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(By Public Information Office)

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Highlights

UN/ Agencies

Ban Ki-Moon urges to provide vital units, aviation to Darfur forces

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 3 Jan. UNITED NATIONS) UN chief urged international community to speed up delivery of vital units and equipment for the newly launched hybrid peacekeeping force set up to stem the violence in Sudan’s Darfur region.

UN officials and diplomats say no country has made a credible offer to provide the 24 helicopters, including six helicopter gunships, needed for the 26,000-strong force, whose mission is already clouded by lack of full commitment by the Sudanese government.

The African Union/United Nations Hybrid operation in Darfur (UNAMID), which formally took over from the existing AU operation on Monday, still only has some 9,000 uniformed personnel on the ground and lacks "critical aviation capabilities," Ban Ki-Moon says in a report to the Security Council.

“Furthermore, the Government does not appear to have fully embraced the fact that a robust and effective UNAMID will contribute towards Darfur’s long-term stability,” he writes.

Ban notes that the effective functioning of UNAMID will also be highly dependent on the ability of the UN and AU to work with the Government to rapidly resolve the complex technical issues related to its deployment.

Read more <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25432>

Bush says “frustrated” with UN, AU over Darfur force deployment

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 4 Jan. WASHINGTON) US President George Bush expressed frustration over the slow pace of deploying the UN-AU hybrid force to the war ravaged region of Darfur. “I have been frustrated, frankly, with the pace of the United Nations and the AU to get troops in there” Bush told a group of Arab reporters at the White House today.

Bush stressed that the deployment of the hybrid force is crucial for enforcing security in Darfur. He added that the peacekeeping force's main task is to "help the folks who are living in these dispersed camps have a normal life".

The US president also signaled impatience with the splintering of Darfur rebel groups saying that it is impeding the peace process.

Read more <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25454>

Security Council to be briefed Wednesday on progress in the hybrid

(*AlSahafa*) The UN Security Council will be briefed on the 9th of January (Wednesday) by the UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, on progress in the hybrid operation in Darfur. The Secretary General urged the member states to provide the basic equipment required for UNAMID.

UN commander says hopeful north, south armies honor withdrawal deadline

(*Radio Miraya FM website* – 5 Jan. Juba) The UN Force Commander, [Lt-Gen] Jasper Singh Lidder, has asserted the importance of redeployment of SPLA and SAF [Sudan Armed Forces] before January the ninth.

Speaking to Miraya FM Jasper said that he hoped the two parties would complete redeployment by the deadline. On the other hand, Singh assured that the SPLA started the redeployment south from the areas of Debab and Abu Matariq in South Kurdufan, while the SAF withdrew from the south to the north. The UN Force Commander added that the joint military committee will resume meetings to resolve disagreements between the two parties.

SPLM Maj-Gen Bior Ajang and member of the Joint Defense Board said that the Sudan Liberation Movement is yet to complete withdrawal from the south of the country.

For his part, Lt-Col Al-Sawarmi Khalid, the manager of the military spokesperson's office, told Miraya FM that the armed forces withdrew from the south, except for the areas of the oil production, which SAF is guarded by the direct orders from the president, besides, he said, the SPLA is still having presence in those areas.

GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

Sudan's defence body says SPLA need to redeploy from clashes area

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 5 Jan. KHARTOUM) Sudan's joint defence body today agreed on the need to redeploy southern Sudan army south to 1956 border in order to put an end to the current tension between the southern Sudan army and the Misseriya tribesmen.

In a meeting chaired by General Oyay Deng Ajak, the Joint Defence Board (JDB) agreed today to redeploy the Sudan People's Liberation Army and the Arab Misseriya militia loyal to the SPLA south to Kiir River (Bahr al Arab), the official SUNA reported today.

The JDB meeting also adopted a plan to protect oil production areas. According to the spokesperson the joint integrated units will be charged with the outer circle security, while state police and security guarding machinery and wells.

Read more <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25458>

SPLM accuses SAF of failing to withdraw troops

(*Alwan*) Southern Sudanese officials have accused the Federal government of failing to withdraw SAF forces as it was supposed to be completed by 31 last Dec.

Southern official Elias Waya said that SAF did not commit to the third recess to withdraw its forces from the South by the end of last year. "All the time they agree, but when the time comes they will give excuses, Waya added."

He indicated that SAF troops were deployed in three Southern States, the majority of them were present in the oil disputed areas

Khartoum was saying that its troops in the south did not exceed more than 7,000, while South Sudan President Salva Kiir has put the figure at 17,000.

Meanwhile, SPLA'S Official Spokesperson Office James Hoth stressed the stability situation along the joint borders following the clashes erupted late last month and left tens dead among the two sides.

Minster of Justice denies arrival of CIA, FBI investigators

(*AlIntibaha*) Minister of Justice denied the arrival to Sudan of investigators from CIA or FBI, saying that the investigations have been undertaken by Sudanese judicial bodies.

However, the government said here Saturday it was cooperating with FBI investigators over the recent death of a US diplomat and his driver.

He said, "We are cooperating with the FBI team, and we are drawing upon their high experience and information they may have on their diplomats' moves through their embassy or any other body shoulder and belly and underwent surgery.

Clashes renew in Deleng area

(*AlSahafa*) Fighting renewed in Deleng locality in South Kordofan between a clan of Hawazma Arab tribe and other clan from Nuba tribe leaving two soldiers from the JIUs wounded.

According to the Leader of Nuba clan Fadul Habila, an armed group from the Arab tribe occupied lands affiliated to his tribe, a matter, he added which led to the death of two persons.

He added that the interference of the JIUs present in the area contained the deterioration of the security in the area, calling on the authorities to organize reconciliation between the two tribes.

Karti to New York, invited by Ki-moon

(*AlRai AlAam*) Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ali Karti, will leave to New York on an invitation from the UN Secretary General to follow up outcome of the Lisbon meeting between the UN and the Sudanese officials which focused on the hybrid operation in Darfur.

Cabinet Affairs Minister and AU-UN Special Representative Review Progress of Deployment of Hybrid Operation in Darfur

(*SMC* – 6 Jan. Khartoum) The Cabinet Affairs Minister, Pagan Amum, received in his office Saturday the AU-UN Joint Special Representative for Darfur, Rodolphe Adada, and the spokesman of the joint mission, Nur-Eddine Al-Mazini, and discussed the efforts of the joint AU-UN mission for realization of peace in Darfur and deployment of the hybrid operation. In a statement after the meeting, Amum said that they discussed the relations between the national unity government and the United Nations and the African Union, besides the joint efforts to realize peace in Darfur.

US Embassy in Sudan Remains Open despite Diplomat's Murder

(*SMC* – 5 Jan. Khartoum) The US Embassy in Khartoum, Sudan, has remained open and functioning normally despite the killing of two officials of the Embassy by yet unknown gunmen Tuesday, US officials said.

They said, however, that the US had issued a travel warning reminding American nationals to be vigilant while traveling in Sudan

"The embassy operations...continue as normal. Of course, any time you have something like this happen, you're going to have the embassy take a look at its security procedures and take any appropriate steps that they think they might need to take in order to best protect their people," US State Department Spokesman Sean McCormack said at a briefing in Washington DC, according to a transcript made available to PANA here.

He said the US was working with the Sudanese Government, to determine who was responsible for the murders.

Joint Defense Council to Discuss Redeployment Plans at Oil Field Tomorrow

(*SMC* – 6 Jan. Khartoum) The Joint Defence Council JDC, chaired by Gen. Wayie Deng with 9 Officers from the Sudanese Armed Forces and other 9 Officers from the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) as its members, will hold its 12 meeting Saturday in Khartoum.

In this connection, the official Spokesman of the JDC, Maj. Gen. Abdul Rahman Mohammed Zein, said in a statement to SUNA that the meeting of JDC will review the report by the command of the JDC, minutes and decisions of its previous meeting as well as the progress in the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

NCSC Completes Arrangements to Absorb Southerners in Civil Service

(*SMC* – 4 Jan.) National Civil Service Commission (NCSC) has completed first stage related to absorbing citizens from southern Sudan in civil service according to the 20% allocated for south from total national vacancies.

The commissions' secretary general Hamadallah Ahmed Al Tahir told (*smc*) that his commission is coordinating with recruitment committee for civil service in Khartoum. He said qualified applicants could submit their applications until 8th of the current month while in the south deadline for application fixed on 18th of the same month.

12 Missaria Live claimed in renewed Confrontation with SPLA

(*SMC* – 4 Jan.) More than 12 lives were claimed from Misarria tribe in a clash erupted with SPLA in south Kordofan in less than one day following the visit of federal delegation to the area. And also after LT Gen Salve Kir instructions to SPLA forces that it should withdraw from the state.

An eye witness told (*smc*) that clashes renewed between the two sides today when SPLA forces relocated at Bahr Al Arab station (north ward of the 1956 borders line) attack Miseriya and Killed 12 nomads from the tribe besides injury of casualties. Tensions still high in the area southward of Maram.

Meanwhile (*Akhbar Alyaum*) reported that new clashes between the Miseriya and the SPLA erupted yesterday in Abu Ghazala area (40 kms north of Abyei, 90 kms east of Al-Meram). According to the press report 15 Miseriya have been killed.

Opposition leader call for an interim administration in Sudan's Abyei

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 5 Jan. KHARTOUM) Leader of the Umma party Sadiq al-Mahdi has urged the formation of an interim administration for the disputed area of Abyei till the conclusion of a political deal between the two peace partners.

Al-Mahdi made this call following a meeting on Saturday with the Sudanese president Omer al-Bashir. The opposition leader said the meeting focused on Abyei as one of the national issues.

Al-Mahdi stressed that Abyei people should be associated in any decision related to the fate of their region. He also called to hold a conference of Misseriya and Dinka tribes to find a solution acceptable by all parties.

Sudan launches Radio Peace

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 5 Jan. KHARTOUM) Sudan launched today a new radio station called Radio Assalam, or Peace Radio aiming to strengthen the national unity in the country and spread the spirit of reconciliation in the country.

First Vice-President of the Republic and President of the Government of Southern Sudan, Salva Kiir Mayardit, has lauded the establishment of radio peace which was officially launched today.

The radio will broadcast in Arabic and English, and local languages in the country.

The purposes of Radio Salam project include exposure of the various aspects of the different cultures in the country through talks show, artists. Also it aims to breaking of stereotypes existing on both sides.

US president calls for calm on Sudan North-South borders

(Sudan Tribune.com — 4 Jan. WASHINGTON) US President George Bush called on Sudan's partners in the government of national unity to exercise restraint in the wake of violent clashes on the North-South borders. "We have insisted that both parties not be provocative when it comes to military incursions upon an ill- defined border" Bush said today in a roundtable with foreign print media.

The statements by Bush mark the first reaction by a US official on the fighting since it broke out.

Bush disclosed that his administration has been pushing the southern ex-rebels to rejoin the cabinet after their boycott that started.

However he warned that the ruling National Congress Party (NCP) must be "forthcoming with their agreements, such as the sharing of oil revenues".

Read more <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25453>

Jan. 9 set for northern troops to quit South Sudan

(Sudan Tribune.com — 4 Jan. JUBA) Sudanese officials have set a Jan. 9 deadline for northern armed forces to quit the semi-autonomous south after they missed a third redeployment deadline on Monday, southern official Elias Waya said.

Sudan's northern forces missed the Dec. 31 deadline following on-off fighting last month between former southern rebels and northern militia forces in the country's north-south boundary area and months of political wrangling.

"Now, it is before January 9," Waya, both a major general in the former rebel southern army and a member of a joint north-south defence body, said on Friday.

"All the time they agree, but when the time comes they will give excuses."

The redeployment is part of a 2005 peace agreement that ended over two decades of north-south Sudanese civil war in which 2 million people died and 4 million were displaced in a conflict fought over ideology and ethnicity, and fuelled by oil.

Read more <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25439>

South Sudan army says tribesmen resume attacks

(Sudan Tribune.com – 4 Jan. JUBA) Fresh fighting erupted between southern Sudanese forces and Arab tribesmen near key oil areas of the country Friday, former southern rebels said, further denting hopes of an end to north-south hostilities.

Dozens of people have been reported killed since fighting first erupted late last month near the disputed Abyei oil areas between Arab tribesman and ex-rebel south Sudanese army units.

"They have attacked again," Major General Mai Hoth, deputy chief of the southern former rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army, told AFP. "They attacked late in the night, and the fighting is still going on."

Hoth charged on Wednesday that Khartoum had missed a new deadline to withdraw its troops from south Sudan; breaching a deal that saw the former rebels rejoin the national government last week after a two-month boycott.

Read more <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25440>

GoSS

New Secretary General for SPLM

(AlWifaq) SPLM sources suggest that General Abdel Aziz al Hilo, who returned from the US to Nairobi, may be appointed SPLM Secretary General to replace Pagan Amum, the GoNU Minister of Cabinet Affairs.

Same sources indicate that Dr. Lam Akol, the former Minister of Foreign Affairs, may be appointed Second Vice President of the GoSS and Minister of Diplomatic Relations.

Sudan's SPLM to reopen investigation on Garang crash - Machar

(Sudan Tribune.com – 4 Jan. KHARTOUM) Sudan People's Liberation Movement will reopen the investigation on the death of the former SPLM leader, further it will reconsider its decision of sacking two former ministers from the party.

The helicopter carrying Dr Garang and his group crashed in the Kidepo Valley in southern Sudan, killing all those on board, on July 30, 2005. When the helicopter crashed, there was speculation that there could have been foul play. However, the Joint Sudan-Uganda Investigation Commission on April 12, 2006 concluded that the main cause of the crash was the pilot's insistence to apply visual flying rules in bad weather.

South Sudan names Edward Lino to administrate Abyei

(Sudan Tribune.com – 4 Jan. JUBA) The ruling party in southern Sudan government has appointed Edward Lino to administrate the disputed oil rich area of Abyei.

The First Vice President and president of the government of southern Sudan, Salva Kiir Mayadrit, appointed the leading SPLM member, Edward Lino as chairman of the (SPLM) in Abyei. He also charged him with the administration of the area till the formation of its permanent administration.

Darfur

SRC Takes Arrangement to Fill Food Gap in S. Darfur

(*SMC* – 5 Jan. Khartoum) Strategic Reserved Corporation (SRC) said it has started arrangements to fill the food gap in south Darfur state. The SRC said the gap was created due to ecological circumstances such as locust attacking of crops and shortage of rain fall. SRC manger Badawi Al Khar told (smc) that the corporation works in coordination with the ministry of finance to provide food allocated to the state. The manger said south Darfur should arrange transport facilities for delivering food which expected to arrive there in few days. (smc) learnt that SRC faces transport problem of delivering food to remote areas in Darfur region.

Armed Group Loots Material Supplies From a Track Traveling to N. Darfur

(*SMC* – 4 Jan.) An armed group composed of four elements looted material supplies from a track traveling from Omdurman to Fashir in Northern Darfur.

The driver said attackers who were riding camels threaten him and looted properties on board of the rack at JEM led by Dr Khalil Ibrahim controlled area.

The Driver noted that the robbery gang there after fled to unknown place. Meanwhile he said he has reported the case to authorities located some miles away from the scene of incident.

Chad will destroy rebels inside Sudanese border - Deby

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 5 Jan. N'DJAMENA) Chad's President Idriss Deby threatened on Saturday to send his armed forces into neighboring Sudan to destroy rebel fighters he accuses Khartoum of supporting, and said he may break off diplomatic ties.

Relations between the two countries have deteriorated since a conflict began in Sudan's border region of Darfur nearly five years ago, spilling fighters and refugees into eastern Chad.

Deby accuses Sudan of backing Chadian rebels trying to overthrow him; in particular of sheltering and re-arming them in recent weeks after eastern Chad's worst fighting for months, which both army and rebels said killed hundreds.

Khartoum has repeatedly denied Deby's charges of supporting Chadian rebels and in return accuses Deby of backing Sudanese rebel groups fighting Sudanese government forces in Darfur.

Malawi to deploy 50 police officers to Darfur

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 4 Jan. BLANTYRE) Malawi is to deploy about 50 police officers to Sudan's Darfur as part of its contribution to the United Nations-African Union peacekeeping mission, the country's police chief said on Friday.

This will be Malawi's largest police contingent on a peacekeeping mission. Twenty-seven Malawi police officers are currently in Liberia and two are in Kosovo. Malawi last year pledged to send 800 troops to Darfur to serve in the peacekeeping force.

Rebel JEM claims progress towards West Darfur capital

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 3 Jan. LONDON) Darfur rebel Justice and Equality Movement has claimed today capturing an advanced government military position in its route towards el-Geneina, the capital of West Darfur State.

"The town of Beer Dageeg, 17 Km north of el-Geneina city has been captured by JEM today, January 3rd. On their way from Sirbaa, that was occupied yesterday, JEM forces took control over government posts of Goz Kongu and Khamsa Khatwat Camp." JEM said today in a military communiqué.

The rebel group further indicated that "These two posts are on the road connecting Sirbaa with Beer Dageeg, 30km and 17km north of Geneina, respectively."

Sudan army dismisses rebel claims of military victories in Darfur

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 5 Jan. KHARTOUM) Sudanese army once again has denied statements issued by the rebel Justice and Equality Movement claiming the capture of different localities near the capital of West Darfur state.

The Sudan Armed Forces dismissed JEM claims that it had taken control over Sibraa, Goz Kongu and Khamsa Khatwat. SAF spokesperson described these statements as "mediatic war" meant to create chaos in the region.

However, JEM officials continue to reiterate that the capture of el-Geneina is imminent.

Miscellaneous

US agents probe Sudan attack claim

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 5 Jan. KHARTOUM) U.S. security agents are investigating reports that a previously unknown militant group was behind the killing of a U.S. aid officer and his Sudanese driver in Khartoum, an embassy official said on Saturday.

John Granville, a 33-year-old officer with the U.S. Agency for International Development, was shot and killed while returning from New Year's celebrations in Sudan's capital early on Tuesday. He was the first U.S. government official killed in Khartoum in more than three decades.

Granville's driver Abdelrahman Abbas Rahama, 39, was also killed in the attack, rare in a capital considered one of the safest in Africa.

On Friday, an Islamist Web site posted a message from a group calling itself Ansar al-Tawhid in Sudan (Companions of Monotheism), claiming responsibility for the killings.

Walter Braunohler, a spokesman for the U.S. embassy in Sudan, said FBI agents working with Sudanese authorities in Khartoum were aware of the claim.

"Everything is being looked into. What we are really interested in are facts," he told Reuters.

Tuesday's attack prompted the U.S. embassy to urge its citizens in Sudan to "exercise heightened security awareness".

The U.S. government had said in August it had information "an extremist group" might target U.S. government interests in Sudan. Around that time, Sudanese security services said they had uncovered a plot to bomb Western embassies in the capital.

Read more <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25461>

Sudan pledges to cooperate with FBI over killing of USAID staff

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 4 Jan. WASHINGTON) FBI agents received promises of cooperation from the Sudanese authorities as they began work in Khartoum to help probe the murder of a US diplomat and his driver, the State Department said Friday.

State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said the agents, apparently four of them, had arrived from posts in the region to help investigate the New Year's Day murders of diplomat John Granville and driver Abdel Rahman Abbas.

"They're working with our diplomatic security people," McCormack told reporters.

"I know that we have met with the government of Sudan's security services people," he said.

"They have pledged cooperation in piecing together exactly what happened, making sure that the team, FBI and Diplomatic Security, have an opportunity to look at all the evidence, piece it together, put together a picture of exactly what happened that night, and then from there proceed on to identifying who is responsible, then bringing them to justice," he added.

He said little was known until now of the events surrounding the murders.

More investigators were due to fly to Khartoum from Washington, but a State Department official said they had not left the US capital yet.