Sudan) Darfur rebel movements have finally united under two major groups and ready to negotiate with Khartoum government in any part of the world, the spokesman of the unified groups, Mohamed Ali has declared.

Speaking at the closing ceremony today in Juba Hotel, Mohamed Ali further declared that they will never again fight among themselves since they have adopted a common position to resolving their crises in Darfur.

Speaking with confidence in a parked hall, Ali appeals to all those Darfurians who are still out side Juba declaration of unification to quickly come on board.

Read more <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article24965>

Darfur force chief: World can't mobilize helicopters?

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 29 Nov. KHARTOUM) The head of the UN peacekeeping force in Sudan's Darfur region has highlighted an urgent need for helicopters, saying the global community must donate them or the entire mission must be reviewed.

The international force, set to number 26,000, will formally replace a small African Union mission on January 1, but still lacks six combat and 18 transport helicopters, vital to operate in a war-torn Sudanese area the size of Texas.

"It's true we are in a very difficult logistics situation," Rodolphe Adada told AFP in an interview in Khartoum, five weeks before the new joint AU-UN force is supposed to start protecting civilians.

Congolese politician Adada is AU-UN special representative to Darfur, where war between poor black tribes and government-backed Arabs has left more than 200,000 people dead from fighting, famine and disease since 2003.

Read more: <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article24737>

Some 30,000 refugees reportedly flee eastern Chad to settle in west Darfur

(*BBC Mon, Suna website*) The Commissioner of the Humanitarian Affairs Commission, Hasabu Muhammad Abd-al-Rahman, announced that about 30,000 Chadian have fled eastern Chad and settled in West Darfur State.

He said in press conference held on Thursday [29 Nov.] and attended by the UNHCR Deputy High Commissioner that the flow of the Chadian refugees is due to the security situation and conflict in Chad. He ruled out reports on Sudan's transportation of the refugees, saying the refugees will be home when the situation is normal.

Sudan: Darfur rebels said to "quit war", surrender in North Darfur State

(*BBC Mon, SMC website*) Al-Fashir, 30 Nov. (SMC) -Field commanders from the Redemption Front (RF) say a number of rebels' want to quit war and surrender to local authorities in North Darfur state.

The Front's deputy secretary-general, Ahmad Hassan Aboud said that political and military leaders at Al-Tiwasha and Azban areas are arranging to put down arms and surrender themselves to Al-Fashir's authorities. He added that 75 armed elements led by Commander Mubarak Al-Rom are on their way to Al-Fashir. The state government welcomed and praised the RF rebels' decision to return.

Darfur force way behind schedule: AU commander

(Reuters) The commander of the new joint African Union (AU) - UN peacekeeping force for Darfur, General Martin Luther Agwai, says the mission is running months behind schedule.

He says only a third of the 26,000 troops pledged will be ready next month when the mission is due to begin, and there is still no-one willing to donate the 24 helicopters vital for covering the vast region.

General Agwai says he hopes countries will give the mission the troops and equipment it needs.

"If we sincerely are committed to seeing peace in Darfur then people who are perceived to be the friends of the government and the people of Sudan - this is now their challenge," he said.

"This is now the time to stand up and be counted and do everything possible to help us have the resources that is required."