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IN THE NEWS TODAY:

UN

Six million face prospect of hopeless situation in Darfur -UN

(Reuters) *SudanTribune.com* -6th Dec, 2006 (**United Nations**), The conflict in Sudan's Darfur region has spread into neighboring Chad and the Central African Republic and is now in "free fall," with the prospect of six million people in a hopeless situation without food or protection, the U.N. humanitarian chief said Tuesday in an Associated Press interview.

Jan Egeland, who was the first to call Darfur the world's worst humanitarian emergency in November 2003, said one of his greatest regrets is that key global leaders did not come together and offer the sticks and carrots to settle the conflict in 2004 when it only involved one million people.

Egeland blamed the Sudanese government, parts of the rebel movement, ethnic leaders in Darfur, and the government of Chad for fueling the war, which began in 2003 when rebels from ethnic African tribes rose up against the Arab-led central government.

Khartoum is accused of retaliating by unleashing the janjaweed militias of Arab nomads, and many rebel groups have joined the fight.

The Security Council adopted a resolution pushed by Britain and the United States to transfer peacekeeping in Darfur from an ill-equipped 7,000-member African Union force to a larger, better equipped U.N. force. But the Sudanese government rejected a U.N. force, claiming it would violate the country's sovereignty and was an attempt at recolonization.

UN: Political agreement and ceasefire are required before funding the International troops. The UN warns that the Iraq scenario not to be repeated in Darfur

(AlSahafa) Head of UN peacekeeping operations said that political talks and ceasefire are required before funding International troops to insure security in Darfur.

The UN high commissioner for refugees Antonio Guterres, warned yesterday of repeating what he has described as the "Iraqi phenomena" in Darfur that may hinders the international community efforts in reaching a settlement for Darfur problem.

The UN releases two detainees from SPLM in Wau

(AlSharei AlSyassi) The UN has managed, in cooperation with the Joint/Integrated Forces in Southern Sudan, to release two detainees accused of spying from the SPLM in Wau.

Jan Pronk arrives Khartoum during coming days.

(AlSudani) The SRSG Jan Pronk will arrive Sudan within the coming days. He will stay in Khartoum for five days to hand over his mandate to another UN official in a temporary arrangement

The UN promises to offer options concerning calming the situation in Darfur

(AlHayat) UN under SG says it is necessary in the current stage to support the AU troops in Darfur region to eliminate the mounting situation. He recalled for signing a ceasefire agreement adding that he will offer some different options to the UNSC over calming the situation in Darfur.

GoNU

Sudan: Calm restored in northern Darfur capital after attack

BBC Monitoring Service-- Text of report by Sudanese TV on 5 December

A tour by the TV camera crew in Al-Fashir [capital of Northern Darfur State, western Sudan] has revealed that life has returned to normal following the incidents the town witnessed yesterday.

The Northern Darfur government has taken a number of precautions to safeguard peace and stability, as well as containing the situation.

A statement issued by the state's government today said security had been restored and life was back to normal. The state's government also said that all those involved in the incidents would be brought to justice.

The camera crew also interviewed a number of the people who were wounded and lauded the steps taken by the administration to contain the situation.

Southern Sudan

South Sudan Malakal struggles to recover from battles

(Reuters) *SudanTribune.com* -6th Dec, 2006 (**Khartoum**), the stench of sweat and human waste fills the air in the dilapidated building that passes for a hospital in this southern Sudanese town.

Several civilians wounded in last week's fierce clashes between the northern Sudanese Armed Forces and former southern rebels lie on worn-out cots, their wounds covered with bandages that the hospital is running out of.

The clashes, in which the United Nations says at least 150 people were killed, was the heaviest between the military wing of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM/A) and the forces of the central Khartoum government since they signed a peace deal last year and ended a 21-year civil war.

Life has returned to normal in the unpaved streets of the town, lined with small houses and huts. One passing car had a radio tuned to the U.N. radio station, with "Get Busy" by Jamaican reggae singer Sean Paul blaring from its speakers.

Carrying of arms is banned in Malakal, referring investigations over Malakal events to the Joint Political Committee (*AlSahafa*)

(*AlSahafa*) The Ceasefire Joint Military Committee has referred investigations over Malakal clashes to the Joint Political Committee to find out reasons behind the clashes. The Ceasefire Joint Military Committee resolutions have been fully implemented and SAF and SPLA forces are redeployed, UNMIS reported.

SPLA Deputy Commander Denies Partnership Militias

(*SudanTribune*) The Deputy Commander of the Joint Chief Staff for Operations in the SPLA has denied any partnership with any pro-Armed Forces militias in the joint forces

in South Sudan. In a special statement to he described these forces as untrained and undisciplined. He said that most of them are not fit for work in the army, police or prisons in South Sudan. Malakal have confirmed the savagery of these militias in advance.

Four southern political parties submit a memorandum to Kiir over Malakal events

(AlAyam) Four Southern political parties in Upper Nile State have submitted yesterday a memorandum to V-P Salva Kiir expressing concerns over recent events in Malakal. The memorandum asks Kiir to put and end to the unhumanitarian practises and suggested six solutions.

180 SPLM members in el-Kamleen join the National Congress Party (AlHayat)

More than 180 SPLM members in Dar el-Salaam and Bantio towns in the south and in el-Kamleen in the north announced joining the National Congress Party. They explained that the NCP has managed transform Dar el-Salaam from a shanty town to a developed town.

NCP imports Falata terrorists from Central Africa

*(The Citizen)*Wau county commissioner Lt. Colonel Antony Charles Brende told the press yesterday that the security situation around Wau is flammable and fighting could erupt at any moment .This statement comes in the wake of a warring from SPLA' Deputy Chief of State that SAF is arming new militia in Wau.

Lt. Colonel Antony said he has received a documented report from Bo Sari area, about 12 miles from Wau, that Falata Ambaruru tribe cattle herders had entered the region from Central African Republic and have been armed by the government to destabilize the area .He said that the Sultan of Bio Sari area met him on Tuesday and told him that these imported terrorists elements were already causing security instability in the area.

Amum speaks out against Malakal rampage

(Khartoum Monitor) Secretary General of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement, Pagan Amum, has strongly condemned the recent fighting and killings in Malakal.

In a statement to Khartoum Monitor in Malakal, Amum said "We believe that this fighting was caused by the National Congress Party in violation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement" adding that "the National Congress Party and the command of the Sudanese army have violated the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) when they insisted to continue their support of the militia groups beyond January 9,2005; the date which was set to bring to an end any systems of any other armed groups in Southern Sudan".

Amum explained that the militia elements in Malakal have been instigated by elements in the National Congress Party as well as in the Sudan Forces to cause insecurity.

South Sudan bans use of Ugandan shilling

BBC Monitoring Service-- Text of report by Badru Mulumba and Sylvia Juuko entitled "South Sudan bans Uganda shilling" published by Ugandan newspaper The New Vision website on 6 December

The Bank of Southern Sudan has called the use of the Uganda shilling in South Sudan illegal, while preparing to introduce their own currency, the pound.

The bank said Sudanese officials are to visit Uganda and other countries to work out the replacement of foreign currencies in South Sudan, The Juba Post reported.

Fighting undermining food security in South Sudan

(IRIN)*SudanTribune.com* -5th Dec, 2006 (**Nairobi**), Attacks on communities in southern Sudan, such as the fighting in Malakal in Upper Nile State last week, are affecting food security and hampering improvements from recent harvests, an early-warning agency warned.

In Northern Bahr El Ghazal and Warrap States, the June-September harvest could sustain food needs until early next year, but increasing civil insecurity threatened to worsen an improving situation, the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS Net), said in an alert on Monday.

Darfur

Janjaweed militia kills 3 students in North Darfur capital

(AP)*SudanTribune.com* -6th Dec, 2006 (**Khartoum**), Pro-government janjaweed militiamen killed three students in one of Darfur's main towns, where the situation was highly volatile Wednesday, as rebels massed outside the town shaken by protests and riots, a U.N. official in Darfur said.

A coalition of Darfur rebels warned Tuesday it could attack Al Fasher, the capital of North Darfur province, to protect the population from the janjaweed militia that looted the town's main market a day earlier. A U.N. official said the rebels were gathered about 10 kilometers (6 miles) outside Al Fasher.

Some civilians and refugees on Wednesday rioted outside the base of African Union peacekeepers on Al Fasher's outskirts, stoning peacekeepers' vehicles and burning down shops, a U.N. official said. Refugees have complained the peacekeepers do not do enough to protect them from janjaweed.

Darfur Arabs create a rebel group; repulse army attack

(AP)*SudanTribune.com* -6th Dec, 2006 (**NYALA, South Darfur**), A new rebel group in Sudan's troubled Darfur region said they repulsed an attack by the army against their position. The rebels identified themselves as belonging to Darfur Arab tribes and struggling against the marginalization of the region.

The Popular Forces Troops (PFT) said in a statement issued Wednesday that they had repulsed an attack by the Sudanese army against their position at Kas-Zallingi Road in South Darfur on Tuesday 5 December.

The rebels said "inflicted heavy casualties on the army, who withdrew from the area, but they didn't give further details.

The rebel group said they took up arms against Khartoum to fight marginalization of Darfur region. "Darfur Arab groups believe that Darfur people are fighting for a just cause. The TPF likely supports the struggle of all marginalized Sudanese people against Khartoum's injustice."

Further they distanced their self from the government-backed Arab militia that carrying war against the African tribes in the region.

Students demonstrate in el Fashir, two students and a policeman injured, 10 AU vehicles destroyed and 39 arrested.

(AlRai AlAam) There were rumors yesterday in el Fashir that the JEM is planning to attack el-Fashir.

Meanwhile, the government understated demonstrations that were organized in el Fashir describing them as individual actions. Some eyewitnesses said that the schools are closed and that the situation is extremely bad in the town and that the evacuation of UN staff has worsen the situation there.

"Two students and one policeman are injured during a demonstration in el-Fashir yesterday" ,the deputy Governor of the North Darfur Stated.

He added that a group of unidentified armed men led the demonstrations to the AU camps and destroyed 10 AU vichels . The police authorities have arrested 39 suspects including 8 women.

In a related development, the Governor of South Darfur State el Haj Ata El Mannan has asked el Bashir to form an investigation committee over Minnawi's accusations [that the governor of South Darfur is responsible for insecurity in the state]. *(AlSahafa)*

Addressing the Darfur Tribes Shura (Consultative) Council yesterday, the presidential advisor, Majzoub el Khalifa said that Darfur will return to one region only through a referendum. *(AlHayat)*

Security authorities arrest SLM members

(Rai El Shaab) The SLM –AbdulWahid issued a statement in Zalinji urging the civilians and all Sudan people to support Abdulwahid. The stated explained that SLM accepts and supports the UNSC Resolution 1706 over Darfur. The police authorities in Zalinji have arrested three SLM members, a reliable sources said

Civil society groups meet, issue statement el Fashir events *(Akhbar Al-Yom)*

An emergency meeting was held by various political parties in Fashir to discuss the regretful events and developments in the security situation in the town during the past days. All political forces, National Congress Party included, condemned the events which have resulted in the death of many people. They held the government the responsibility of what had happened in Fashir, Melit and Abu Sakeen.

A memorandum was submitted to the state government to stop attacks, start investigations, send culprits to trial, and compensate victims and empty towns from all non regular forces in civilian areas.

Other Developments

ACP summit in Khartoum to discuss trade with EU, 16 heads of state to attend ACP summit in Khartoum

(AFP) *SudanTribune.com* -6th Dec, 2006 (**Khartoum**), The African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) kicks off a two-day summit in Khartoum Thursday to discuss its future when it loses its privileged access to European markets.

Amid crippling economic sanctions maintained by Washington over the relentless violence in Darfur, oil-rich Sudan is seeking to raise its profile as a business hub and seek partnerships with other countries.

The heads of state will also review talks over the Economic Partnership Agreements due to come into force in 2008 and remove non-reciprocal trade preferences for ACP countries in the European market.

EU trade commissioner Peter Mandelson recently said that the agreements are aimed at turning ACP countries from "aid beneficiaries to prosperous economic partners."

ACP countries will also work to extend economic cooperation with countries outside the EU through a business forum held Wednesday, bringing together companies from a range of developed and developing countries.