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(By Public Information Office)

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## **HIGHLIGHTS :**

### **UN/ Agencies**

#### **State minister for foreign affairs accuses foreign organizations of causing instability in Darfur**

*AlWihda* reported that the State minister for foreign affairs AlWaseela AlSamani has accused foreign organizations of causing instability, riot and rivalry in Darfur.

He said addressing the meeting of Sudanese and Egyptians organizations that there are 1,000 organizations in Darfur – none of them Arab or Islamic.

### **United Nations & the Transition Debate**

#### **US to seek other options if Sudan blocks UN peacekeepers**

*(SudanTribune.com)* The U.S. will have to consider "other options" to relieve the suffering in Darfur if the Sudanese government continues to block the dispatch of a U.N. peacekeeping force, the State Department said Wednesday.

There is a growing sense of urgency in Washington over Darfur because of a deteriorating situation facing the region's displaced throngs and the Dec. 31 expiration date on the mandate for more than 7,000 African Union peacekeepers in the region now.

While State Department spokesman Sean McCormack made no reference to the possibility of military action, London's Financial Times newspaper reported Wednesday that the U.K. Prime Minister Tony Blair supports creation of a "no-fly zone" over Darfur should the U.N. Security Council agree.

He apparently had in mind the sort of arrangement that U.S. Navy and Air Force warplanes patrolled for years over southern and northern Iraq during the 1990s to prevent former President Saddam Hussein from harassing restive Shiites in the south and autonomous Kurds, mostly Sunni Muslims, in the north.

#### **US envoy reports progress in meeting with Sudan's al-Bashir**

*(AlRai AlAam, et al)* A White House special envoy reported progress in a meeting with Sudan's president Wednesday, saying the two agreed on certain steps to improve the situation in Darfur.

Andrew Natsios met President Omar al-Bashir at the end of a four-day visit to push Sudan to accept some measure of U.N. intervention in the western region.

Natsios did not elaborate on the steps but the U.S. Embassy said in a statement that Natsios emphasized it was important for Sudan to accept a U.N. support package for a beleaguered African Union peacekeeping force in Darfur.

Al-Bashir told Natsios that Sudan would accept U.N. technical assistance for the African peacekeepers, said Ali Karti, the Sudanese state minister for foreign affairs.

Natsios recently said the U.S. and other countries could consider a "Plan B" for pressuring Sudan if it continues to resist an international solution for Darfur. Experts say that could include economic sanctions against Sudan's booming oil industry.

## **CPA**

### **Kiir calls for CPA monitoring meeting**

*(The Juba Post)* The President of the GoSS called this week for a meeting of the CPA Monitoring committee.

Kiir condemned the National Congress Party's alleged role in the recent security incidents in southern Sudan.

Speaking to a delegation of the CPA assessment and evaluation committee, he complained of the bad faith of the National Congress Party and called upon its chair, Tom Vraalsen, to facilitate a joint meeting between the signatories to the CPA in the presence of the IGAD member-states and friends.

## **DDR**

### **(Juba Post) Only two EDF groups remain outside SPLA**

A total of 531 EDF soldiers have now joined the SPLA army last week, reports the Minister of Information for Eastern Equatoria State, Bernard Loky.

SPLA spokesman, Major-General Kuol Deim Kuel told the *Juba Post* at his office last Monday that former EDF soldiers are now in Lainya for further military orientation.

Isalero Paul, a former EDF commander, is now temporarily staying behind in Torit to try and convince the remaining two EDF groups to join the SPLA. Observers believe this step will further reduce the number of attacks along the eastern Nile area.

**Returns** *(all the below are sourced from the Juba Post):*

### **Road insecurity keeps IDPs in Juba**

Citizens of the areas along the Torit-Juba road are preparing to go back to their respective villages next year to prepare the ground for cultivation and build houses for themselves

but insecurity around the Khor-Ingiliz and Lirya areas is forcing some people to remain in Juba.

#### IDP repatriation program in financial difficulties

The voluntary return program is now facing financial problems.

Out of 166 million dollars, only 133 million dollars is available for the IDP returns expected to start in January 2007.

On the other hand and in a meeting of the parliamentary humanitarian affairs committee, an MP who had been in a delegation that recently appraised itself of the situation at the registration points in Mayo, Khartoum south, said that the return process also faces difficulties in terms of determining starting points for convoys from Khartoum. Another MP drew a bleak picture and said that the process may turn out to be a disaster if not implemented in an appropriate manner.

#### Stranded Mbororo plan to travel home

The GoSS and UN agencies will work together to provide the Mbororo with their basic needs and to assist them to reach their homeland, reports OCHA.

The nomadic group originally from western Africa but living in Sudan for generations had decided to try and sell their cattle in Juba town in order to buy food and medicine in preparation for the migration across to Blue Nile State but cattle raiders looted most of their cattle some 80 kms. west of Juba leaving them stranded.

At the request of the GoSS, the IOM and UN partners have agreed to assist a group of 191 vulnerable people including widows, the elderly and children while the rest will proceed on foot to Blue Nile State with their cattle.

Riek Machar, GoSS Vice-President, negotiated with the UNHCR to allow the Mbororo to settle temporarily at the returnee way station near Jebel Kujur to help with repatriation and told the UN that the SPLA will be responsible for their security.

#### **Dr. Turabi says the way the CPA handled the issue of militias is ironic**

*AlSahafa* reported that the Secretary General of the Popular Congress party Dr. Hassan el-Turabi revealed that the government is holding talks with unofficial entities to overcome the problem of the ICC.

He said that the government is not serious about unifying the south and north of Sudan adding that the Comprehensive Peace Agreement is only made to make people happy but it doesn't bring the desired change on the ground. He cites the security arrangements stipulated in the CPA as a case in point and pointed out that it did not bring the desired results.

## **Southern Sudan**

### **Malakal meeting with rumours and Minnawi to hold talks with GoSS**

*AlRai AlAam* reported that the JDB will hold a meeting in Khartoum next week to discuss issues – Malakal.

Ten civilians left Malakal after rumours spread that a new massacre will take place next Monday which is the time the southern armed militias are supposed to take a decisive dissection on its future. Meanwhile the Presidential Senior assistant Minnawi held a prolonged meeting with southern council of ministers.

## **Darfur**

### **ICC plans Darfur indictments by February**

*(SudanTribune.com)* The prosecutor of the International Criminal Court plans to indict suspects for atrocities in Darfur by February, nearly two years after the U.N. Security Council asked him to probe the Sudan region.

In a report ahead of his address on Thursday to the council, prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo said his office was preparing submissions for arrest warrants to judges of the ICC's pre-trial chamber.

"We are planning to complete this work no later than February," Moreno-Ocampo, an Argentine, said in the report, obtained by Reuters.

Arrest warrants are equivalent to indictments at the ICC, the world's first permanent criminal court based in The Hague, Netherlands.

Moreno-Ocampo said that since the start of the investigation, his team has carried out more than 70 missions to 17 different countries and conducted more than 100 interviews, many of which were with victims of crimes in Darfur.

But he said that due to the violence in Darfur, he interviewed witnesses outside of Sudan, an arduous task.

But he said he was travelling to Sudan again in January to get information on the arrest of 14 people accused of crimes in Darfur and hoped Khartoum would let him talk to the suspects.