

UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN UNMIS

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IN THE NEWS TODAY:

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Eliasson calls for ceasefire in Darfur; expects a comprehensive peace in Darfur before May.

AlRai AlAam; AlSudani; AlIntibaha; AlKartoum; Alwan UNSG special envoy to Darfur Jan Eliasson has held intensive talks with a number of government officials, which will be concluded with meeting President el Bashir before the envoy's departure to Darfur tomorrow.

Eliasson started his mission by meeting Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr. Lam Akol. "Darfur is a Sudanese problem that can only be solved by Sudanese themselves" said Eliasson after the meeting. Both have assured during their meeting on ceasefire and giving a political solution an opportunity.

"Darfur would witness a comprehensive peace in a period maximum in May" expects Eliasson.

"We respect the sovereignty and integrity of Sudanese territory" said Eliasson following his meeting with the presidential advisor Dr. Mustafa Osman.

According to Osman Eliasson visit is to resolve the Darfur issue in its political context. He further added that Government of Sudan and UN have agreed on road map with a definite time schedule to achieve peace in Darfur.

The presidential advisor Dr Majzoub el Khalifa describes his meeting with Eliasson as "fruitful" saying that they discussed upon mechanism that support the tripartite mechanism and improving the humanitarian situation in Darfur. He added that the Confrontation between Government of Sudan and the United Nations has been overcome. "Eliasson's visit is the beginning of a new phase of cooperation between Government of Sudan and the UN" says Khalifa.

In a press statement following his talks with Eliasson yesterday he added "The new phase aims to stabilize Darfur, maintain Sudan sovereignty, AMIS support and finding a positive role of the UN.

According to Khalifa Government of Sudan and UN had overcome the Security Council resolution No 1706 to send international troops to Darfur. Now the talks are on Joined operations but not hybrid forces" he said.

On the second anniversary of signing the CPA UNMIS hails CPA achievements; UNMIS calls for addressing the remaining challenges facing peace in Sudan

Khartoum Monitor; AlAyam United Nation Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) congratulates the people of the Sudan on the occasion of the second anniversary of signing the comprehensive Peace agreement (CPA). Head of Mission Mr. Taye Zerihoun represented the UN in the celebration ceremonies held on Tuesday in Juba.

UNMIS commends the parties to the CPA for the important achievements for the last year, including the maintenance of the ceasefire; the establishment of by the GoNU, the GoSS, and the states of the legislative frame work envisaged in the CPA; in investment of time, energy and resources in development and reconstruction projects, and continued efforts to help refugees and the displaced return to their homes.

UNMIS remains committed to assisting the Parties to the CPA and the people of Sudan in meeting these challenges and achieving a full, effective and timely implementation of all aspects of the CPA,

AlAyam published the press release which was issued by UNMIS on the occasion of the second anniversary of the CPA

WFP shocked by el Obied incident involving a pilot

Khartoum Monitor the United Nations World Food Programme WFP in Sudan was shocked by and dismayed to learn of a reported incident at a mosque in El Obied involving a Ukrainian co-pilot.

In a press statement WFP wishes to emphasise that the individual in question is not an employee of WFP. He is an employee of Avia-Leasing Ltd., an international aviation company contracted to fly planes that airdrop WFP food aid in Sudan.

He is required by Avia-Leasing Ltd. to follow a strict code of conduct, to abide by the laws of Sudan and be mindful of religious customs.

Darfur

Sudan, Darfur rebels agree 60-day ceasefire.

AlIntibaha; ST Jan 10, 2007 (KHARTOUM) Sudan's government and Darfur rebels have agreed to a 60-day ceasefire and a peace summit sponsored by the African Union and the United Nations as steps towards stopping the violence in west Sudan, a visiting U.S. official said on Wednesday.

Sudan has also agreed to let foreign journalists visit Darfur after a two-month ban and to remove a requirement for exit visas for aid workers, one of the biggest bureaucratic obstacles to the world's largest aid operation in Darfur.

"President (Omar Hassan al-) Bashir agreed to the start of a peace process that includes a 60-day cessation of hostilities," said U.S. New Mexico governor Bill Richardson, visiting Sudan. The AU-U.N. peace summit is to be held no later than March 15.

Richardson said rebel commanders he had met in Darfur had also agreed to the ceasefire, which would begin on a date to be set by the United Nations and the African Union, which are jointly mediating Darfur peace efforts. (Reuters)

GoS agrees to stop the use of white military aircrafts in Darfur.

Alayam A joint statement by the Sudanese government and the US Governor Richardson said Sudan would not use military aircraft painted in white colours, usually reserved for humanitarians, and that Darfur rebel commanders could safely call a conference in the field monitored by the United Nations and the AU.

Bashir: truce with NRF can only be through the DPA.

AlHayat "Ceasefire must be made through the security arrangements of the DPA which obligate all parties to cease hostilities on the ground", Bashir affirmed during his meeting with U.S. New Mexico governor Bill Richardson. US Richardson said he had strongly pressed the non-signatory groups to get them on board.

US concerned about GoS reaction towards rape and violence in Darfur.

Rai AlShaab The governor of the U.S. state of New Mexico, Bill Richardson, has been briefed on the practical measures taken by Government of Sudan regarding rape and controlling violence against women and children. He was also informed about means of controlling violence and bringing culprits to justice.

US governor fails to Secure UN force in Darfur.

ST Jan 10, 2007 (**KHARTOUM**) The governor of the U.S. state of New Mexico, Bill Richardson, has wrapped up a four-day trip to Sudan as head of a delegation from U.S.-based advocacy group, the Save Darfur Coalition. Richardson did not accomplish his goal of persuading Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir to accept U.N. peacekeepers in Darfur, but did broker a ceasefire between the Sudanese Government and Darfur rebels.

Governor Richardson told reporters in Khartoum on Wednesday that he has secured a 60-day ceasefire between the government of Sudan and rebels of the Sudan Liberation Army and the Justice and Equality Movement.

Although previous attempts at a ceasefire in the war-torn region have failed to stem violence, Richardson said he is optimistic about the chances of the new agreement.

The ceasefire will proceed under the auspices of the African Union and the United Nations though it is unclear when the cessation of hostilities will enter into effect.

It is equally unclear if the Sudanese government and Darfur rebels will live up to their end of what is, at present, only a verbal agreement. (VOA)

Armed group attacks SLM-Secretary General.

AlWatan House of SLM- Secretary General Mustafa Tyrab in Omdurman has been attacked by a group of 20 SLM- military. Four people from Tyrab's bodyguards were injured and the house furniture damaged. Tyrab himself has suffered light injuries. Sources attribute the attack to the fact that the attackers are not cared for by SLM and have financial grievances and unmet demands.

AU: SAF raids areas in Darfur.

Rai AlShaab A Sudanese aircraft carried out strikes on two locations in the Darfur region near the border with Chad, endangering a fragile ceasefire, an African Union (AU) peacekeeping mission has said. "Continued violation of the ceasefire is a stumbling block to the ongoing efforts at seeking a durable ceasefire," the AU's ceasefire commission said in a statement Tuesday. It said government forces claimed that National Salvation Front rebels which did not sign a May ceasefire accord were "amassing weapons and fighters... preparing to attack the area".

Janjaweed kidnaps two girls in North Darfur.

Rai AlShaab Janjaweed militias have kidnapped two girls in Um Hayai area N. Darfur State in an attack yesterday. They also looted money. The locals held the government responsible for the attack and asked the UN, international forces and civil society organizations to intervene to protect civilians.

Sudanese president says U.N. forces are not needed in Darfur

AP Alert - New Mexico, January 10, 2007 Sudan, Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir says United Nations forces are not needed to maintain order in his country's war-torn Darfur region.

He told an Associated Press reported today at his home in Khartoum that Sudan's experience with U-N operations in the world is not encouraging.

Al-Bashir says African Union forces can do the job, and all Sudan needs is funding for those troops.

He has resisted intense international pressure to allow U-N peacekeepers in Darfur, saying they would be colonialist.

Governor Richardson met today with al-Bashir to try to convince him to change his mind on the U-N force and lay the groundwork for peace in Darfur.

Richardson was meeting later today with members of al-Bashir's cabinet and says he'll discuss the results of his negotiations afterward.

Communist Party blames NCP for delays in CPA implementation. The Citizen

Reflecting on the President's January 8th address to the nation, marking the 51st anniversary of Sudan's independence the opposition parties appealed again for public freedom to be expanded. Also they called on National Congress party to be committed to the CPA it has signed with the different political parties.

Communist Party spokesman Suliman Hamid said that the reconciliation the president has called for can not be realized unless NCP changes its usual method of governing the country.

NCP: Kiir absence slows the CPA implementation.

AlIntibaha V.P Salva Kiir's speech on CPA anniversary was analysed and studied by National Congress Party, which attributes the delay of the CPA implementation to the SPLM. Presidential advisor Dr. Mustafa Osman says the political office have been informed of the NCP existence and activities in the south and its relations with the SPLM. "The slow implementation of the CPA is attributed to SPLM and the frequent absence of V.P Kiir, whose office is completely inactive" says the head of southern office in NCP Gai.

GoSS

Eastern Equatoria parliament adjourns session

ST Jan 10, 2006 (**KAPOETA**) the Eastern Equatoria State parliament, due to lack of quorum, has postponed its activities. Most of the MPs are from rural constituencies and remote areas and they face difficulties to reach the capital of the region.

The speaker of Interim State Legislative Assembly of Eastern Equatoria State, Adelino Michael Opi has this morning adjourned for the second time, the sitting of the third Session of the Assembly, citing lack of quorum.

In his adjournment statement, Opi say, "Due to lack of quorum the assembly will adjourn till Monday, 15th January 2007 at 10 am".

He further said most MPs have gone to their various constituencies but are now facing transport difficulties as some of their areas are yet to be liked with Torit/Kapoeta, the capital of the state.

SPLM has not changed position on article 18 of political parties act.

Khartoum Monitor The Sudan People Liberation Movement SPLM has not changed its position on provision 18 of the political affairs act; as the said provision is important for stressing respect for the Comprehensive Peace Agreement CPA, stated Foreign Minister Lam Akol

The SPLM could not encourage any one who intends to undermine the CPA, added Akol.

Representative of the SPLM at the National Constitution Review Commission have agreed to the provision and more over it has been approved by SPLM's members at the council of Ministers. Therefore no one in the SPLM has changed mind over the provision and the SPLM stands with provision 18 as it is to insure the implementation of the CPA, he said.

GoSS to investigate Al Bashir's allegations against Garang.

The Citizen GoSS has set up a committee to investigate the allegation by President EL-Basher that he gave the late John Garang \$60 million to send advance delegations to Khartoum during the pre-interim period (January to June 2007) to work out the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) security arrangements .the committee is headed by the Information Minister Dr. Samson Kwajie, known to have been a close confident of the late Garang, and is to commence work immediately. Kwajie's committee is assigned to also investigate the armed attacks on civilians along the Torit, Juba-Nimule-Boor road.

A second committee set up by the southern Council of ministers, headed by the Legal Affairs & Constitutional Development Minister Michael Makui, will study the issue of joint Integrated Units, the Abyei Protocol and the militias .Its report would be submitted to IGAD as well as the government of Southern Sudan.

GoNU

Al-Bashir wants Ugandan rebel out of Sudan

ST Jan 10, 2007 (JUBA) The president of Sudan wants the Ugandan rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), which has bases in southern Sudan and eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, out of its territory.

In the southern Sudanese capital of Juba on Tuesday, President Omar al-Bashir said: "We are prepared to constitute a joint force to eliminate the LRA. We do not want them. If we cannot find a peaceful solution to the LRA conflict, then we must pursue a military solution."

The rebels have waged a two-decades-long war against the Ugandan government, displacing at least 1.6 million people in northern Uganda and southern Sudan.

On-off talks between the rebels and the government, which have been going since July, are set to resume in Juba this month. A truce was agreed at the talks in August, bringing relative calm to northern Uganda. (IRIN)

Sudan ready to cooperate with new UN envoy for Darfur.

The Citizen Ministry of the Foreign Affairs spokesman Ali Al-Sadiq in a press conference yesterday revealed that UN Special envoy Darfur Jan Ellison came to

discuss the ongoing crisis .He said that Ellison met Salim Ahmed Salim in New York and they agreed to move quickly to find a political solution to the Darfur problem.

Ambassador Ali confirmed that the mission of Jan Ellison is to communicate with the African Union, the members of the Security Council, Government of Sudan and the armed groups to facilitate the negotiations for the political processes .Ali AlSadiq said that Jan Eliasson is mandated and expected to maintain transparency with all parties, with a view to promoting the unity as well as sovereignty of the country.

11 injures in demonstration on Saddam Hussein execution.

AlIntibaha reports that a peaceful Baath's Party demonstration denouncing the execution of Saddam was dispersed off by police yesterday. 11 were injured and 12 were arrested.

Sudan's foreign minister to visit Kuwait 14 January

Sudanese radio on 10 January Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Lam Akol will visit Kuwait next Sunday [14 January]. During his two-day visit, the minister will hold talks with government officials to discuss the bilateral ties and ways of boosting them at all levels. At the same time, Dr Akol will brief the Kuwaiti officials on the latest developments of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Sudan. He will also discuss regional and international issues and ways of combating terrorism and organized crime.

Sudanese defence minister to leave for Iran 12 January

Sudanese radio on 10 January Defence Minister Maj-Gen Abd al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn will leave for Iran on Friday [12 January] with a military delegation in a response to an official invitation from his Iranian counterpart Mostafa Mohammad Najjar. During the four-day visit, the delegation will hold talks with top Iranian political and military officials