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(By Public Information Office)

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Highlights

UN/ Agencies

UN General Assembly Denounces forwarding Bid in Darfur for American Company without Competition (SMC)

(smc), UN general assembly announces yesterday in New York endorsement of hybrid troops operation budget for Darfur. The budget was estimated for US \$ 1.2 billion to cover expenditure for one year period. Sudanese representative to UN, ambassador Abdel Mohamoud Abdel Halim said UN reconfirmed that deployment of hybrid troops in the region is mandated for peacekeeping process and help implementation of Darfur peace agreement. "DPA". Abdel Halim stresses the importance of peace process as priority and calls for pressing Darfur rebels particularly those who did not sign Abuja agreement to join peace process. Abdel hailm however stated that UN general assembly denounced UN secretariat for forwarding a bid to an American company to establish camps and providing logistical service in Darfur without inviting other companies for competition. The general assembly urged auditing section of UN to carry out an investigation on the case.

GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

Miseriya demand withdrawing SPLA troops from Al-Meram (AlRai AlAam), 28 killed in clashes between SPLA and Miseriya (AlIntibaha)

Al-Intibaha, Al-Sahafa, AlKhartoum, AlRai AlAam-- Violent clashes between the SPLA and the Miseriya have continued yesterday in Al-Girnty area near Al-Meram (west of

Al-Mujlad). According to press reports more than 28 people from the two parties have been killed in addition to a big number of injuries.

This conflict began when a SPLA force attacked some of the Miseriya (Olad Kamil and Al-Fiareen) nomads when the Miseriya refused to pay taxes imposed by the SPLA in the Miseriya areas north of 1956 borders. Big gatherings of the Miseriya in preparation for retaliation have been reported.

The Government of South Kordofan admitted clashes between the Miseriya and the SPLA and said it will send a military force to the Al-Meram area to contain the situation.

The SPLM refuted reports on clashes and casualties within its troops.

Meanwhile, the Miseriya have appealed to the UN to intervene and stop the SPLA attacks on their areas.

The Miseriya leader Babo Nimir told Al-Intibaha that there have been clashes on Saturday between the SPLA and the Miseriya (Olad Kamil and Al-Fiareen) in Al-Girnty area north of 1956 borders. He said 1,000 SPLA troops launched an attack on 200 Miseriya nomads in which 17 from the SPLA and 4 from the Miseriya were killed. Nimir confirmed reports on big Miseriya gatherings amidst expectations that they may attack the Dinka. More than 1,000 Miseriya (some on horses), he said, are now ready to retaliate.

Nimir appealed to the UN to intervene in order to stop the SPLA attacks on the Miseriya. He accused the UN of double standards saying that “if we attack the SPLA the UN will condemn this”.

Nimir said the Miseriya will not accept the SPLA attacks and will retaliate immediately and strongly.

MP Mohamed Abdallah Wad Abook, the Deputy Head of the Darfur Peace Group in the National Assembly, accused some SPLM elements of inciting conflicts between the SPLM and the Miseriya. He said such attacks will end the SPLM presence in the area of South Kordofan. He confirmed that clashes were reported yesterday when the Miseriya, in retaliation, attacked the SPLA yesterday at 11 am.

According to AlSahafa, 22 people have been killed in clashes yesterday between the Miseriya and SPLM when the Miseriya retaliated by attacking the SPLA camp in northern Bahr Al-Ghazal. Eight Miseriya were killed and 15 others wounded. Unconfirmed reports suggest that 14-30 SPLA troops were killed in addition to tens who suffered injuries.

According to press reports the reason of these clashes is that SPLA has stopped the Miseriya nomads from proceeding in their seasonal journey towards the south.

[Sudan dismisses US Natsios justifications over his resignation \(ST\)](#)

December 23, 2007 (KHARTOUM) — Sudan has dispelled statement by former U.S. Special Envoy for Sudan Andrew Natsios who justified his resignation with his frustration at the slow pace of getting in a 26,000-strong African Union-U.N. peacekeeping force into Darfur.

Ali al-Sadig, spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that the resignation of Andrew Natsios does not represent a major shift in the US Administration towards Sudan. He further dismissed Natsios justification for his resignation saying he had to be bold enough to determine parties hindering the deployment of the Hybrid Operation.

“Sudan is certainly not among it” He added.

However the Sudanese official said that his government cooperated with Natsios hoping that he could make a breakthrough in the bad relations between the two countries and ameliorate it.

The US special envoy to Sudan, Andrew Natsios, has resigned from his post so he can devote more time to his teaching at Georgetown University, a senior U.S. official said on Friday.

However multiple reports suggested there has been mounting differences between Natsios and other US officials on dealing with Sudan.

Several U.S. officials said Natsios, who had wanted to step down in June this year, was fatigued by turf battles within the Bush administration on Sudan policy overall.

"There are disagreements in any democratic government It has nothing to do with me leaving or staying," said Natsios in a conference call with reporters.

In a move indicating the frustration of US president, the White House named the same day Illinois Republican lawyer and former U.S. diplomat Richard Williamson, to replace him.

Williamson was deputy to former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations John Negroponte, who is currently Deputy Secretary of State. He was also Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs in the Reagan administration.

The crisis in Darfur has been a rallying point for a broad spectrum of religious and human rights groups and could again gain traction in the 2008 U.S. presidential election.

Darfur pressure groups urged the White House to devote more time to trying to end the crisis and appoint a bigger team to back up the new envoy.

(ST)

Actor Suspects of an Attempt to Bomb Haj Yousif Tom Suffers Religious Mania (SMC)

Sunday 23 December 2007, Administration for criminal investigation reveals that it has obtained new information related to an attempt targeting the explosion of a tom located at Haj Yousif neighborhood in Khartoum North two days ago.

Head of criminal investigation department Gen police Abdeen Al Tahir predicts that the suspect should be arrested within two days. He said preliminary investigation showed that the actor is one person and carried out his attempt under the religious mania. Gen al Tahir said police has found paper at the scene area stating that the suspect opposes Sufi sects and calls for destroying of all toms across the country

Bashir, Konare to discuss the hybrid today (AlAyam, AlRai AlAam)

The Head of the AU Commission, Alpha Omer Konre, is expected to arrive in today. During his visit Konare wilkl meet with GoS officials including President al Bashir to discuss the hybrid operation in Darfur. He will also be visiting Darfur to assess the situation on the ground. In Darfur, Konare will thank the AU troops for the role they have played in Darfur.

Bashir visits south, Kiir visits north (AlRai AlAam)

The NCP said yesterday that President al Bashir will visit the southern states while FVP and GoSS President Salva Kiir will visit the northern states soon.

Governor of Blue Nile instructs SPLA to redeploy troops south of 1956 north-south border (AlKhartoum)

The Governor of the Blue Nile State (SPLM), Malik Agar, has instructed the SPLA troops in Kurmuk to leave the twon and move south of 1956 borders before the 9th of January.

New envoy no indication of change in US policy towards Sudan – official

Excerpt of report by Al-Nur Ahmad al-Nur headlined: "Khartoum: 'We shall judge Natsios's successor by his deeds'" publshied by London-based newspaper Al-Hayat website on 23 December

Khartoum yesterday [22 December] responded reservedly to White House's announcement on appointing Richard Williamson, former Deputy US Ambassador to the UN, as special envoy to Sudan replacing Andrew Natsios, who resigned from his position. It said it will judge Williamson by his deeds and expressed hope that there be a positive change in the American stands toward Sudan. Sudanese Foreign Ministry Spokesman Ali al-Sadiq told Al-Hayat yesterday that replacing Natsios with Williamson was no indication of a change in Washington's policy toward Sudan.

He considered this change a normal matter that concerns President George Bush. He said the Sudanese Government cooperated with the former envoy and expressed hope there will be a change in the positions of the Bush Administration to normalize relations between the two countries.

He directed a veiled criticism at Natsios who has expressed frustration about the slowness in deploying a joint UN-AU force in Darfur. Al-Sadiq said Natsios's tasks were much broader than Darfur and that he should have had the courage to specify the quarters which are hampering the deployment of the joint force. "Of course the Sudanese Government is not among these quarters," he added.

[Passages omitted]

Source: Al-Hayat website, London, in Arabic 23 Dec 07

BBC Mon ME1 MEEauwaf 231207/hh

Agar Shifts Blue Nile State Capital to Kurmuk

By: SUNA, Blue Nile State Governor, Lt. General, Malik Agar announced Kurmuk as the new Capital for his State in lieu of Damazin effective early February, 2008. The move comes in accordance with CPA Provisions.

While addressing a rally at Kurmuk, Agar ordered Police, Security, Attorney, Courts and Locality Authorities to promptly reinstate their business in Kurmuk Locality, calling on all political parties to open offices therein and freely conduct activities.

He further urged Kurmuk people to stick to ranks unification, tribalism exclusion and peaceful coexistence.

Reviewing the short run development and basic service projects to be implemented in the region, Agar assured that personal properties will be returned to owners, calling for underlining women and youth promotion programmes.

GoSS

Jonglei incidents: Arms are not for threat but protection

By Ngor Arol Garang, December 21, 2007 — As political leaders pushes for peaceful and voluntary disarmament across the country, guns in wrong hands continuous to cause insecurity in Sudan and Southern Sudan in particular. These guns need to be forcefully removed from civilians and any other army personnel who are causing such chaos to our innocent civilian who need peace and development in their residential areas.

The indication of arms threat with other armed group in some areas of southern Sudan is the recent tribal fight in the state of Jonglei which in turn resulted to the death of 37 people excluding those four patients killed in Bor town civil hospital by an angry mob that broke into hospital to revenge on innocent patients. The issue of abduction and cattle raiding in Jonglei State has become another civil war which need a complete attention from both the central government and the government of Southern Sudan so that vulnerable group such as returnees returning home comes with free mind set to settlement and development while in their original places. Removing and appointing governors in this said state without considering forcefully disarmament as done to areas of Akobo will not help bring peace and stability to the state of Jonglei.

It was sad to hear again this week that two kids were kidnapped and later retrieved after another fight. All though I don't come from this state, I feel bad when I see my fellow southerners killing themselves without genuine reason for fighting each other almost

everyday. It is sad to tell you that the first innocent that occurred on 29 November got me there. This is an incident which is not worth commenting on because the armed civilians were wielding guns and smiling with this discomfort. The issue of insecurity in Jonglei state should not hold one person accountable for it. The governor Phillip Thon Leek has tried his best to curb the situation but he could not make it to disarm the tribe which is causing such chaos in the state because he was not mandated to do forcefully disarmament in the areas believed to still have individuals carrying arms in Jonglei.

We must not shy away from bringing individuals who are committing such crimes to the court of law. This war criminal must be brought to book immediately without protection if the government needs to bring permanent peace and stability to citizens of Jonglei State. To bring peace and stability the SPLA and JIUS must be competent and professional enough to devise a means to curb the movement and carrying of small firearms by individuals not legible to carry arms besides these two mentioned groups recognized by the CPA. The history of our democracy has a volatile past and an uncertain future, and this is well embraced by the fact that our top military officials are heavily fortified with platoons and battalions.

Putting aside these militarist calculations of uncertainties, we see it as our noble cause to advocate for our leaders and government and all the concerned arms of the military to perform their duty of safeguarding the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement leading to lasting peace as a priority agenda above all other concerns. Fire arms must be properly handled and accounted for their movement and number, and use. The hisses of gunshots in the city of Juba in recent is also causing another security threat and post a sad memory that many people in Juba had started to put in the past. Nobody in Southern Sudan has the energy and time to visit our miserable history unless for the purpose of getting glimpses of the lessons that we can learn from this endeavor.

Thus, guns must be used at the right time and for the right purpose of countering insecurity and not being part of the problem. A leaf of history tells us that agreements are the best grounds for disagreements and also that guns are the root cause of the conflicts across Sub-Saharan Africa. We must learn from history and ensure a better future for those who are not holding firearms but use their intellect to shape and build the nation. The culture of loyalties among our soldiers to their specific commanders along the lines of tribe must be dealt with accordingly. Arms are not for threat but protection. More guns flowing freely in the hands of the illegal armed groups will inevitably encourage the peaceful civilian to acquire guns in an effort to protect their assets from regular looting and lives from untimely death.

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Darfur

AU chief to visit Sudan on Monday (ST)

December 23, 2007 (KHARTOUM) — Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union, Alpha Oumar Konare, is expected to visit Khartoum on Monday to hold talks with government officials on the deployment of the Hybrid Operation.

Further, Konare will discuss with the Sudanese official the ongoing efforts to resume the peace talks on Darfur conflict.

He will also visit Darfur to monitor the latest developments in the region, as well as visit the AU peacekeepers in Darfur.

The African Union Mission in the Sudan (AMIS) will formally transfer authority to the hybrid force on 31 December 2007 at UNAMID Headquarters in El Fashir, North Darfur.

(ST)

Nigerian Soldiers Owed N1bn Allowances

Musa Simon Reef and Benjamin Auta, Source: All Africa Global Media Date: December 23, 2007

Dec 23, 2007 (Daily Trust/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- Over 5,000 Nigerians who have served in peace keeping operations in **Sudan's** war-torn **Darfur** are yet to be paid most of their allowances.

Some of the soldiers cried out in a petition that military top shots are deliberately withholding the soldiers' allowances amounting to about N1billion.

The military authorities confirmed owing the soldiers but denied sitting on the entitlements of the troops, saying a loan has been secured and approved by the presidency to ensure that they are paid before the end of this month.

Eight Nigerian battalions are being rotated in the **Darfur** operations and each battalion comprises about 700 soldiers.

Sunday Trust has a copy of a petition written by one of the affected soldiers in which he alleged, among other things, that the army authorities are yet to pay him about \$1,450, being the sum of accumulated allowances owed to him.

Based on this soldier's petition, over 5,000 troops are yet to be paid about N1bn allowances.

According to Nigerian soldiers in **Darfur**, each soldier was being paid \$200 monthly when they were in **Darfur**, with a promise that the remaining \$600 being kept for them as savings and would be paid when they return to Nigeria.

"The officers told us that we shall be paid only \$200 per month and the remaining \$600 would be saved for us and be paid upon our return to Nigeria. But now what we are told are pure stories to justify the delay."

One soldier said, "While other soldiers from other countries were adequately taken care of in **Darfur**, Nigerian soldiers were involved in fighting the harsh economic conditions caused by unpaid allowances and the bullets of **Sudanese** insurgents."

The Director of Army Public Relations, Brigadier-General Solomon Giwa-Amu, confirmed to Sunday Trust that the soldiers who served in peace keeping operations in **Darfur** are being owed allowances for previous operations. But he said that there are plans by the military authorities to defray the debt.

Though he was not exact on the number of the soldiers affected, Giwa-Amu said that about eight battalions are being rotated in the **Darfur** Peace Keeping Operation.

"I want to agree with you that soldiers who have served in **Darfur** are being owed some allowances," he told Sunday Trust. "I think we have had eight battalions. I want to make it abundantly clear that these are not the normal salaries of the soldiers. So, while they are out in peace operation mission, their normal salaries have been running constantly and paid as when due. The transportation of the soldiers in peace keeping mission is borne by the Federal Government.

"The soldiers are still kitted by the government their medical care are still being taken care by the government. So, these allowances are extraneous to their normal entitlements back home and other allowances in the mission area. It is not the responsibility of the Nigerian government to pay the allowances of these soldiers; it is the responsibility of the United Nations, and in this case, the African Union to pay these allowances. What happens is that it is only when the AU pays Nigeria that the soldiers get paid."

The Army Spokesman who attributed the delay in paying the allowances to delays and errors in the processing of these allowances and that is why they have not been paid as when due.

Giwa-Amu said the Chief of Army Staff, Lt. Gen Luka Nyeh Yusuf, has secured the approval for a loan from the Presidency to pay off the soldiers.

"What the present Chief of Army Staff has done is to secure a loan from the Presidency which has been approved which I think by now should have hit our banks accounts ready for payment to the soldiers. I know if the money has not hit our accounts, then I think it should be before the end of December so that the soldiers would be paid their allowances before the end of this year. The soldiers being owed allowance should note that the present hierarchy of the army will never be involved in stealing their allowances," Giwa-Amu said.

He said with effect from November 1, 2007, President Umaru Yar'Adua has approved a new allowance of \$1,028 every month for each soldier serving in **Darfur**. The presidency, according to Giwa-Amu, has agreed to pay Nigerian soldiers in **Darfur** in full.

On the JP Morgan account in Chase Manhattan Bank, Giwa-Amu revealed that the account is no longer being managed by the Army but the Nigerian Permanent Mission in the UN.

"JP Morgan Account is the account that is kept at Chase Manhattan Bank which is incidentally was under my purview when I was the Defence Adviser in the UN. When the democratic government of former President Olusegun Obasanjo came into power, he directed that that account should not be maintained by the Defence Ministry but that it should be maintained and operated by Nigerian Permanent Mission to the UN directly. The process now is the UN pays the money into the permanent mission account and the permanent mission now remits the money into the Federal Government treasury directly and immediately.

"The Nigeria Army does not have anything to do with that account any more. The UN pays Nigeria for 'renting' Nigerian soldiers. So, it is the responsibility of Nigeria to now decide how much should be paid to the soldiers. The money does not belong to Nigerian soldiers but the country entirely and now at the discretion of the government to ascertain the amount to be paid to the soldiers as allowances," the Army Spokesman said.

Sudan: AU helicopter "mistakenly" drops off Darfur rebels in isolated area

Text of report by pro-government Sudanese Media Centre website on 23 December

Four military commanders of [rebel Darfur] Sudan Liberation Movement/Army [SLM/A] were left without food and water for three days after an AU helicopter mistakenly dropped them off in an isolated region while transporting them from Juba to Darfur.

The official spokesman of the movement, Issam al-Haj, said that they had summoned the AU over the circumstances that the military commanders were dropped off at a different point from the agreed upon point. He also pointed out that their lives were put in danger before the AU realized and transported them near their camps in Darfur.

Al-Haj said the AU had not given them a convincing reason regarding the incident, affirming that the movement had pin pointed the place where they had requested the AU to drop off their leaders.

*Source: Sudanese Media Centre website, Khartoum, in Arabic 23 Dec 07
BBC Mon ME1 MEEau 231207/hh*

Arab and Islamic Worlds turn a blind eye to Darfur ordeal

By Dr. Mahmoud A. Suleiman, December 23, 2007 — The position of indifference and attitude of unconcern of Arab and Islamic Worlds on the plight of the people of Darfur who are devout Muslims is a matter of surprise. What is more astonishing and regrettable is that their mass media portray the crisis in Darfur as a Zionist plot spearheaded by the Western countries for their own interests in Darfur under hidden agenda! The people of Darfur value the efforts of the public in the Western World in the US and Europe who went extra miles to reduce the suffering they have endured. It has been documented beyond a shred of doubt how the Sudan armed forces (SAF) and the proxy militia of the Islamo-fascist government in Sudan, the Janjaweed, continued to commit murder, mass rape and kidnap. The UN Human Rights Council said in its report that "The situation is

characterised by gross and systematic violations of human rights and grave breaches of international law.”

Worse of all is the behaviour of the media in the Arab countries that continue unashamedly echo what the elements of ruling National Congress Party (NCP) in Khartoum have been saying in their propaganda machinery. The government of Sudan (GOS) pursues a policy of prevarication to buy time to rally the support of countries that have business interests in the Sudan oil industry but unconcerned of loss of human life in Darfur. The Muslim and Arab Worlds are expected to exercise at least moral responsibility to use every tool possible to stop the killing in Darfur. South African Press stated that the Darfur region in Sudan attracted the political attention it deserves—but one voice was missing—that of Muslim communities “who have been so vocal, both globally and locally, in their condemnation of the war in Iraq and the repression in Palestine. Some analysts have tried to explain the silence on Sudan in the Arab press.

A passage from text in the Website: <http://www.globalsecurity.org> pointed out that “for many Muslim governments the weary reflexes of anti-colonialism still triumph over saving lives. They thought it far better to show solidarity with Khartoum than cede an inch to Western concepts of human rights — because that would set a dangerous precedent for the decrepit monarchies and dictatorships that rule much of the Arab and Muslim world. Jon Lewis, in the WADIE, v, verbandf, thinks that “Darfur is but one example of Arab racism toward non-Arabs within the broader "Arab world." The Darfur genocide, I believe, must be viewed not solely as a case of an Islamic jihad, but also as a case of Arab racism and should be seen as parallel to Saddam Hussein’s genocide against Kurds and the Algerian government’s repression of the Kaybles. ” While observers consider the Organisation of Islamic Conference’s (OIC’s) continuing defence of Sudan’s campaign of genocide in Darfur Muslims goes against the basic tenets of Islam. Adam LeBor in his article in Times Online under the title” When Muslims ignore the Prophet: Don’t have a black skin and come from Darfur said:

“Islam holds that all Muslims, no matter what their colour or ethnic origin, are equal members of the umma, the community of believers. “All mankind is from Adam and Eve, an Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab, nor a non-Arab over an Arab, also a white has no superiority over a black or a black over a white, except by piety and good action,” said the Prophet Muhammad in his last sermon. The 57 member states of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) seem to think otherwise”.

The causes for the conflict of Darfur in Sudan are various and their roots are steeped in history. Nevertheless, the question of religion and its relation to the state played no part in the conflict in Darfur unlike the situation in the Southern Sudan. The main root causes underlying the crises in Darfur include: marginalization, hegemony by the Arabised Riverain Elites from the Northern region as the Ruling Group since the end of the British rule in Sudan more than half a century ago. This “Neo-colonial” group continued to dominate political power, wealth and commercial monopoly excluding and depriving people of Darfur and the marginalized majority of their legitimate rights as citizens. This institutional racism, nepotism, cronyism and favoritism have been candidly practiced and applied in all walks of life in Sudan. This resulted into serious “Imbalance of Power and Wealth” in Sudan as it was documented in The Black Book of Sudan which provides data that evaluate the extent to which differences in regional access to power have resulted in differential human development progress. Alex Cobham in the article “Causes of conflict in Sudan: Testing the Black Book” gives some examples as indicators of

imbalance of human development in Sudan which ranged from infant mortality to adult literacy, coupled with data on regional expenditure allocations, as offering substantial support to the idea that policy has discriminated against the population of the southern and western regions, not least Darfur. Thus, the entire Sudan has continued to be controlled by Tripartite three ethnic groups of Danagla, Shygiyah and Jaaliyeen, in a quasi-Apartheid fashion, from one region with just 5.4% of Sudan population. The Government of Sudan (GOS) bears the primary responsibility for protecting the civilian population in Darfur, yet is continuing to divert and deploy imported and domestically made military hardware to target unarmed citizens by indiscriminate aerial bombardment.

The event of Pilgrimage to the Holy Mosque of Mecca for Hajj marks a time for reflection following the heartbreaking atrocities endured by the Muslims in Darfur. It is onerous upon the Muslim World public represented by the OIC and the Arab World citizens represented by the Arab League to put strong and sustained pressure on the ruling National Congress Party (NCP) in Khartoum to stop the five years human carnage in Darfur, which has claimed over 400,000 lives of mainly women, children and the aged, displaced 2.5 million people and rendered 4 million people destitute and helpless dependants on foreign aid in Sudan. Humanitarian Aid in-kind and Cash is in urgent need. The UN Security Council resolution 1769 (2007), acting under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, which authorised the deployment the hybrid operation of a 26,000-strong joint United Nations-African Union force (UNAMID) in Darfur needs the support of the OIC and the Arab League. Bashir rules out non-African troops in Darfur. The GOS rejection of non-African troops is delaying the deployment of the AU-UN Hybrid peacekeeping force for the protection of Darfur civilians.

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