UNITED NATIONS



الأمم المتحدة

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IN THE NEWS TODAY:

UN

Darfur ceasefire needed before peacekeepers - UN

(Reuters)-ST) *SudanTribune.com* -6^h Dec, 2006 (**Khartoum**), A ceasefire and political talks must take place in Sudan's Darfur region before an international military force there could guarantee security, the head of U.N. peacekeeping said on Tuesday.

Jean-Marie Guehenno said the international community must demand assurances an African Union peacekeeping force in Darfur would be effective before it offered funding and equipment.

A Security Council resolution in August authorised some 20,000 peacekeepers but Khartoum has resisted international pressure for U.N. troops to join the African Union force.

Guehenno said he would present different options to the UN Security Council for stabilising the situation in these countries, but it was premature to discuss the details.

Chadian President Idriss Deby said last week he would welcome a UN peacekeeping force along his country's eastern border to contain the spill over of violence from Darfur.

Deby accuses Khartoum of supporting Chadian rebels, based in Darfur, who aim to end his 16-year rule. Sudan denies this.

UN rights body to hold special session on Darfur

(AFP)ST *SudanTribune.com* -6^h Dec, 2006 (**Khartoum**), The United Nation's top human rights body will hold a special session on violations in Sudan's strife-torn region of Darfur on December 12, the world body announced on Tuesday.

European and African states in the UN Human Rights Council last week joined forces to call the urgent session, but a date for the session had yet to be set.

Their bid was supported by 33 of the 47 nations in the council, according to a statement from the UN. The list of backers also includes traditional allies of Khartoum, China and Cuba.

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Louise Arbour last week warned the assembly that "atrocities" in Darfur "continue to be a daily occurrence" and said that Khartoum is responsible for the most serious violations.

The move follows pressure from UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, who warned that the reputation of the UN's top human rights forum is at stake if it does not act on serious violations.

It will be the fourth special session called by the council to act on an urgent situation since the body was formed earlier this year.

United Nations & the Transition Debate

Darfur displaced urge international troops; reject AU forces

ST *SudanTribune.com* -6^h Dec, 2006 (**Khartoum**), Darfur internally displaced persons urged the deployment of the international troops in the region saying African forces are not welcomed because they failed to protect them form the daily violence of the army and the militia.

A representative of the Darfur IDPs told Sudan Tribune by telephone from Kalama refugee camps in South Darfur that a meeting had been held on Tuesday 5 December in the camp regrouping delegates from the different IDPs camps in Darfur. The delegates decided to reject the extension for six months of the AU peacekeeping force in Darfur, he said.

The speaker, who identified himself to the Sudan Tribune, said he is the president of Darfur IDPs. He called up on the international community to deploy troops under the authority of the United Nations.

<u>Southern Sudan</u>

Media reports on developments in Malakal:

(*Khartoum Monitor*)First Vice President and the President of the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS),Lt.Gen.Salva Kiir Mayardit has expressed fear that the Sudan People Liberation Army (SPLA)and the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF)might engage in a war they never planned to wage should SAF fail to control its allied militia forces. Addressing a huge public rally in Malakal which he visited yesterday on head of a high level delegation from Khartoum and Juba to defuse the tensions there and restore situation to normalcy following the recent bloody confrontation between the SPLA and SAF, Kiir told the rally that SAF personnel have killed over seventy civilians in ambush and torched about twenty vehicles in Equatoria. Kiir, said Gabriel Tang and brother must be handed to the Government of Southern Sudan for investigations (AlRai AlAam)

First VP Kiir said that government of the GoSS will not allow any armed militias to stay in the South. (AlSudani)

Minister of National Defence, AbdulRahim Mohamed Hussein said the Sudanese Armed Forces will withdraw 75% of troops in south by next month (AlSudani)

(*The Citizen*)Refugees who fled a week of fighting in the South Sudan town of Malakal returned to their homes in Monday as the Sudanese army and former southern rebels agree to been weapons from the city centre, the UN said. More than 150 people were killed and 400 injured in clashes between the government forces and ex-rebels from the Sudan People's Liberation Movement in Malakal during one of the worst breaches to a 2005 peace agreement that ended 21 years of civil war between the north and south Sudan. The UN Mission in Sudan said in a statement that joint units of United Nations and northern and southern soldiers were patrolling the town by day. Each faction patrols their parts of the town at night, the UN said. All sides have agreed that "no soldier can carry weapons expect for the military personnel in patrol" or on other duties in Malakal, the statement said. Under the 2005 peace deal, mostly Christian SPLM rebels were given some key positions in the northern Muslim government, and both sides agreed to share oil revenues. But the situation in Malakal and other towns close to the north-south boundary has remained volatile. Several minor clashes have been reported in recent weeks.

Forces from both sides traded blames on who had ignited the latest fighting in Malakal, which began two weeks ago and ended on Friday with a UN brokered cease-fire. In Darfur the UN said ongoing violence contained to target civilians, along with international aid workers.

Kiir, SAF killed over 70 civilians in Equatoria

(*Khartoum Monitor*)First Vice President and the President of the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS),Lt.Gen.Salva Kiir Mayardit has expressed fear that the Sudan People Liberation Army (SPLA) and the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) might engage in a war they never planned to wage should SAF fail to control its allied militia forces.

Addressing a huge public rally in Malakal which he visited yesterday on head of a high level delegation from Khartoum and Juba to defuse the tensions there and restore situation to normalcy following the recent bloody confrontation between the SPLA and SAF, Kiir told the rally that SAF personnel have killed over seventy civilians in ambush and torched about twenty vehicles in Equatoria.

<u>Darfur</u>

- Media reports on developments in el Fashir

UN: *Al-Rai Al-Aam* reported that the UN has evacuated its unessential staff from el Fashir and expressed its concerns in regard to the situation in the town which according to the newspaper had returned to normal. The UN has instructed its entire staff to stay at home due to the critical situation in el Fashir town. Al-Rai Al-Aam has got information indicating that about 200 international and some national UN workers have left el Fasher

yesterday by air heading to Khartoum. The UN has a plan on evacuating its official if tensions continue. The UNMIS spokesperson Radhia Achouri confirmed implementation of evacuation plan of those UN and INGO staff whose presence in el Fashir is unnecessary at this moment. Achouri said to Al-Rai that the UN had completed the evacuation of those staff it was planning to evacuate. She explained that the staffs who have been evacuated will return to resume their work when the return to El Fashir becomes possible. According to Achouri this move was the result of the presence of the janjaweed militias in the town and the presence of the armed groups of the movements which did not sign the Abuja Agreement at the outskirts of el Fashir.

Al-Sahafa reported that according to UNMIS the government forces and militia attacked on Saturday and Friday a village in North Darfur; burned it down. The UN report sated that all livestock of the villagers was looted.

DPA Partners: The newspaper stated that there has been exchange of telephone calls between high level officials in the government and the Senior Assistant to the President Mini Minawi, who refused yesterday to perform his duties in the Republican Palace.

The SLM spokesman Mustafa Jameel said that Minawi has received yesterday a telephone call from President al Bashir during which they discussed the recent events in el Fashir. The SLM leadership held an emergency meeting yesterday. The meeting recommended that the security violations be brought to an end and the pulling out of the janjaweed militias from the main towns in Darfur. According to the SLM spokesperson a representative of the African Union has paid a visit yesterday to Minawi at his home. The SLM asked the AU to make its position clear and explain what the AU can do in regard to the continuing security violations. Meanwhile, the authorities in the government of North Darfur State attributed recent developments in el Fashir to clashes in the animal market between the SAF border intelligence personnel and SLA elements.

In a related development, Alwan reported that the Senior Assistant to the President Mini Minawi accused the Wali of South Darfur el Haj Atta al Manan of executing plans aiming at destabilizing the security in the area. In a meeting yesterday with delegations from the Maaliya and Zaghawa tribes Minawi said there are plots for destabilizing the areas which SLM is controlling, Al-Sahafa reported. Further, the SLM-Minnawi warned of a possible attack by the armed militias on el Daien town similar to what took place in el-Fashir. A report published by Al-Sahafa stated that the SLM has accused the militias have of launching a series of attacks in some areas in el Fashir in which 27 civilians, mainly women and children were killed and four young girls were abducted. A report in Sudan Tribune website qouted SLM official Ahmed Abdallah who said "the situation is very tense due to the presence in and around the town of the Janjaweed but there has been no fresh fighting," Tuesday.

Quoting a press release issued by the government of North Darfur, the newspaper reported that the government has made five decisions to maintain peace and order in the town. The decisions cover ending the phenomenon of carrying arms in the markets and the town, bringing those who were behind the events to justice, return of looted properties to owners, declaring a state of standby for all security organs. Presidential Adviser Dr. Majzoub al Khalifa, who was interviewed by Aljazeera TV yesterday said the clashes in el Fashir were very limited and have been contained through the wisdom of the SAF and SLM/A leaderships.

Khartoum's relations with peace partners clouded by clashes

(AFP)ST *SudanTribune.com* -6^h Dec, 2006 (**Khartoum**), Minni Minnawi, leader of the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) said Tuesday an attack on a Darfur market on Monday which killed two people was a serious breach of the peace deal he signed with Khartoum in May and said it threatened his former rebel movement's participation in the government.

Nothing was done to put an end to attacks by the pro-government Janjaweed militia in Darfur, Minnawi said of Monday's attack by pro-government militias on a cattle market in the key town of El-Fasher in north Darfur.

He described the situation there as "critical" and accused President Omar al-Beshir's ruling National Congress Party of arming and financing the Janjaweed, which were supposed to be disarmed according to the peace deal.

AU says all rebel coalition plans to attack African force in Darfur

(AFP)ST SudanTribune.com -6^h Dec, 2006 (Khartoum), The African Union said today that a rebel attack is expected against the AU peacekeeping force in the capital of North Darfur. The attack could be carried by a rebel coalition from the signatories and the non-signatories groups.

The African Union is a press statement on Tuesday said it received reports that a rebel coalition plans to attack Al-Fasher within 24 hours and the AU force in the town could be targeted by the rebels.

The AU accused nominally the SLA –Minawi faction which signed the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) with Khartoum last May, and another faction of the SLA opposed to the DPA known as (G19) and the National Redemption Front (NRF), an alliance of different rebel groups opposed to the DPA.

But the AU indicated in its statement that the five SLM soldiers sustained varying degrees of injuries and were treated at the AMIS Hospital in Al Fasher. Two of the injured SLA soldiers and two militia elements have been dead, while the number of injured Arab militias is unknown.

The Chairperson of the African Union Commission condemned the militia attack against Al-Fasher civilians on 4 December 2006. he also warned the rebel coalition that "any threat to AMIS camps, personnel and properties, would be viewed as a deliberate

violation of the ceasefire Agreements and Protocols, as well as a provocation against AMIS Forces whose main objective is to ensure that peace and stability are restored to the region."

Furthermore, the Chairperson appeals to all the parties to immediately cease any kind of hostilities since only a political solution remains the viable option for a comprehensive and lasting peace to the conflict in Darfur.

Market is still closed in el Fashir due to the recent events

Al-Intibahah-- The SLM leader al Tayeb Khamis said the authorities are still unable to control the situation and as a result the shops in el Fashir market are still closed.

Chief (Nazir) of Malaia threatens to withdraw his tribesmen from SLM Minnawi (*Rai AlShaab*)

The Chief (Nazir) of the Darfur Maaliya tribe threatened to ask his tribesmen to withdraw from SLM Minawi in protest against a statement made by Miawi to Aljazeera TV. Minawi said in this statement the Maaliya is a pro-government militia.

Other Developments

President of CAR cancels his visit to Sudan

(*AlRai AlAam*) Suddenly the President of CAR Francois Bozize cancelled his visit to Sudan that was supposed to be yesterday. The visit was cancelled because one of the main strategic cities has been controlled by CAR rebels. The president apologised that the security situations in his country are instable.